

FACTORS INFLUENCING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN INCOME  
GENERATING PROJECTS IN RURAL AREAS: A CASE OF KATHIANI DIVISION,  
MACHAKOS COUNTY, KENYA

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BDS (DL) 212/0042

A PROJECT REPORT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF A DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES  
OF MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY

JANUARY 2015

## ABSTRACT

The major task of the study was to investigate the factors, which influence community participation in income generating projects in Kathiani Division, Machakos County, Kenya. The study objectives were determining the influence of Socio-economic factors, safety and accountability of the project funds, lack of project related skills and training and quality of leadership on community participation in the development of income –generating projects in Kathiani Division, Machakos County, Kenya. Through the findings, Machakos County Government and Central Government and other development partners-Will have an insight into the challenges affecting community participation in income generating projects in rural Kenya and adopt necessary policies to enhance participation. The study employed a descriptive survey research design .The target population for the study was 300 people comprising of 22 project administrators/officers, and 240 project members and 38 local leaders. By use of stratified, simple random and convenience sampling 10% of the respondents were selected for the study. Mugenda (2003) says for descriptive study, 10% of the accessible population is enough for sampling. This gave a total of 30 respondents. The study used primary data which was collected using interview schedules and questionnaires. The data was analysed using percentages and means and presented using frequency tables and charts. Qualitative data was then transcribed and organized into similar topics and presented in form of tabular interpretive reports. The study revealed that lack of useful skills, quality of leadership and Political interference influence community participation in income generating projects. The study recommends the need for accountability of funds/resources for all development projects and awareness creation on the value of members effectively participating in their development projects is also emphasized .The study recommends that a similar study be conducted in other counties to bench mark the findings