

**INFLUENCE OF GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE ON PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVOLVED UNITS IN KENYA: STUDY OF
GARISSA COUNTY**

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DECLARATION AND APPROVAL

Declaration by student

This project is my original work and has never been presented for any academic award in any institution.

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Approval

The project is being submitted for examination with my approval as university supervisor.

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Sign: 

Date: 19/05/2025

DEDICATION

I dedicate this research project report to my family for their endurance and patience throughout my study.



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I wish to thank Dr. Leonard Wambua who is my research project supervisor. Grateful for the unwavering support and professional guidance through the development of this research project report. To the Mount Kenya fraternity, it is so humbling for the opportunity to study and specially become a governance expert through this programme. My programme colleagues and lecturers, it was encouraging to participate in constructive discussions regarding the concept of governance. To my family members, Thank you so much for the moral support during my study period at Mount Kenya University.



ABSTRACT

Evidently, public participation provides a mechanism for collective decision-making between the public and relevant agencies in a framework that views the public as equal contributors rather than passive recipients of decisions. Reports from the Garissa County Assembly's point out that despite the County Government of Garissa making intensive adverts in dailies and local stations about dates and venues of various public participation meetings, there has always been a low turnout by the residents in the forums. The purpose of this study is to analyze the influence of governance structure on public participation in the devolved units in Kenya using the case of Garissa County. The specific objectives of the study are to: examine the extent to which existing legislative policy framework, resources, communication channels and the County management structure influence public participation in Garissa County. The study was guided by the public choice theory and the public value theory. This study used descriptive survey and exploratory designs. The study was carried out in Garissa County with a target population of 163,305 registered voters. The sample size of the study was determined by the Krejci and Morgan sampling tables which gives 364 participants. The study employed purposive and clustered random sampling techniques. The study instruments included a questionnaire and an interview guide. The research instruments was pilot tested in one constituency in the neighboring Wajir County with 34 subjects. The reliability was examined through half-split method and Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient while validity was through expert judgment. Descriptive analysis was done through SPSS (Ver. 24) used to establish the frequency and percentage and means. Presentations was by use of tables and charts. Qualitative data was organized and analyzed thematically. The study results was of value to different stakeholders including the County Government of Garissa. The study found different contexts of legislation, resource allocation, communication channels and county management structures influencing public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County. The existing legislative policy framework was found to have little influence on public participation. The study found that resource allocation in was key in the promotion of public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County. However, there was little evidence of the resource allocation for public participation. The current study found that different communication channels were in place for promoting public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County. However, the communication channels had difference levels in appropriateness of use in promoting public participation in county governance. The findings are important in targeting strategies to promote public participation while contributing to the existing body of knowledge on public participation for scholars in governance.

TABLE OF CONTENT

DECLARATION.....	ii
DEDICATION.....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	iv
ABSTRACT.....	v
TABLE OF CONTENT.....	vi
LIST OF TABLES.....	x
LIST OF FIGURES.....	xi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS.....	xii
CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background to the Study.....	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	5
1.3 Purpose of the Study.....	6
1.4 Objectives of the Study.....	6
1.5 Research Questions.....	7
1.6 Justification of the Study.....	7
1.7 Significance of the Study.....	8
1.8 Scope of the Study.....	9
1.9 Delimitations of the Study.....	10
1.10 Limitations of the Study.....	10
1.11 Assumptions of the Study.....	11
1.12 Operational Definitions of Terms.....	12
CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE REVIEW.....	14
2.1 Introduction.....	14

2.2 Empirical Literature Review	14
2.3 Theoretical Framework	23
2.5 Conceptual Framework	26
2.6 Research Gaps	28
2.7 Recap of Literature Review	28
CHAPTER THREE	31
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	31
3.1 Introduction	31
3.2 Research Methodology	31
3.3 Research Design	32
3.4 Location of the Study	33
3.5 Target Population	34
3.6 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques	35
3.7 Research Instruments	38
3.9 Piloting of the Research Instruments	40
3.10 Validity and Reliability of Research Instruments	40
3.11 Data Collection Procedures	42
3.12 Data Analysis Procedures	43
3.13 Ethical Consideration	44
CHAPTER FOUR.....	46
RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS	46
4.1 Introduction	46
4.2 Response Rate	46
4.3 Demographics of the Questionnaire Respondents	46

4.4 Level of Public Participation.....	50
4.5 Influence of Legislative Policy Framework on Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County	52
4.6 Effect of Resource Allocation in Promoting Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County	57
4.7 Effect of Communication Channels in promoting Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County	61
4.8 Influence of County Management Structure on Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County	67
CHAPTER FIVE	72
SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	72
5.1 Introduction	72
5.2 Summary of Findings	72
5.3 Conclusions	75
5.4 Recommendations	75
REFERENCES.....	78
APPENDICES	81
Appendix I: Introduction letter.....	81
Appendix II: Consent Form for Participants	82
Appendix III: Table for determining Sample size from a given Population	85
Appendix IV: Questionnaire for the County leaders.....	86
Appendix V: Interview Guide for the CECs	90
Appendix VI: FGD Guide for the Members of the Public.....	91
Appendix VII: Sample Field Photos (FGDs with members of the Public)	92

Appendix VIII: Ethical Review Committee Clearance	94
Appendix IX: MKU Postgraduate Introduction Letter.....	95
Appendix X: NACOSTI Research License.....	96
Appendix XI: County Authorization Letter	97
Appendix XII: Map of the Study Location	98
Appendix XIII: Turnitin Report	99

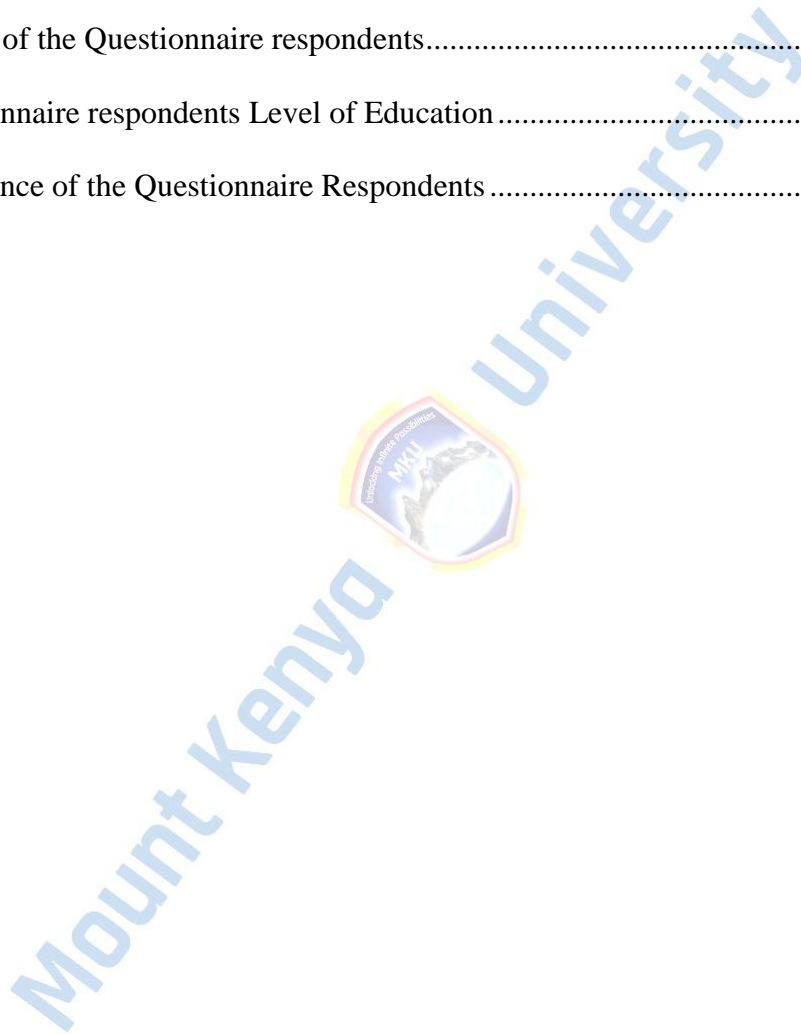


LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Number of registered voters in Garissa County (2017 General elections).....	34
Table 2 Target Population.....	35
Table 3 General Sampling matrix	37
Table 4 Sampling matrix for Members of the Public	37
Table 5 Split- Half Questionnaire Scores from Pilot Data	41
Table 6 Correlation coefficient of the Split-Halves of Pilot Data	42
Table 7 Level of Public Participation	51
Table 8 Influence of Legislative Policy Framework on Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County	53
Table 9 Correlations between Legislative Policy Framework and Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County	56
Table 10 Effect of Resource Allocation in Promoting Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County.....	58
Table 11 Correlations between Effect of Resource Allocation and Promoting Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County.....	60
Table 12 Effect of Communication Channels in promoting Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County.....	62
Table 13 Correlations between Communication Channels and promoting Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County	66
Table 14 Influence of County Management Structure on Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County.....	68
Table 15 Correlations between County Management Structure and Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County	70

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 Theoretical Framework	26
Figure 2 Conceptual Framework	27
Figure 3 Category of Leaders in Questionnaire response	47
Figure 4 Gender of the Questionnaire respondents.....	48
Figure 5 Questionnaire respondents Level of Education	49
Figure 6 Experience of the Questionnaire Respondents	50



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ASAL	Arid and semi-Arid lands
CoK	Constitution of Kenya
ICT	Internet Communication Technology
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
NPG	New Public Governance
NSAs	Non-State Actors
PPPI	Public Participation Performance Index
PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships
SPSS	Statistical Packages for Social Science
ULL	Urban Living Labs
UNDP	United Nation Development Programme
CGG	County Government of Garissa
MDGs	Millenium Development Goals
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Public participation is increasingly being recognized as a prerequisite to effective governance to the extent that it transfers power to the people which in turn makes social institutions more responsive to people's needs. Thus, the process of public participation involves direct interaction with the public, in matters of governance (Luigi, 2018). This involves decision-making and further gives power to the people. This style gives the people a chance to be in control of the planning and policy formulation, making a choice on projects to invest in and also deciding on the things that are of significant concern to them (Watt, 2014). In the developed countries, it is mandatory for people to participate, and this is a legal requirement in any local government operation. Developed local units will, to a big extent, make citizens participate in the governance process as it is assumed, this in turn will enable the establishment of accountability in the local government institutions thus affecting the ease of service delivery (Daudi, 2016).

The main aim of devolution is to enable the public to efficiently get involved in decision-making. This helps in achieving the desired levels of separating powers from the higher levels and lower ones while maintaining transparency and trust in the public. Scott (2014) advocates for public participation in governance as a way of rewarding people for their democratic efforts to effective leadership. For devolution to thrive, local governments must possess the ability to make informed, effective decisions while prioritizing the needs, preferences, and active involvement of their communities. Devolution's success hinges on this dual capacity: competent local leadership and meaningful community engagement. By decentralizing power,

devolution fosters inclusive governance, ensuring that policies reflect local realities and cultural contexts rather than top-down mandates. This participatory approach builds trust, enhances accountability, and empowers citizens to shape their own development. Globally, devolution has gained traction because it promotes democratic principles, encourages local innovation, and addresses diverse community needs more responsively. However, its effectiveness depends on equipping local governments with adequate resources, skills, and authority, alongside mechanisms for genuine public participation. Without these, devolution risks become symbolic rather than transformative. Thus, inclusiveness in decision-making is not just a feature of devolution but its cornerstone, driving equitable and sustainable governance worldwide.

In the United States, the structure of governance is at the grassroots where two organs exist. The organs include the local and state governments. Governance at the local level is, however, coordinated with the Federal government. Some of the governance issues including policing, public educational facilities like schools are usually governed by the state and local governments (Saguin, 2019). This gives the state and local government the autonomy to run their matters and hence improving public participation in governance. This is important as an issue affecting a given geographic region may be unique from other regions.

In the UK, the year 1999 ushered in a different type of governance where some regions were put under the governance of some autonomous units. The major areas include Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. While the central government is generally under the leadership of Her Majesty's Government, there is no devolved government in England. The UK governance structure is generally divided into three authorities including parish councils, counties and districts (Shirley, 2014). The division is aimed at improving public service to the locals through enhanced public participation.

Throughout the United Kingdom, there exist three levels of governance including parish councils, district and county. These have been seen as the attributes of unity in the governance in the country. The levels have also been structured in such a way that there is only one level that is mandated to carry out taxation activities. Moreover, while the other levels have own mandates, there is a connection to the central government through oversight mechanisms.

In Nigeria, governance structures also reflect devolved units outlay with the local governments being closer to the people, while the federal government takes overall charge. Different authors have opined that the administrative efficiencies experienced in Nigeria through people's access to government is attributed to the concept of local governments. For instance, the local governance has enhanced the address of rural people's needs and aspirations (Augustine, 2018). Philosophical arguments for local governments is thought to bring governance closer to the rural people for improved public participation. However, it is shown that the three-tier government structure is ineffective and indicates the weakness in its institutionalization (Augustine, 2018).

In Kenya, the promulgation of the 2010 constitution brought a new structure of governance with a two-tier outlay consisting of the national government and the County governments. The 2010 Kenyan Constitution Chapter 7 outlines the Representation of the People as a concern for fair representation of all people (Nzomo & Kameri-Mbote, 2013). The national government is tasked with nurturing citizens' ability to actively participate in governance by fostering their civic capacity. This responsibility entails comprehensive capacity-building programs focusing on critical areas such as electoral processes, the rights and duties tied to civic engagement, and the consequences of either participating or abstaining from governance. By equipping citizens with this knowledge, governments enable them to make informed decisions, hold leaders accountable, and influence policies that affect their lives. Furthermore, citizens must be aware

of their entitlement to clear explanations if their participatory rights are restricted, promoting transparency and trust in governance systems. As Edna (2012) highlights, an empowered citizenry is essential for a vibrant democracy, ensuring governance reflects public will. Effective capacity building requires investment in civic education, accessible platforms for dialogue, and inclusive mechanisms that amplify marginalized voices. Without these efforts, participation risks being tokenistic, weakening democratic foundations. By prioritizing civic literacy and engagement, governments not only uphold citizens' rights but also strengthen the social contract, fostering a resilient, participatory democracy where informed citizens drive equitable and sustainable national progress.

Citizen participation is a principle that has been given a lot of importance in the Constitution of Kenya 2010. Article 10 (2) of the Constitution underscores that public involvement is of nationwide significance and an element of governance (COK, 2010). The people are supposed to take part in law-making and other activities of Parliament (National Assembly and the Senate) and its committees. One of the goals of devolution is to transfer the power of leadership and decision making to the citizens. Such an Involvement should be promoted in all civil activities and be backed up by both State and Non-State Actors (NSAs) performing in the interest of the people.

The Constitution largely lays down fundamental necessities for the national assembly/senate and the local assemblies to develop structures for public involvement in lawful practices. This could be determined through governmental and law-making strategies. The national assembly and local Assemblies are mandated to put in place laws on involvement and also create practical guiding principles for citizens to put this right into effect.

Through the drafted and implemented county public participation guidelines, the legal framework states that public participation entailed five areas of concern which are creating

public awareness, consulting with it, involving it, cooperating with it, and empowering it (the Republic of Kenya, 2016). Thus, the current study sought to fill this knowledge gap by associating governance structure with significance in improving public participation in the devolved units. Of particular interest in the current study is the Legislative policy framework, the allocation and availability of resources, Communication channels and Management structure at the County level on public involvement in devolved units in Kenya using the case of Garissa County.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Public participation in county governance in ASAL (Arid and Semi-Arid Lands) counties in Kenya faces several challenges. Garissa county is one of these counties where many residents in ASAL counties are not adequately informed about their rights to participate in governance processes. This lack of awareness results in low engagement levels. One of the primary signs of poor public participation in Garissa county is a general lack of awareness among community members about the project. When the public is not informed or educated about the project's goals, objectives, and benefits, it suggests that there has been insufficient engagement and communication from the project leaders. There is always low attendance at public meetings whenever there is an invitation to participate in projects. The low turnout at public meetings or forums intended to gather community input is a sign of poor public participation in the governance of the county. Residents hardly attend these meetings, which often points to either a lack of interest or awareness about the project. It also reflects a distrust in the process, where people feel their input will not be valued or acted upon.

There are also signs of ineffective public participation as input from a diverse range of stakeholders is hardly considered. When a project only reflects the views and interests of a few

individuals or groups, it indicates inadequate outreach and engagement efforts. Diverse input is crucial for ensuring that the project meets the needs of all community members. There is evident persistent negative feedback from the community which signal poor participation. The majority of the community voices concerns or dissatisfaction with the project. This suggests that their perspectives and needs were not adequately considered during the planning and implementation phases. Projects in the county experience frequent delays or are unable to move forward and often suffer from inadequate public participation.

Concerns with challenges to participation in the Kenyan context in general and ASAL counties in particular, have not been given sufficient scholarly attention, which as assumed, could be attributable to the fact that the system is new in Kenya. This indicates that there are unique governance structure factors in ASAL areas such as Garissa County that may hinder public participation. Thus, the need to research on governance structure issues such as governing legislative policy framework, resources, communication channels and County management structure and their influence on public participation in the devolved units in Kenya.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to analyze the effect of governance structure on public participation in the devolved units in Kenya using the case of Garissa County.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The study was directed by the following four objectives;

- i. To examine the influence of legislative policy framework on public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County

- ii. To determine the effect of resource allocation in promoting public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County
- iii. To analyze the effect of communication channels in promoting public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County
- iv. To investigate the influence of County management structure on public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County

1.5 Research Questions

- i. What is the extent to which the existing legislative policy framework influences public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County?
- ii. What is the effect of resource allocation in the promotion of public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County?
- iii. What is the effect of communication channels in promoting public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County?
- iv. What is the influence of the County management structure on public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County?

1.6 Justification of the Study

Devolution and by extension public participation being new concepts in Kenya means that there are many important gaps in existing knowledge on factors that may hinder the envisioned situation where citizens play a central role in decision-making processes. There are many gaps in literature, the main one being the observed low level of participation even though participation is a critical for achieving the 17 SDGs. More so, the concern of public

participation enhances the possibilities of realizing Vision 2030 as well as the conforming to the central principle in Kenya's constitution.

In addition, counties in arid and semi-arid areas may be facing unique challenges in public participation due to many factors. The current study hypothesizes that the vastness of these counties such as Garissa which is characterized by low literacy levels (high levels of illiteracy), high poverty index, poor infrastructure and at times insecurity coupled with patriarchy are important determinants of the success or otherwise of public participation. It is also entirely possible that institutional weaknesses such as a lack of political will exemplified by failure to allocate resources, poor communication, lack of transparency, lack of capacity and lack of enabling legislation and regulatory framework to promote public participation can be important explanatory factors in the quality and quantity of public participation.

1.7 Significance of the Study

The results of this research are expected to be of value to different stakeholders. The County Government of Garissa and the country as a whole was informed on issues that require more capital, concentration and endeavor. It may provide the different agencies with key information on issues that need upgrading and therefore direct their activities concentrating on public engagement in decentralized unit governance.

The results may demonstrate the importance of targeting strategies to promote public participation given the unique nature of the study location, where targeting is informed by a clear understanding of factors that can hinder its effectiveness. In other words, isolating determinants of participation renders itself useful to institutions charged with driving the process of participation by giving them evidence of weaknesses in the existing practices. Thus, it is expected that the findings of this study may inform local and national governments in the

formulations of policies that are well focused and responsive to the local situations of ASAL counties.

In addition, the findings of the current study may contribute public participation to the current amount of knowledge on the factors that influence knowledge on determinants of which was useful to scholars of governance. Students researching the concept of participation may also find the results of this study a good starting point in their endeavor. This is particularly important given the fact that devolution and public participation are only now taking root in Kenya.

1.8 Scope of the Study

In Kenya, devolution is in its implementation stage. Informed by the situation, the study analyzed the influence of governance structure on public participation in the devolved units in Kenya using the case of Garissa County. The study also narrowed down to two theories, namely the public choice theory and public value theory. The study focuses on an analysis of the influence of governance structure on public participation in the devolved units in Kenya with Garissa County as a case study. The specific focus was on six (6) constituencies across the county. The study targeted the key public administrators at the identified ward levels and county assembly. This was informed by the breadth of the County in geographical coverage and the researcher could not cover all the administrative units. This provided an opportunity for the research to visit several offices within the target wards as well as visit civil society organizations, community gatekeepers and members of the public in the selected wards to administer questionnaires and to carry out interviews. The study took a period of one year between June 2023 and May 2024.

1.9 Delimitations of the Study

The study covered all the six constituencies in Garissa County. From each constituency, the at least 30 members of the public were randomly sampled for 3 different focus group discussions. Given that 16 percent of the population lives in urban areas in Garissa County, the sample for urban areas was 16 percent and that of rural areas 84 percent. The study was delimited to two months field period due to academic regulations and guidance on project undertakings. The study also narrowed down to the guide of two theories, namely; the public choice theory and public value theory.

1.10 Limitations of the Study

The public in Garissa County may not have the required knowledge on public participation and may also be reluctant to volunteer information due to a lack of prior engagement in research. The researcher addressed this challenge by explaining to them the nature of the research being undertaken in their local language. The researcher further assured them that the work was purely for academic purposes, therefore, they were free to speak up.

It was evident that county government officials were reluctant to discuss their role in promoting or otherwise constraining public participation especially where they were not consciously promoting the process. This was overcome by explaining to them the importance of the study and assuring them that the findings are expected to help them understand what may be affecting their efforts negatively. In all situations, respondents were assured of total confidentiality and anonymity of their views, which is expected to help over the barrier of withdrawing information.

In addition, time factors and poor road network may be a challenge in accessing the study location. While this is a geographical concern, the research used research assistant who were locals as they understood the locality. This improved the reach to the targeted population.

1.11 Assumptions of the Study

The study was carried out with the following assumptions;

- i. That the citizens of Garissa County would fully participate in the research.
- ii. That legislative policy framework, resources, communication channels and the County management structure have an influence on public participation in governance in Garissa County. This research was carried out with the postulation that the county government service departments and individuals who are recipients of the services delivered by the government was willing to provide relevant information/valid data that is accurate and reliable for the study.
- iii. There was voluntary participation from selected residents and stakeholders. It's also anticipated that the chosen sample would accurately reflect the entire population. Finally, it is assumed that the study was generalizable to the entire county context.

1.12 Operational Definitions of Terms

Communication channels	These are the ways and means together with the involved persons in which the information moves from the source to the intended audience. The source and the audience may be either the governor's office or the County Assembly or the general public.
County management structure	This is the documented and institutionalized rank of offices in the management of the County from the highest office to the lowest
Devolved units	Refers to a type of decentralized governance structure where managerial, political and revenue collection is shifted from the national level to the local administrative units referred to as counties. In Kenya, there are 47 such devolved units of which Garissa County is one of them.
Governance Structure	Refers to the organization of responsibilities and functions of the county government that influence public participation. It entails legislative policy framework, allocation of resources, communication channels and management structure.
Legislative policy framework	This is the official government documented laws and regulations guiding public participation in the management of the counties
Public Participation	This refers to a two-way process where decision making on legislation and policy issues considers the inputs of individuals,

government and any other interested groups (County Public Participation Guidelines, 2016).

Resources

These are the required inputs in the County management affairs that enable efficient and effective running of planned activities and projects such public participation.



CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the empirical review of the literature on participation and constraints to participation as well as the theoretical foundations of the current research. It also covers the conceptual framework and research gaps.

2.2 Empirical Literature Review

The problem of participation in governance has been studied by various researchers and reports and various levels. The reviewed literature is presented into themes as follows.

2.2.1 Legislative Policy Framework on Governance and Public Participation

In China, a study on acute socioecological crisis in Gansu province as early as 1980 focused on government intervention (Mao & Zhang, 2018). The researchers based their study on the crisis that befell the region for two decades using existing secondary data and primary data collected through reviews and interviews. Specifically, the 2007–15 Shiyang River Watershed Restoration Plan was used to illustrate the existing conflicting policies. While the conservation project was led by the government, there emerged policy conflicts especially involving the locals including the farmers, and staff in other government cadres in Minqin County. The conflicts led to challenges in the implementation of the project. The policies specifying the position of national security as a top-level declaration on the resource was tampering with the project mandate that targeted the use of local government and the local people.

The use of the local approach that entailed scholarships on partner behaviour, institutional constraints and related areas conflicted with the existing overall policy of conservation of the

ecological targets. The approach which had been interpreted as a way of alleviating poverty among the locals while involving them through creating room for ownership, sustainability and capacity building was all affected by the national policy on the management and conservation of the resources. Apart from such benefits, the focus for local community involvement is aimed at reaping from the enhanced participation in governance through recognizing the marginalized, reducing political interference and recurring corruption incidences. The study reflects policies that focus on decentralizing or developing governance functions. Other researchers like Abimbola et al., (2019) posit that the decentralization of governance helps in improving service delivery and ownership in the management of resources. This focus gives the current study impetus to investigate the influence of the existing legislative policies on public participation. Specifically, the current study looked at Garissa County government based on the legal framework including the 2010 Constitution of Kenya, the County government act of 2012 and the County management guidelines with a special interest in public participation in governance.

The postulation that devolved governance improves service delivery and public participation is also reflected in the works of Rees and Hossain (2010) who posit that it is an effective way of forming legislation for giving power to the locals to feel the political, financial and administrative powers of governance. The embracing of a legal framework for devolving governance is not only unique for Kenya, but a concern for over 75 countries across the globe gained in the last 3 decades.

Rondinelli (2007) posits that a critical influential driver of the self-belief that citizens put in regimes is the degree to which administrative services meet their demands and wants. The government's inability to provide fundamental needs of the citizens normally experience catastrophes in terms of legality and encounters vicious rebellion internally particularly from

the opposition. The present global re-evaluation of the role of the State and public officers and civil staff emanates from two key sources: one is globalization and its effects on what administrations must do to adjust and react to fast-shifting intercontinental monetary, social, political and industrial sequences; the other is raising the displeasure among the people in several nations with the task of government and the services that community administrations give.

2.2.2 Resource Allocation in Promotion of Public Participation in Governance of Devolved Units

In a European study that entailed governance in urban centres, Kronsell and Landgren (2018) used 50 article reviews to find the effectiveness of the governance on its role in accelerating sustainable conservation of the urban resources. The study used measures of aspects including the Urban Living Labs (ULL) to gauge the capacity of the municipalities to provide effective services to the locals. The study was guided by an experimental form of inquiry-based on institutional theory. Using the public sector as the target population, the study scope entailed the three sole roles of the municipality including a partner, enabler and promoter of good governance.

The study findings showed that Municipalities had more functions relating to public participation away from being the partner of the governance. The municipalities involved themselves in Urban Living Labs (ULL) by creating rooms for public participation, through funding programs. However, this role changed with time and parts of the municipality. While these findings relate to the current study location, Garissa County, it is expected that all the six (6) sub-counties are treated the same irrespective of the location. The Kronsell and Landgren (2018) study recommended that an in-depth study can be carried out to understand the

dynamics revolving around the management of the municipality. The study brought about new knowledge in the area of governance public participation through the provision of funds and forming collaborations. Noteworthy, the sources of funds and resources towards public participation in governance within the municipalities significantly came from the external donors. This also stretches in the current study as Counties in Kenya receive funds from various sources including external ones like the World Bank that has funded several urban development projects in Kenya between 2013 and 2020. The study thus concluded that the municipalities not only entail funding but also being a partner in public participation in governance (Vangn et al., 2015).

In a Chinese study, Enserink and Koppenjan (2007) focused on the governance in environmental policy and the need for public participation. This followed the challenges facing the country's urbanization, attributed to rapid economic growth and accelerated depletion of natural resources. The country had started reporting cases of water scarcity and mostly in the north-eastern part. While the government had already developed some policies to take care of the challenge, the problem seemed to grow out of hand. This was blamed on implementation challenges.

The study used existing literature on governance in the country where the focus of public participation was key. The design was enhanced by the use of meetings with environmental experts by drawing discussions around the identified case studies. The findings showed that environmental management policies and adaptation were interrelated to public participation in the country. The study states that the involvement of the public made it easier for them to adopt and take in theory roles without further persuasion. This implies that the role of public participation in government projects and general governance is key. The current study

examined the importance and the extent that the public has been involved in governance in Garissa County.

Funding of public goods and goodwill cannot be emphasized. Locatelli (2018) used a case of education as a public good to study the responsibility of public institutions. The author indicates that the offer of public goods or services is always challenged by funding limits. In the face of privatizing education, the need for political and economic implications affects the public. Education as a public good is offered in decentralized units and thus call for committed funding. The case of ensuring every child participates in education calls for government funding. The same applies to the need for public participation in governance in devolved units in Kenya today. The feasibility of public participation in governance at the Garissa County government may be spelt in the legal structures, but without funds, the process may hardly be achieved. Involving the public calls for sensitization of the public through various identified effective means, facilitating where necessary and even in some cases, compensation for the special interest groups and representations. Locatelli (2018) concludes that building public will for participation in projects calls for a complementary budgetary implication. This is the concern raised in the current study which focuses on whether the Garissa County government has budgetary allocations for such activities.

Nerbonne and Nelson (2004) studied the resource mobilization attributes in public participation in government projects in the United States. The study focused on the monitoring part where the citizens are involved. Using a survey through volunteer macroinvertebrate monitoring (VMM) in the health status of the public, the researchers interviewed the state leaders. The study findings showed that the VMM groups existed in different sizes, and which relied on their characteristics to drive their goals. The findings also showed that the groups, despite being in a general part of public participation in the governance of the health activities in the state,

relied on the government for resources to not only sustain their activities but also enhance mobilization among themselves. The resources were used in reaching out to other groups and sensitizing the public towards the VMM grouping rather than structural legislation. This implies that unless the government provides such support to the public, public participation may be unsustainable. This focuses on the current study where the public may need the county funding in the sensitization, publishing posters, sending out the information and related activities. This implies the study gap of budgeting against the costs in public participation in governance in Garissa County.

2.2.3 Communication Channels in Promoting Public Participation in the Governance Of Devolved Units

Using a foundation of managing and conserving water resources in relation to public participation, Mukhtarov, Dieperink and Driessen (2018) found that public participation is a core aspect in any type of governance. The researchers based their study on the use of communication using the growth and spread ICT. The study reported that the use of ICT in the current world is fundamental in making public participation a reality. The researchers used the existing literature from 33 published articles which narrowed down to 32 case studies. The method entailed the Cochrane systematic review of documents. The study reported that using ICT in communication can harness the required effectiveness in community development projects regarding public participation.

The use of ICT enabled the liaising of the public and the government as an entity which enhanced consistency in the information relayed. The study, however, notes that such techniques in communication limit the applicability as it requires an established structure of ICT systems. The study ended with the recommendation and research implication on the sense

of “digital democracy” which may favor some sections of the community compared to others. Concerning the current study, the use of ICT-related services including social media is seen as an available tool to sensitize and communicate public participation of the Garissa County residents in governance issues. However, the coverage of the platform including smartphones may be a hindrance to the effectiveness of such channels of communication on public participation in governance in the county. This enhances the need for the current study to unravel how effective the new technological means of communication are used, and to what extent.

Sebola (2017) evaluated the role of communication tools in legislative processes in South African policymaking. Through the use of public participation, the study acknowledges that it is a tool that can effectively be used to create democracy. This was shown in the study where people's voices are accelerated to another level by the purpose of involving them. The study also posits that people; decisions play a great role in government projects and development. The study used existing literature with a conclusion that communication is a tool that can be employed in improving policymaking through public participation in governance.

2.2.4 County Management Structure and Public Participation in the Governance of Devolved Units

In an investigation that entails both the UK and the US, Whitton, Brasier, Parry and Cotton (2017) used questions lingering on the management and governance in the lucrative oil and gas resources. The background showed that the citizens were hardly involved in the governance regarding the resources. Narrowing down to a particular station known as shale gas, the study explored the governance of resources within both the US and UK through identifying the existing debates on lands rights and ownership. The methodology used the existing

phenomenon of debates on giving room and opportunities for the public to participate in the governance of resources and the social justice implications on the issue. The study findings showed that in both the governments of the US and UK, the concern about public participation was minimal. This means that public opinion was hardly involved in the governance of shale gas and oil resources. This was attributed to management structures of the government body(ies) mandated in the management of shale gas and oil resources. This relates to the current study which calls for management structure at the office of the governor of Garissa County. The concern for the current study is to establish the offices tasked with ensuring that public participation and civic education in the governance at the County is upheld as stated in eth COK 2010 and the County management guidelines. The study showed that lack of public participation in the management of the oil resources caused insufficiencies in social justice.

In a study carried out in China on the level of public participation in the implementation of public construction projects, Xie et al., (2017) observed that it is the attribute of good governance at the local level. The study aimed at designing a model that would promote public participation. Using a list of 15 KPIs, a questionnaire was developed and piloted using identified experts. Using a sample of 192 participants drawn from PCPs stakeholders in South China, a PPPI was constructed from the collected data. The designed model is known as the public participation performance index (PPPI). The model was applied to Guangzhou Asian Games as a case study to demonstrate the feasibility. The model was found to work with potential for future prospects in ensuring effective public participation from the management perspective. The study recommended the application of the model in other countries. This relates to the current study which focuses on using the model indicators including management structure to assess the level of public involvement in Garissa County governance.

In a different study on the management of community development projects using public-private partnerships was found to be key for the public interest (Casady, Eriksson, Levitt and Scott, 2020). The study used the public-private partnerships (PPPs) as a baseline for growing the inclusion of the public in the management as a way of attaining the goals of the New Public Governance (NPG). Guided by the public management paradigm, the study based its background on the little research taken about the relationship between institutional maturity and PPP utilization. The study explored the PPP institutional maturity model by specifying the governance capabilities of institutions including capacity, trust and legitimacy. The concern with the three areas of management falls in the management structure and outlay at the Garissa County government. While the existing structure was formed based on the COK (2010), the structure is highly influenced by the trust, capacity and legitimacy of the elected leaders. The study revealed that the role of management structure and office components highly influenced the levels of public participation in community development projects.

In a South African study by Xavier, Komendantova, Jarbandhan and Nel (2017), the focus was on public participation in the use of energy resources. This was based on the problem of significant depletion of the natural resources in the country. While the emphasis on the utilization of renewable resources rather than the non-renewable ones was in course, there were several barriers reported. The study recognized the special role of social support through sensitization of the locals. The study, thus, analyzed the related participatory challenges that faced the South African government in the management of the natural resources.

The study is based on the leadership role of the directly involved parties. The study findings showed that involving the locals in decision-making significantly improved the effectiveness in the resource conservation efforts. However, the study showed that the involvement of the public was weak as it only entailed the environmental impact assessment stage as stated in the

legal framework of South Africa. The study also pointed out that public participation was a strategy for conflict resolution between the locals and government agencies. Related to the current study, the existing legal framework for the participatory approach is evident. However, the weakness of the South African study reflects the weaknesses that exist in the current study location especially in the management structures at the County level. Ascertaining and outlining the various posts and offices to be established to be mandated for civic education and public participation is dim, and where it exists, the TORs are not specified. This formed the basis of the current study.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical literature review provides a review of theories which underpins the study. The Public Choice Theory and the Public Value Theory are the foundations of this research. The theories clarify the relationship between the study's independent and dependent variables.

2.3.1 The Public Choice Theory

With the backdrop of the economic climate, the Public Choice Theory (PCT) was born from the works of Duncan Black in 1948. Its main focus is on how people make decisions when it comes to public services. It compares the delivery of governmental services to market-like competition. The general public is conceptualized as a savvy customer in pursuit of the market's finest offering: superior public service (Lamothe and Lamothe, 2009). In any market, monopolistic control over production or services often breeds inefficiency, complacency, and diminished quality, as the absence of competition stifles innovation. Similarly, when political power is centralized within public institutions, it risks creating a monopolistic environment where governance becomes sluggish and disconnected from citizens' needs. To circumvent this, public institutions are increasingly adopting decentralization, introducing a diverse array

of long-term "political products"—such as localized policies, governance structures, and leadership models. Decentralization promotes accountability, fosters competition among local entities, and empowers communities to shape services that reflect their unique priorities. This shift mitigates the dangers of monopolistic governance by encouraging innovation, responsiveness, and efficiency. By treating citizens as customers entitled to high-quality public service, decentralization ensures institutions remain dynamic and aligned with public expectations. Ultimately, this approach strengthens trust, enhances inclusivity, and delivers equitable, effective governance, mirroring a competitive market that thrives by meeting its customers' demands with excellence and adaptability.

In a competitive climate, everyone agrees that greater and more flexible services have potential. In the case of implementation of this theory, the public stands to have greater benefit compared to the government, which serves as the provider of public services. Furthermore, the idea depicts a scenario in which citizens have a say in the services that are provided to them. This demand for citizen participation in governance is timely. The vital role of citizen participation in governance is described by the key concept offered in this theory. As a result, this theory is employed to illustrate the influence of governance structure on public participation in the devolved units in guaranteeing the effective delivery of public goods and services in this environment. In terms of features and effective governance, the theory has provided key relational aspects. The PCT principle can be used to highlight how citizens can use their potential skills and resources to obtain efficient services from the government.

2.3.2 Public Value Theory

Public value originates from the work of Mark H. Moore, a Harvard professor (1995). Public value theory asserts that public services should be delivered in alignment with the public

interest, which reflects the informed choices citizens would make for the collective benefit of society (Bozeman, 2002). This theory emphasizes the critical role of civic education, equipping citizens with the knowledge to engage in governance and make decisions that advance community welfare. By empowering citizens through education and participatory freedom, public value theory illuminates the tangible benefits of such engagement, including greater influence over policies and services that directly address societal needs. It further obligates public institutions to honor citizens as vital actors, providing them with exemplary, responsive services (Bozeman, 2002; Lippman, 1955). In contrast to earlier eras, where public interest was poorly defined or clashed with competing community policies, contemporary governance prioritizes strategic planning to achieve clearly articulated public interests.

This approach fosters coherence, inclusivity, and accountability, ensuring policies serve the common good. By embedding public value principles, institutions cultivate trust, promote equitable outcomes, and enable a collaborative framework where educated, empowered citizens actively shape a just and prosperous society through shared decision-making and collective responsibility. This recognition of embracing people's interests in governance has had positive impacts, especially on the citizens. Quality governance, emphasizing transparency and citizen participation, has gained prominence. By applying public value theory, which prioritizes public interest and engagement, governments can enhance citizens' performance through effective quality management strategies. These strategies foster active involvement, ensuring citizens are informed and empowered to contribute to decision-making. Transparency builds trust, while participation aligns policies with community needs, creating responsive governance. Unlike traditional top-down approaches, this model leverages citizen input to drive accountability and equitable outcomes. By integrating quality management, public institutions can sustain meaningful engagement, uphold public value, and cultivate a collaborative,

inclusive governance framework that serves society effectively. The theoretical framework can be summed up as shown in Figure 1.

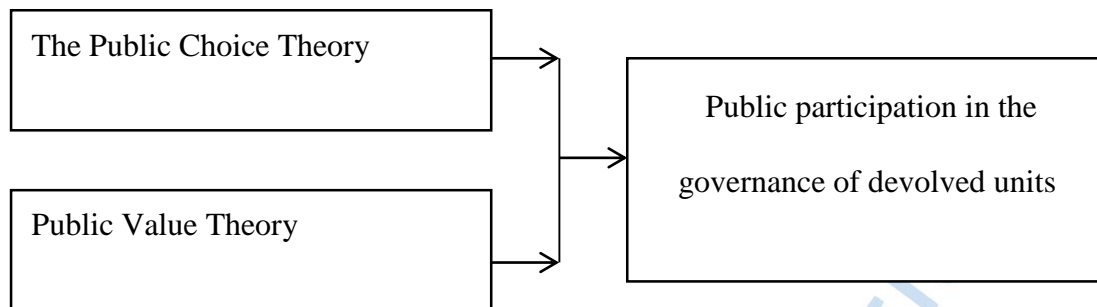


Figure 1 Theoretical Framework

Figure 1 shows a combination of two theories that line up into a common concern. The public choice theory is combined with the public value theory to inform the context of public participation in devolved units in Kenya.

2.5 Conceptual Framework

The study's variables was divided into two categories: independent and dependent. This is illustrated by Figure 2.

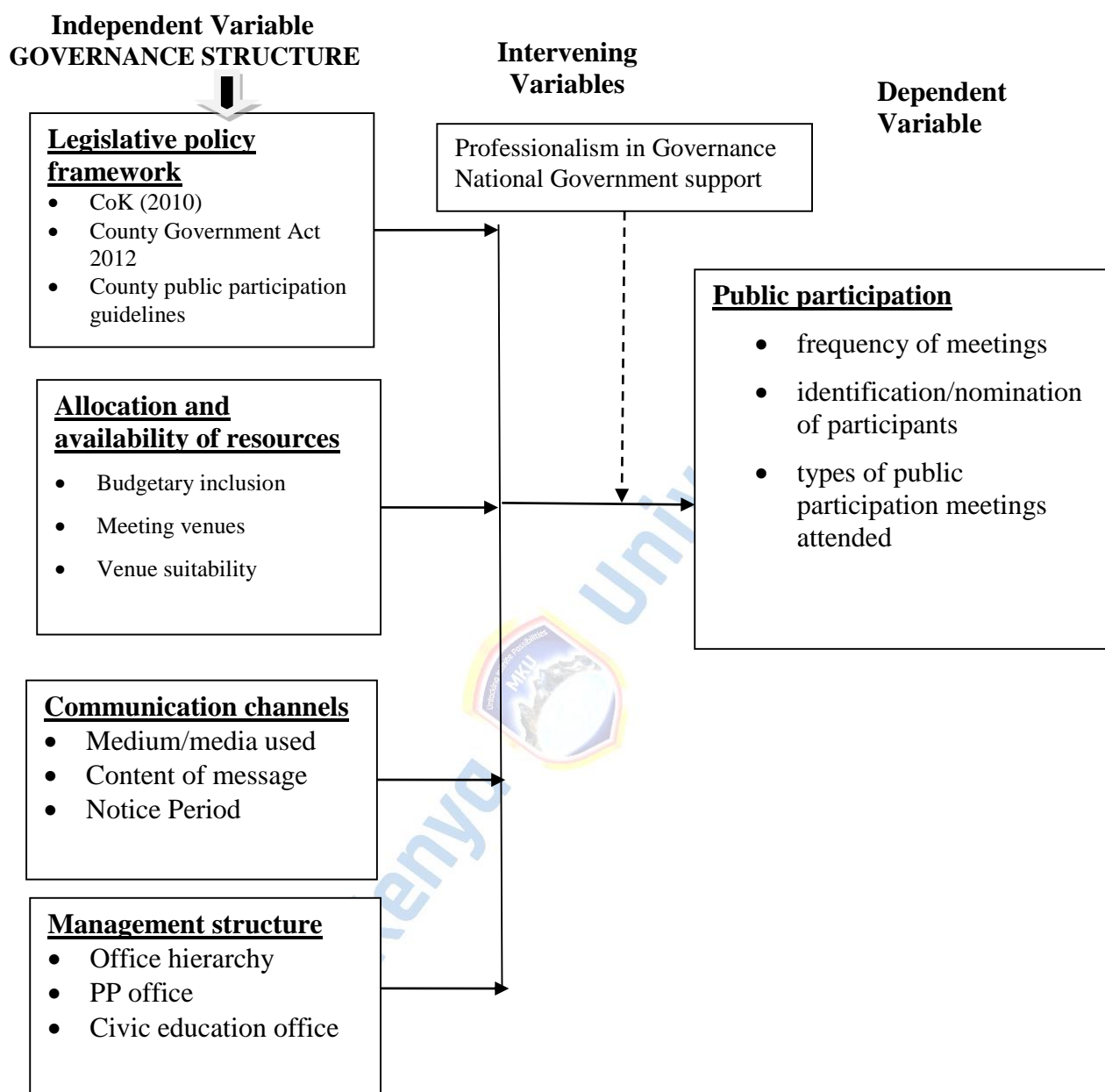


Figure 2 Conceptual Framework
Source: Researcher (2018)

Figure 1 depicts the influence of four independent variables on dependent variable. The first independent variable is Legislative policy framework which measured by indicators including CoK (2010), County Government Act 2012, and County Public participation guidelines.

The second independent variable is the allocation and availability of resources. This is measured by indicators including Budgetary inclusion, meeting venues, and venue suitability. The third independent variable is Communication channels which is measured by indicators including Language used, media used and period of communication. The last independent variable is the Management structure of the county which entails ranks (hierarchy, functions and civic education), mobilization process, and management composition. On the other hand, the dependent variable is the public participation in the governance. This is measured by indicators including frequency of meetings (public participation fora/ events), identification or nomination of participants (inclusivity) and types of public participation meetings attended.

2.6 Research Gaps

While the body of literature on public participation in Kenya is rising, two gaps are evident. First, literature, though growing, is not comprehensive and hardly focuses on the interplay between individual and institutional factors in shaping public participation. Second, literature does not focus on the unique aspects of each county. Arid and semi-arid areas have historically been marginalized, which translates into low levels of education and pervasive poverty relative to the more agriculturally productive areas of the country.

2.7 Recap of Literature Review

The review found that effective public participation is influenced by a variety of elements, the most important of which for the purposes of this study are institutional forces, citizens' socioeconomic level, and cultural beliefs and practices. The first set of factors operate at the level of county government as the institution charged with the mandate to promote public participation. Ideally, this institution should go out to the people and use a structured system of bringing people together to share their views on all governance issues so as to ultimately

influence policy, service delivery and oversight. This can be hindered by a lack of resources, insufficient capacity and Willingness on the side of the government to encourage citizen engagement.

On an individual basis, the educational attainment of a person influences his or her attitude towards public participation. A low level of education is associated with a diminished desire to participate as the person feels that he or she has nothing to contribute. Economic forces, that is, high poverty levels can make people view participation in public discourse as a waste of time that would otherwise be used in income-generating activities. This is especially true for people living away from urban centres where many public participation meetings are held.

The study rests on two foundational theories: public value theory and public choice theory. Public value theory, proposed by Bozeman (2002), asserts that public services should be delivered in alignment with the public interest, which represents the choices knowledgeable citizens would make to advance societal well-being. This approach emphasizes governance that prioritizes community needs, fostering trust through transparent, citizen-informed decision-making. In contrast, public choice theory adopts an economic perspective, likening public service delivery to a competitive market. It views citizens as rational consumers seeking the finest "product"—high-quality public services—and posits that governments must operate efficiently, like businesses, to meet these demands. The public, as customers, drives competition among service providers, promoting accountability and innovation. Together, these theories advocate for citizen-centric governance: public value theory ensures services reflect collective priorities through informed participation, while public choice theory emphasizes responsiveness and efficiency through market-like dynamics. By blending these frameworks, governments can deliver equitable, high-quality services that balance societal good with competitive performance, empowering citizens, enhancing transparency, and

addressing diverse needs to achieve sustainable, inclusive outcomes that strengthen the social contract.



CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter delineates the research methodology, providing a comprehensive overview of the study's framework. It introduces research design, techniques, and the specific location where the study is conducted, setting the stage for contextual understanding. The target population is clearly defined, alongside the sampling methodology and the resulting sample size, ensuring clarity on participant selection and representation. The development of research instruments is detailed, with a focus on their design and rigorous testing for validity and reliability to guarantee accurate and consistent results. The chapter further explains the data collection methods, outlining systematic procedures to gather relevant information efficiently. It also covers contemporary data analysis techniques, describing the steps for processing and interpreting data to derive meaningful insights. Ethical considerations are thoroughly addressed, including safeguards for participant confidentiality, informed consent, and ethical compliance, ensuring the study upholds moral and professional standards. By meticulously detailing these elements, the chapter establishes a transparent, methodologically sound foundation, enhancing the study's credibility and reproducibility. This structured approach not only supports robust findings but also serves as a model for future research, balancing scientific rigor with ethical integrity in addressing complex research questions.

3.2 Research Methodology

This section focuses on the methodology for conducting the study. It points out and presents the research methods to be used in carrying out the study, data collection method and data analysis. Research methodology refers to a complete plan, from the classification of the study

problem to the ultimate arrangement for data collection and analysis (Bums & Grove, 2001). The study aims to employ both quantitative and qualitative methods to gather data in this study to collect and evaluate data. This allowed triangulation of the study findings to make a concrete conclusion (Creswell, 2016). However, the methodology was reviewed continuously according to recommendations from experts drawn from the institute of security studies, justice and ethics at Mount Kenya University. The unit of analysis was the members of the public drawn randomly across the administrative boundaries of Garissa County.

3.3 Research Design

This study used descriptive survey research designs to explore the influence of governance structure on public participation in governance of devolved units. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (1999), descriptive research design entails the endeavors to gather data that facilitated in describing what exists and how. This is always through the focus on the existing phenomenon in the study site and environment. The design is suitable as it gave the researcher a chance to analyze the numerical data. The data to be collected was aligned to objectives drawn from the relationship that exist between the governance structures and public participation in governance of Garissa County.

A descriptive research design is known for its power to data collection using the study participants responding to earlier determined questionnaire items. According to Creswell (2013), descriptive research design is associated with the use and applications of positivism as it points to the collection of quantitative data. It thus provides an opportunity to visualize the study problem from different angles.

The research design is guided through the study variables that relate effective public participation with the analysis of governance structures, namely; legislative policy framework,

allocation and availability of resources, communication channels and management structure at the county government level. These are the independent variables of the study. These variables was measured in different forms and scales to depict the differences in magnitude. On the other hand, the dependent variable is public participation. Data for this variable focused on the number of times the respondents participated in public participation meetings organised by the county government and the extent to which their views were incorporated in the decision-making process.

3.4 Location of the Study

The study was carried out in Garissa County. The County is located at an altitude of between 20m and 400m above sea level. The area is characterized by the Tana River Basin and seasonal *Laghas*. The county landmass is about 44,753 KM². The River Tana which is the major source of water in the County plays a critical role that shapes the County's climate, economic activities and even settlements patterns. Despite the aridity of the area, use of its available waters makes it rich in agricultural activities through irrigation.

Garissa County falls into a semi-arid region of ecological zone V-VI. The area experiences rainfall of about 275 mm per year annually with long rains between March and May while short rains are experienced between October to December. The poor rainfall and patterns makes it difficult for agricultural activities, especially in locations afar from the river. However, the area is differentiated even in terms of rainfall, making the southern part consisting of Bura, Hulugho and Masalani receiving more rains compared to the northern part.

Consequently, the possible economic activity remains to be livestock rearing hence making the residents more of pastoralists than farmers. Majority of the livestock population are cattle, indigenous sheep, goats and camels. Garissa County has seven sub-counties and six

constituencies. The constituencies include Fafi, Garissa township, Ijara, Lagdera, Balambala and Dadaab. It has a total of 30 wards, which are distributed in the six constituencies as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 *Number of registered voters in Garissa County (2017 General elections)*

Constituency	Number
Garissa township	54291
Mbalambala	20145
Lagdera	20247
Dadaab	25762
Fafi	19883
Ijara	22722
Total	163050

Source: Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, 2017

3.5 Target Population

The target population, as defined by Sewell (2006), comprises individuals or entities with shared characteristics pertinent to a researcher’s objectives. For this study, the key trait is residency within the administrative limits of Garissa County. Specifically, the research targets registered voters in Garissa County, as recorded in the 2017 Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) data. The Garissa County Integrated Development Plan 2018–2022 estimates the county’s 2017 population at 871,644, with 163,050 individuals registered as voters. Within this population, the study prioritizes specific subgroups critical to county governance: county staff, members of the county assembly, and local national administrators. These groups are central to managing county operations, implementing development projects, and delivering essential public services, making them key stakeholders in Garissa’s socio-political landscape. By focusing on these actors, the research seeks to gain insights into voter

participation and the dynamics of local governance. This targeted approach ensures the study captures the perspectives of those shaping public service delivery and county progress, providing a nuanced understanding of how voter engagement and administrative roles intersect to influence Garissa County’s development within its unique contextual framework. Therefore, the target population for the study consists of subjects in the strata presented in Table 2.

Table 2 *Target Population*

Stratum	Source	Number of officers
Members of the public	Wards/Villages	163,050
Chiefs	National government	83
Ward Admins	Executive	30
MCAs	County assembly	30
Chief Officers	Executive	16
CECs	Executive	10
Subcounty admins	Executive	7
Office of the Clerk of the County Assembly	County assembly	4
Total		163,230

Table 2 shows a target population of 163,230 consisting of research subjects drawn from members of the public, ward admins, subcounty administrators, chief officers, MCAs, CECs and office of the clerk of the county assembly.

3.6 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

Sampling is the process of careful selection of items or subjects from accessible population to be used in an actual study, and the results generalized to the parent population (Orodho, 2009). Sampling is a critical procedure in research that calls for careful attention as it calls for inclusion of all possible diverse characteristics in the population to the sample. Moreover, sampling is recommended for several reasons including safety of the subjects, environmental concern and

issues, saving of costs, time, money and effort, among others (Mugenda and Mugenda, 1999). Informed by the scope and delimitations of the study including the programme regulations and guidelines, the researcher adopted both sampling and census methods.

3.6.1 Sample Size

Sample size in research is determined by several factors including the purpose of the research, scope and delimitations, and the parent population. From the target population of the current study at 163,230, the sample size was determined using Krejci and Morgan (1970) sampling tables (Appendix III). From the tables, a population of greater than 10000 gives a sample size of 364. Therefore, the sample size of the study was 364 participants drawn from all the strata in table 1. This ensured equal representation of the diverse characteristics of the population to avoid biasness (Bryman and Bell, 2007).

3.6.2 Sampling Techniques and Procedures

The study employed clustered random sampling techniques to select the study subjects into the sample. Consideration of probability sampling technique is pegged on its power to ensure equal chance of including all subjects in the sample (Sewell, 2006). However, the existence of stratification in the population based on roles in implementation of public participation, informed a census methods for the minority groups.

The researcher started by selecting all subjects (census) in the minority strata which are the staff of the county, the members of the county assembly, and the national local administrators. Informed by the chosen research design and survey, the study used quantitative methods to collect data from these groups of the sample. These groups were considered literate and well informed about public participation and the details about governance. This implies that these

groups were considered as census method in inclusion in the sample as they are fewer than 200 (Orodho, 2009).

From the remaining subjects (364-180 = 184), the study considered it for the members of the public as they form the main unit of analysis in the study. Here, the researcher employed cluster random sampling where the 184 subjects were equally distributed across the 6 constituencies of Garissa County. Cluster random sampling is one of the probability sampling designs which are rich in ensuring all accessible subjects in the population are given equal chance of being selected into the sample. The summary of the sampling size and techniques is presented using Tables 3 and 4.

Table 3 *General Sampling matrix*

Stratum	Population	Sample	Sample %	Sampling method
Members of the public	163,350	184	0.001	Clustered and Simple random Census
Chiefs/Religious leaders	83	83	100	
Ward Admins	30	30	100	
MCAs	30	30	100	
Chief Officers	16	16	100	
CECs	10	10	100	
Subcounty admins	7	7	100	
Office of the Clerk of the County Assembly	4	4	100	
Total	163,530	364	0.22	

Table 4 *Sampling matrix for Members of the Public*

Constituency	Population	Sample	Sampling technique
Garissa township, bura, modegashi	54291	34	

Mbalambala	20145	30	
Lagdera	20247	30	
Dadaab	25762	30	Clustered and
Fafi	19883	30	simple random
Ijara	22722	30	sampling
Total	163050	184	

3.7 Research Instruments

The study utilized two sets of data collection tools. The first is a questionnaire that was used to collect quantitative data from the all the leaders in the county including Chiefs, Ward Admins, MCAs, Chief Officers., CECs, Subcounty admins, and Office of the Clerk of the County Assembly. The second was the interview guide with the special groups of interest to the researchers who are the CECs of the different ministries in the county. These are the executives that design and implement programmes. The third tool was the focus group discussions with the members of the public.

3.7.1 Questionnaire for the County leaders

Questionnaires are considered suitable tools for collecting large amounts of data within a short period of time, and within a spread area (Orodho, 2009). The questionnaires also serve the purpose of enhancing the privacy of the participants, especially when studying sensitive issues such as public participation in governance of developed units of government. The questionnaires was used to collect data from the county leaders informed by their role in the county. The questionnaire was structured to capture section one on demographic data including the items on gender, age, level of education, experience and job title. Moreover, the questionnaire consisted of the items categorized thematically based on the study objectives. Section two entailed the understanding of the legal framework for public participation in

governance, section three contained items on Allocation and availability of resources, section four contained items on Communication channels in the County government, section five contained items on the Management structure of the county while section six contained items on level of participation in governance in the County. The items was measured on Likert scale to ensure exclusive and exhaustiveness in the views of the participants. The questionnaires serve best among these groups of the study participants as they are all literate from the nature of their engagement in the county management affairs.

3.7.2 Interview Guide for the CECs

Interviews was used to collect qualitative data from the CECs. Researchers advocate for key interview informants for collection of in-depth information about an issue in society (Sewell, 2006). They also played a role in not only probing the interviewee but also giving room for clarification and explanation on the issue of interest.

The study interview guide was developed in guidance with the theoretical framework, the conceptualized variables and the themes identified in the study objectives. The items in the interview guide also followed the order of the research objectives to help in answering the research questions in the study. The data collected was qualitative in nature because this tool had open-ended questions only. The collected data was triangulated against the quantitative findings to sum up valid and reliable results in the study.

3.7.3 Focus group Discussion with the Members of the Public

Focus group discussions was held with the members of the public in each of the 6 constituencies. FGDs are qualitative tools used to gather information from participants pooled in groups to find their consistency in a phenomenon. The members of the public discussed their involvement in county development projects. Each FGD was composed of 10 members making

a total of about 18 FGDs in the study, 3 in each constituency. The FGD schedule was designed and aligned to the research questions to enable narrowing down the discussion themes.

3.9 Piloting of the Research Instruments

The research instruments that include the questionnaire for the county leaders, the FGDs for the members of the public and interview guide for the CECs were piloted in one of the constituencies in the neighboring Wajir County. The sample size included in the pilot study was 10% of the actual sample size (Krejci and Morgan, 1970) which made it 36 subjects. The choice of the pilot study location aimed at ensuring little or no variations in phenomenon under study for both the environment and the subjects. This also ensured that the participants in the pilot could not be used in the actual study to avoid the validity effect of history and maturation (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2009). Piloting of the research instruments helped in ascertaining the validity and reliability of the research instruments. The outcomes of the piloting guided in refining the clarity in the research study items in both the questionnaire and the interview guide.

3.10 Validity and Reliability of Research Instruments

The study entailed examination of validity and reliability of the research instruments. This was carried out using the pilot-test data as described below.

3.10.1 Validity of the Research Instruments

Validity can be described as the level of accuracy of a given research instrument measuring what it is designed to measure (Creswell, 2013). Like reliability measures, the research instruments were piloted to ascertain face validity as a way of predicting the clarity and ease of understanding of the instruments. A few colleagues drawn from the MA governance class was used to assess the appearances and presentation of the research instruments. This helped

in enhancing the clarity of the tools. Content validity was assessed through experts' judgement. Experts drawn from the Department of governance at Mount Kenya University assessed the items to ensure that they match and represent the concept of governance structure and public participation (Sekaran & Bougie, 2009). Criterion validity was checked through making references to existing literature and theoretical framework on public participation. Specifically, the researcher was keen to ensure that other tools and measures of public participation are consistent with the approaches used.

3.1.0.2 Reliability of the Research Instruments

Reliability is explained as an indication of how accurate a research instrument can be described, that is, possibility of the instrument to produce similar results in repetition of the test irrespective of the change in time (McDaniel & Gates, 2013). Pilot testing is the best timing of the test of the questionnaire to ascertain its reliability (ibid). In pursuit of the reliability of the data to be collected, the researcher administered the tools to the pilot sample and use the parallel form of reliability testing. The filled data collection tools were divided into 2 (half-split). The pair of the collated data enabled carrying out analysis using SPSS version 24. Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient then be calculated. This was as presented in Table 5 and Table 6.

Table 5 Split- Half Questionnaire Scores from Pilot Data

#	X	Y
1	90	95
2	93	99
3	87	91
4	87	92
5	88	92
6	90	91
7	91	95
8	98	102
9	87	98

10	98	100
11	78	89
12	89	92
13	87	89
14	89	95
15	88	92
16	99	105
17	79	88
18	97	101

Table 6 Correlation coefficient of the Split-Halves of Pilot Data

		X	Y
X	Pearson correlation	1	0.876
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.001
	N	18	18
Y	Pearson correlation	0.876	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.001	
	N	18	18

Correlation of significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

Table 5 shows the distribution of the data from split-half of the scores of the pilot data. Table 6 shows the value of $r=0.876$ was determined from the data. This surpassed a threshold of 0.75 for sufficiency of the instrument to be reliable (Sekaran & Bougie, 2009).

3.11 Data Collection Procedures

The method of collecting data allows the study to comprehend the world from the respondents' viewpoint (Sewell, 2006). The process of data collection started by acquiring introduction letter from the Postgraduate director at Mount Kenya University. The researcher then applied for a research permit from the NACOSTI. Thereafter. The researcher used the local administrators

to introduce himself to the research participants. The participants was introduced to the study aims and significance through a research participation consent form.

Data gathering was done using questionnaires, FGDs and key informant interview guides. The questionnaire was administered to the sampled leaders of Garissa County to collect quantitative data. The tool was administered to the sampled participants and allowed a grace period of a week to fill. Where the participants sampled feel challenged in filling in the questionnaire, the researcher helped in guiding, reading and interpreting and then recording of the responses.

In order to facilitate the process, the researcher used a team of two research assistants who was trained on the content of the questionnaire on a one-day seminar. The research assistants was recruited from a group of locals, who must be over 18 years and have completed at least four forms.

The team was recruited from the local community to ease translation to the respondents in the local language which is Somali. To aid this process, local administration namely, the chief and assistant chiefs of the sampled villages, was alerted about the exercise. The researcher conducted key informant interviews with the assistance of a note-taker who recorded the discussions using a phone and transcribed the recordings later. The FGDs was conducted in Barazas guided by chiefs and assistant chiefs.

3.12 Data Analysis Procedures

Descriptive analysis was used to establish the percentage and occurrence of the variables. The data gathered from the closed-ended items of the research instrument was given arithmetical values (coded), checked for any errors and finally analyzed by use of a computer package SPSS. The main statistical procedures for quantitative data analysis was frequency distribution,

cross-tabulations, and correlation analysis. The results was presented in the form of tables and graphs.

Qualitative data was organized and analysed through thematic areas from the survey instruments. This involved reading all the discussion and isolating and merging them as well as noting areas of consensus and divergencies.

3.13 Ethical Consideration

This study was conducted within specified ethical considerations from the university as well as the researcher's personal ethics. First, the researcher has ensured that the research project report is original and own idea. The researcher has also acknowledged and cited the referred sources as an ethical concern in researcher. Secondly, the researcher obtained a research ethics clearance letter for the Mount Kenya University ethical review committee. This was to ensure that the intend study does not interfere or cause any significant psychological or relate harm to either the participants, nonparticipants or even the environment.

The researcher obtained research permit and sought permission in all related locations of the study including informing the local administrators including chiefs, their assistants and Nyumba-Kumi leaders. The researcher introduced the research participants to the study with declaration of confidentiality, privacy and voluntary participation through signing a participation consent form.

Regarding the data collected, the research upheld the principle of truthfulness of the data without manipulation, falsification or set up. The researcher-maintained anonymity of the sources of data collected. This was enhanced through ensuring that no name or identify of the research participants is written, labelled or associated with the respective data collection tools.

The researcher ensured safety, privacy, respect for the views, dress code, behavior and understanding of the research participants. There was honest handling of the participants with no promise nor use of bribes to be drawn in unwilling participation. Moreover, the rule of law of social order and respect for human rights according to the constitution of the republic of Kenya was upheld.



CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presented the study findings and interpreted them. The chapter also presented discussions of the results with comparisons to other existing literature and works. Similarly, the section triangulated the results between the quantitative and qualitative. The chapter was organized into several subheadings starting with a response rate of the questionnaires. The chapter then presented the demographics of the respondents and diagnostic tests on the collected data. The chapter then finally presented the descriptive statistics of the findings with triangulations with key informant interviews and FGD findings.

4.2 Response Rate

The study entailed a sample of 180 questionnaire respondents. From this, 146 questionnaires were successfully collected back and verified as completely filled. This made a questionnaire response rate of 81.1%. From the sampled and targeted 13 interviews and 18 focus group discussions, the study managed 5 KIIs and all the 18 FGDs. This response was considered adequate from the expert recommendations of at least 65% response rate for surveys to infer data analysis (Fincham, 2008). Thus, the results presented in the following subsections were drawn from these responses.

4.3 Demographics of the Questionnaire Respondents

From the questionnaire respondents, various categories of leaders participated in the study.

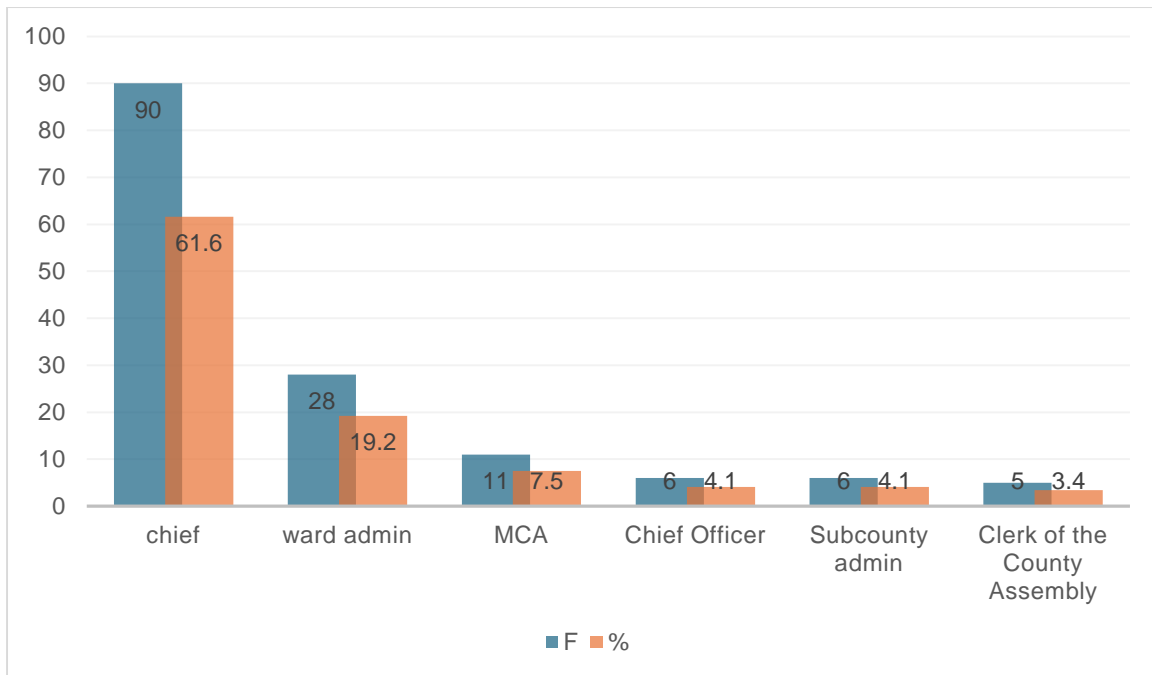


Figure 3 Category of Leaders in Questionnaire response

Figure 3 shows that the chiefs formed the largest portion of the questionnaire respondents 90(61.6%) with ward administrators coming second at 28(19.2%). The respondents included MCAs 11(7.5%), chief officers 6(4.1%), subcounty administrators 6(4.1%) and clerks of the county assembly 5(3.4%). This implied that the responses were diversified and thus remained objective rather than subjective of the respondents.

The respondents consisted of both males and females but with the majority being males 125(86%).

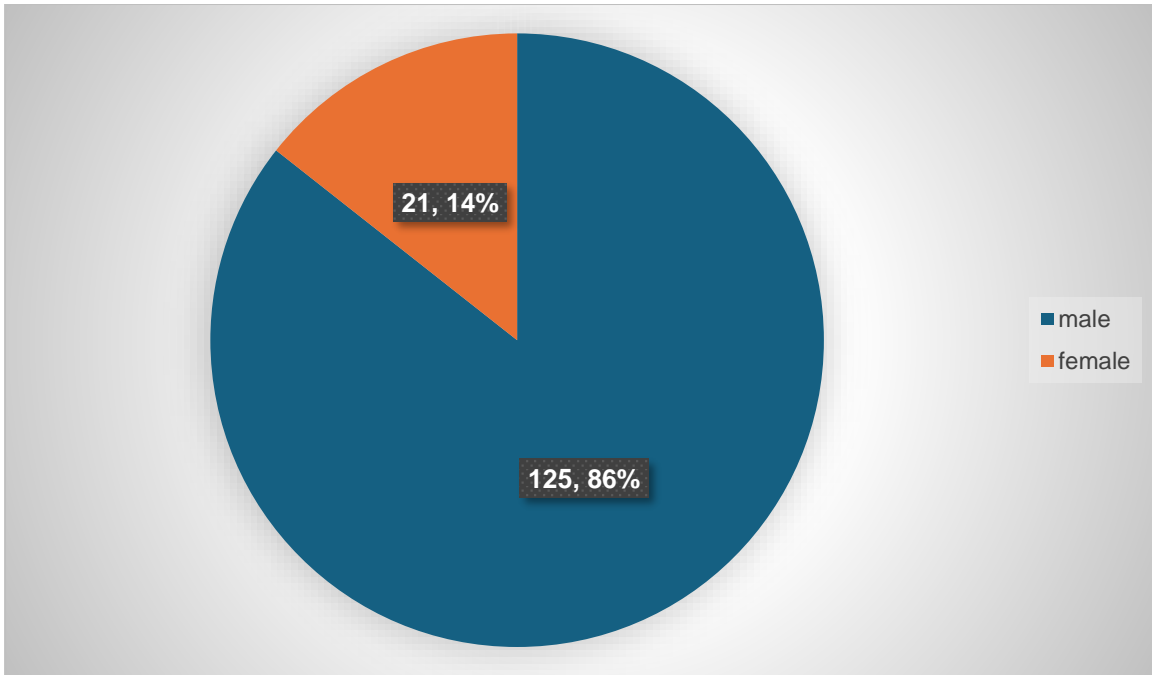


Figure 4 Gender of the Questionnaire respondents

Figure 4 shows that the participation in the study considered both males and females for informing diverse views. Gender issues have been on the radar in governance and ethics as social inclusion of women forms the foundation for equality in development.

About education levels, the largest portion 91(62.3%) had reached post-secondary level. This information was presented using Figure 5.

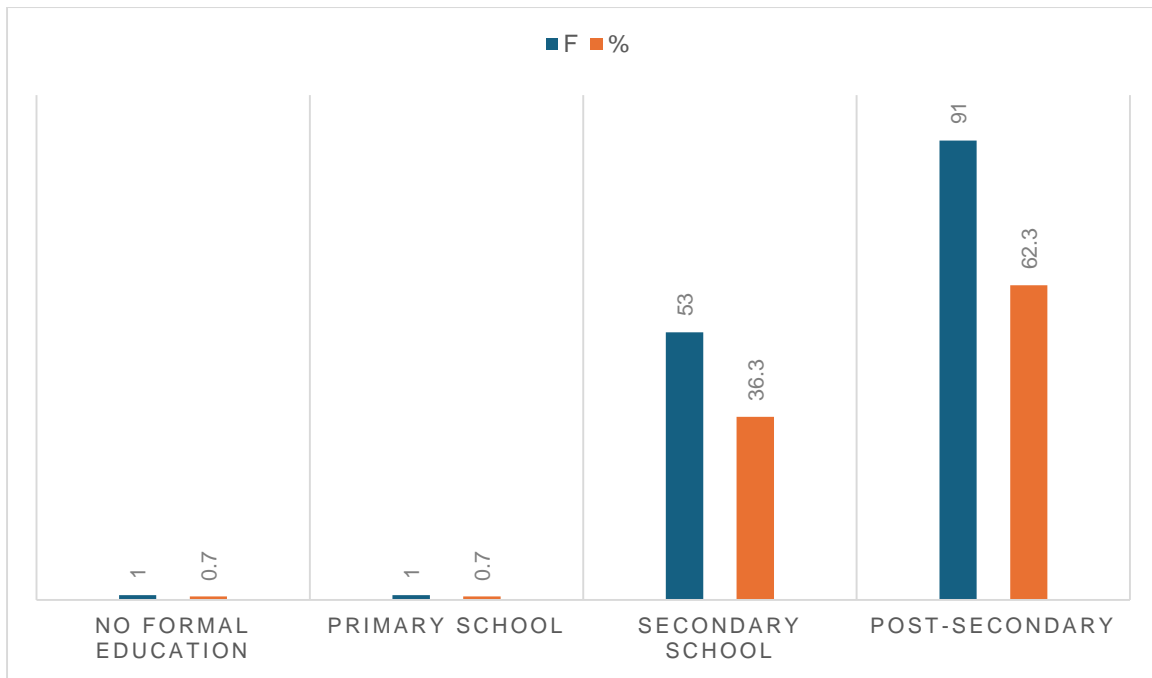


Figure 5 Questionnaire respondents Level of Education

Figure 5 also shows that the second largest portion of the respondents 53(36.3%) had completed secondary school level. Only one (0.7%) had completed primary school level and similar proportion had no formal education. This was important in the study as it illustrated the level of understanding not only using the questionnaire (for literates) but also understanding the county governance.

In Figure 6, the experience of the questionnaire respondents was mostly above eight years 82(56.2%). The information on experience was presented in Figure 6.

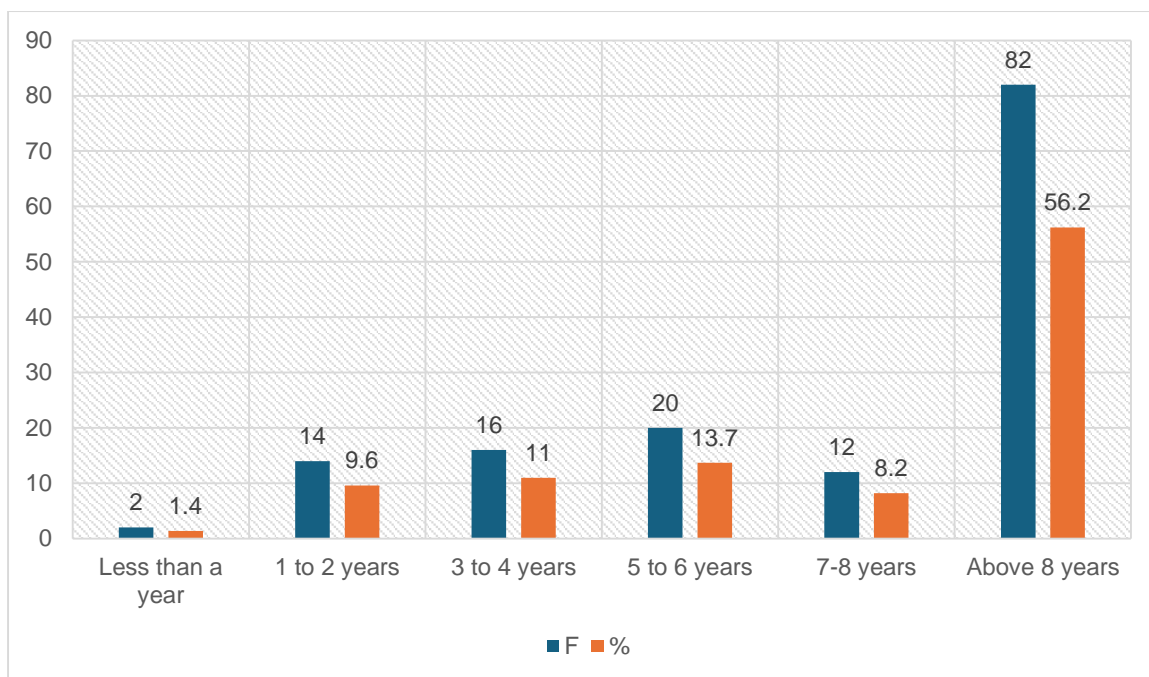


Figure 6 Experience of the Questionnaire Respondents

Figure 6 shows the experience in years of the questionnaire respondents. While the majority had experience above 8 years, there were groups with 7-8 years (8.2%), 5-6 years (13.7%), 3-4 years (11%), 1- 2 years (9.6%) and the least experienced at less than a year (1.4%). The experience of the respondents was important as the issue of public participation in county governance is mostly reflected through the county leaders who are used as mobilization agents. Higher experience would imply that the respondent had repeatedly participated in mobilization of the communities in public participation in county governance.

4.4 Level of Public Participation

The study entailed assessing the level of public participation in county governance. The findings were sought through both the questionnaire, key informant interviews and focus group discussions. The questionnaire item was designed in a nested table of statements being ranked on a 5-point Likert scale (1-Strongly disagree to 5- strongly agree). The results were presented using Table 7.

Table 7 Level of Public Participation

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Frequency of meetings	146	1.00	5.00	2.4315	1.28067
Inclusiveness	146	1.00	5.00	2.6712	1.37017
Proportion of participants	146	1.00	5.00	2.5137	1.20480
Public views generated	146	1.00	5.00	2.4452	1.19211
Public priorities adopted	146	1.00	5.00	2.4110	1.21866

Table 7 shows that all the 146 respondents answered the item in the questionnaire with responses across the identified statements having the minimum of 1 and maximum of 5. With the mean of between 2.4 and 2.6, the findings show that the majority of the respondents rated the level of participation as disagree. The results also show that the standard deviations ranged between 1.1 and 1.3 indicating little variance in responses across the items that included Frequency of meetings (mean =2.4, stdev=1.28), Inclusiveness (mean =2.67, stdev=1.37), Proportion of participants (mean=2.51, stdev= 1.2), Public views generated (mean=2.44 stdev=1.19) and Public priorities adopted (mean =2.41, stdev = 1.21). The results indicate that there were less public participation in county governance. Through the qualitative, the findings were inconsistent as one of the key informant interviewees posited that public participation always took place. He said;

The county government of Garissa is determined to ensure effective public participation is undertaken for all programmes, Projects and Policies. The input of the general is critical in creating grassroot ownership of the projects and programmes initiated by the government. The county ensures proper mapping of stakeholders who will be affected by the policy or programme and ensures either representative or the whole stakeholders are engaged depending on funds availability and packaging. The public participation forums are

constituted in such a way that the various groups within the society are represented. The Elderly, Youth, women and PWD are given targeted invitation to ensure their presence in those forums. Public forums with diverse representation are considered more effective than those with homogenous participants [KII 02].

This was also contradicted by one of the FGDs where about 50% of the discussants agreed they participated in public participation on projects. They insisted that this also mostly happened at the implementation stage. A discussant posed “*they (leaders) normally engage us because the project are done in settlement we are and they do without our involvement although they come when they have almost finalized everything*”.

The findings indicates disparities in the level of public participation in county governance where different groups and results remained inconsistent. According to the discussants, the concern for the county leadership is likely to be concerned about public participation at the implementation stage only which contravenes the county government act of 2012 on public participation. This is reflected in the Act that mandates county governments to engage citizens in planning, policy-making, and civic education. It also establishes County Public Service Boards to manage appointments and public offices (County Government Act 2012; Ministry of Devolution and Planning & Council of Governors, 2016).

4.5 Influence of Legislative Policy Framework on Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County

The primary research objective of the study examined the influence of the legislative policy framework on public participation within Garissa County’s devolved units. This was explored through a mixed-methods approach, utilizing questionnaires, interviews, and focus group discussions to collect diverse data. The questionnaire featured a nested-table with five targeted statements, prompting respondents to indicate their level of agreement. These statements were

assessed on a 5-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), enabling precise measurement of attitudes toward the legislative framework's role in fostering participation. The use of interviews and focus groups complemented the quantitative data, capturing detailed stakeholder perspectives. This multi-faceted methodology ensured a comprehensive understanding of how legislative policies shape public engagement in devolved governance. By analyzing these inputs, the study highlights the extent to which legal structures facilitate or impede citizen involvement, offering critical insights into enhancing participatory governance in Garissa County's decentralized system. The data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics. The results were presented using Table 8.

Table 8 Influence of Legislative Policy Framework on Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County

	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Dev
I understand the CoK (2010) Constitution stipulation on public participation on governance	146	1.00	5.00	3.93	1.27
I understand that the County Government Act 2012 advocates for public participation in governance	145	1.00	5.00	3.55	1.13
I understand that there are governance public participation guidelines used in Garissa County	146	1.00	5.00	2.95	1.31
The County government considers the inclusion of special/need/ minorities in public participation	146	1.00	5.00	2.95	1.60
The County government has civic education guidelines on public participation	146	1.00	5.00	2.86	1.43

Table 8 shows that each of the six statements had the minimum scores of 1 and maximum of 5 which denoted variations in agreement among the respondents. The mean of the first two statements “I understand the CoK (2010) Constitution stipulation on public participation on governance” and “I understand that the County Government Act 2012 advocates for public participation in governance” were above 3, that is 3.93 and 3.55 respectively. This implied that majority of the respondents were neutral about the statements by not indicating either agree or disagreement.

The remaining three (3) statements had means at 2.95, 2.95 and 2.86 for “I understand that there are governance public participation guidelines used in Garissa County, The County government considers the inclusion of special/need/ minorities in public participation, and The County government has civic education guidelines on public participation” respectively. This implied that the majority of the respondents disagreed with the statements. With the standard deviations 1.1 and 1.6 across the statements, the results implied that the responses highly varied across the questionnaire research participants.

However, the bottom-line implied that despite the existence of the Legislative Policy Framework, little participation were practiced in Garissa County. The findings were triangulated with the qualitative findings and the following were views of one of the CECs who was asked to briefly explain the legislative and policy framework of public participation in County Government projects in Garissa County. He posited;

Kenya's 2010 Constitution establishes public participation as essential to public finance, with Article 201 requiring transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in financial decisions. The County Government Act 2012 (Section 115) makes citizen involvement mandatory in county planning. The Public Finance Management Regulations 2015 require county treasuries to create frameworks for public engagement, specifying diverse participation methods including forums, written input, digital platforms, and media communications.

County assemblies must establish laws ensuring citizen involvement in development planning and performance oversight, meeting national standards. Demonstrating this commitment, Garissa County has developed a Public Participation Bill now awaiting assembly approval [KII 01].

The findings indicate that the county government of Garissa had required mechanism as well as legal framework in place for public participation. However, the informant failed to indicate the implementation part of it.

Through the focus group discussions, one member of the public noted;

They only come and ask us to cooperate when a project is been started, a good example is this street light here, they came ask me baba is it possible to erect post here..... they call us to give input in budget and yet what we tell them don't go the budget line, look the other time I told them put for us security light around this bulla, but they didn't [FGD 05].

The findings indicate that lack of implementation of the legal framework that exist in paper was an impediment in achieving the intended purpose of public participation. This was seen through other FGDs where most participants were in agreement that there was little involvement in any project undertaken most of them are consulted when it is been started and not during identification (FGDs 01, 02, 04, 06, 07, 09).

For the purposes of find the relationship between the legislative policy framework and Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County, a correlation analysis was conducted.

The findings were presented using Table 9.

Table 9 Correlations between Legislative Policy Framework and Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County

		1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	Average Level of Public Participation	Pearson Correlation	1					
		Sig. (2-tailed)						
		N	146					
2	I understand the CoK (2010) Constitution stipulation on public participation on governance	Pearson Correlation	.191*	1				
		Sig. (2-tailed)	0.021					
		N	146	146				
3	I understand that the County Government Act 2012 advocates for public participation in governance	Pearson Correlation	.264**	.525**	1			
		Sig. (2-tailed)	0.001	0				
		N	145	145	145			
4	I understand that there are governance public participation guidelines used in Garissa County	Pearson Correlation	.382**	.391**	.485*	1		
		Sig. (2-tailed)	0	0	0			
		N	146	146	145	146		
5	The County government considers the inclusion of special/need/ minorities in public participation	Pearson Correlation	.445**	.371**	.439*	.648**	1	
		Sig. (2-tailed)	0	0	0	0		
		N	146	146	145	146	146	
6	The County government has civic education guidelines on public participation	Pearson Correlation	.311**	.333**	.328*	.482**	.619**	1
		Sig. (2-tailed)	0	0	0	0	0	
		N	146	146	145	146	146	146

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 9 shows a significant weak positive correlation between Average Level of Public Participation and the statement that “I understand the CoK (2010) Constitution stipulation on public participation on governance” ($r=0.191$, $sign=0.021$). The table shows the subsequent correlations between the Average Level of Public Participation and the rests of the statements as significant weak positive. The correlation with “I understand that the County Government Act 2012 advocates for public participation in governance, I understand that there are governance public participation guidelines used in Garissa County, The County government considers the inclusion of special/need/ minorities in public participation, and The County

government has civic education guidelines on public participation” were $r = .264, .382, .445$ and $.311$ respectively. All the correlations were significant at the 0.01 level.

The findings have implications to existing literature like the China study (Mao & Zhang, 2018) where it emerged policy conflicts especially for involving the locals including the farmers, and staff in other government cadres in Minqin County. The current findings did not reflect or point to any conflicting legal framework that would affect the implementation of the framework for public participation in governance in Garissa County. This also stems from what Rees and Hossain (2010) posit that it is an effective way of forming legislation for giving power to the locals to feel the political, financial and administrative powers of governance. Similarly, the association of legal framework and public participation in governance in Garissa County insinuate the theoretical pointers of the Public Choice Theory which views the general public as a customer looking to acquire the finest product on the market, which is the best public service.

4.6 Effect of Resource Allocation in Promoting Public Participation in the Devolved

Units in Garissa County

The second objective of the study entailed examining the effect of resource allocation in promoting public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County. The study used both questionnaires, KIIs and FGDs to examine the objective. The questionnaire on this was a nested table for rating the level of agreement about identified statements among the respondents. The item was; How often does the County government provide the following during public participation sessions? The rating was on a 5-point Likert scale of 1 – Never, 2 – Rarely, 3 – Occasionally, 4 – Sometimes and 5 – Frequently. The data was first analyzed using descriptive statistics and presented using Table 10.

Table 10 Effect of Resource Allocation in Promoting Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County

	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation
Facilitation for transport	146	1.00	5.00	2.6918	1.46483
Facilitation for refreshments	146	1.00	5.00	2.7740	1.57467
Provision of token for engagement	146	1.00	5.00	2.5548	1.33407
Facilitation of venue	146	1.00	5.00	3.3219	1.46657
Facilitation for meeting facilities e.g., public address System	146	1.00	5.00	3.3082	1.45538

Table 10 shows that the responses across the five statements received varied responses with all having minimum of 1 (Never) and maximum of 5 (Frequently). The rating of the first three statements were at means of 2, that is Facilitation for transport (mean =2.69), Facilitation for refreshments (mean=2.77) and Provision of token for engagement (mean= 2.55). This implied that majority of the respondents rated these statements rarely.

The last two statements were rated at a mean of 3, that is, Facilitation of venue (mean =3.32) and Facilitation for meeting facilities e.g., public address System (mean =3.30). This implied that the majority of the respondents rated these statements at sometimes.

The findings generally point to the little allocation of resources on promoting public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County.

The findings were triangulated with the interview results and an indication of inconsistency reported. One of the KIIs posited;

The County Government provides budgetary allocations for all programmes and projects that it intends to implement in the fiscal year. Cost of public participation is incorporated in the total cost of the project. The county implement programme-based planning and budgeting where all requirements of a project and programme is planned together as a whole. The cost of public participation considered by the county government is limited to Transport including fuel for vehicles, Public Address System, Refreshment for participants as well as banners for publicity. No token for engagement is provided by the county [KII 07].

The qualitative findings implicate the quantitative results and shows a gap that exist between planning and implementation. Despite existence of the budgetary at the office level, the locals were not informed and never experienced the allocation of resources towards public participation.

The current study findings are critical to the existing literature that points to the need for public participation in governance to obtain a level of effective delivery service. Kronsell and Landgren (2018) point out how municipalities involved themselves in Urban Living Labs (ULL) by creating rooms for public participation, through funding programs. Landgren (2018) posit on the sources of funds and resources towards public participation in governance within the municipalities significantly coming from the external donors. This denotes a gap in the current research which did not probe on the sources of resources towards public participation. Enserink and Koppenjan (2007) posited that environmental management policies and adaptation were interrelated to public participation.

Through correlation analysis, the results on relationship between the effect of resource allocation and promoting public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County were presented in Table 11.

Table 11 Correlations between Effect of Resource Allocation and Promoting Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County

		1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Average Level of Public Participation						
	Pearson Correlation	1					
	Sig. (2-tailed)						
	N	146					
2	Facilitation for transport						
	Pearson Correlation	.323**	1				
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000					
	N	146	146				
3	Facilitation for refreshments						
	Pearson Correlation	.407**	.669**	1			
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000				
	N	146	146	146			
4	Provision of token for engagement						
	Pearson Correlation	.297**	.557**	.707**	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000			
	N	146	146	146	146		
5	Facilitation of venue						
	Pearson Correlation	.337**	.412**	.656**	.532**	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000		
	N	146	146	146	146	146	
6	Facilitation for meeting facilities e.g., public address System						
	Pearson Correlation	.333**	.391**	.605**	.487**	.700**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	
	N	146	146	146	146	146	146

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 11 shows that correlations between the average scores in the level of public participation were positive weak but all significant at the 0.01 level. The correlations between level of public participation and Facilitation for transport, Facilitation for refreshments, Provision of token for engagement, Facilitation of venue and Facilitation for meeting facilities e.g., public address System were $r=.323$, $.407$, $.297$, $.337$, and $.333$ respectively. This implies that despite an indication of the less resource allocations for public participation on Garissa County, its effect in public participation was significant.

Triangulation of the results with the qualitative findings from the FGDs showed that members of the public didn't understand/ know if the county government allocates funds for public

participation. In fact, in most of the FGDs, none of participants could give feedback on any allocation funds. One said, they (leaders) call us when they want to pass their own interests’.

The study’s findings resonate with Public Value Theory, which defines public interest as the decisions knowledgeable citizens would make to advance societal well-being. The results underscore the advantages for Garissa County residents when they are educated about county governance and granted the autonomy to make choices benefiting the entire community. Informed citizens can influence policies that address local needs, fostering inclusive, responsive governance. Bozeman (2002) and Lippman (1955) emphasize that resources and initiatives for public participation must be deliberately planned to serve the public’s best interests. In Garissa, this involves providing education and participatory platforms to empower locals, ensuring their decisions reflect community priorities. This approach promotes transparency, accountability, and trust, laying the foundation for equitable development. By grounding participation in public value principles, Garissa County can cultivate a governance framework that not only empowers citizens but also aligns with the broader goal of societal progress, enhancing community-driven outcomes.

4.7 Effect of Communication Channels in promoting Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County

The third objective of the study was to analyze the effect of communication channels in promoting public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County. The study analyzed the effect by using both quantitative and qualitative data. The quantitative data from the questionnaires entailed an item on the Effect of Communication Channels in promoting Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County. The item was designed in a nested table with a list of Communication Channels for the respondents to rate the level of use in public

participation. The question was; To what level of appropriateness do you think the County Government uses the following to communicate in regard to public participation? The items were ranked on a 5-point Likert scale as 1 – Absolutely inappropriate, 2– Inappropriate, 3 – Neutral, 4– Appropriate and 5 – Absolutely appropriate. The collected data was analyzed descriptively and presented using Table 12.

Table 12 Effect of Communication Channels in promoting Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County

	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation
Public notice (banners, brochures, flyer, barazas)	146	1.00	5.00	2.9452	1.25825
Message Content (clarity and relevance)	146	1.00	5.00	2.8493	1.23926
Media (TV, radio, social media, newspaper etc.)	146	1.00	5.00	2.9863	1.34926
Language used	146	1.00	5.00	3.1712	1.22817
Feedback (indication of variations/adoptions relayed back to community)	146	1.00	5.00	2.5890	1.31134

Table 12 shows that across all the communication channels, the minimum score was 1 (absolutely inappropriate) and a maximum of 5 (absolutely appropriate). Except for one communication channel “Language used”, other channels, that is, public notice (banners, brochures, flyer, barazas), Message Content (clarity and relevance), Media (TV, radio, social media, newspaper etc.) and Feedback (indication of variations/adoptions relayed back to

community) were rated as inappropriate by majority of the respondents. Language used was considered neutral among the majority of the respondents (Mean =3.17). The table also shows that the standard deviations across the distribution ranged between 1.2 and 1.3 which implied variations in responses on how appropriate the listed communication channels were used in public participation in governance in Garissa County.

The findings imply that the communication channels for public participation were issues to be addressed as this make up the mechanism for effective public participation. This is in the works of Mcloughlin and Scott (2010) who opine that effective communication plays a crucial role in achieving good governance outcomes. In today's context, both elites and ordinary citizens access public information through various channels, including interpersonal discussions, social networks, and media. When communication is well-executed, it contributes significantly to connecting states with society, facilitating inclusive political systems, amplifying the voices of marginalized groups, and enabling citizen participation and social accountability (ibid). Governments recognize the importance of strategic communication as a two-way dialogue that fosters transparency, integrity, and accountability. By leveraging innovations like digital channels and big data analytics, governments can address the dual crisis of trust in both governance and information.

In triangulation of the quantitative results with the qualitative ones, a key informant interviewee pointed out that the county government provides a 14-day notice in a print media, the county website, local radio stations as well as the social media platform of the county government. He posited;

The document (for public participation) under public consideration is shared with the participant in the language it is written in (mainly English) and translated by a technical officer in Somali language for everyone to understand. The public feedback is captured in a form of reports and improvements and adjustments is made in line with the input of the general public [KII 01]

This implies that the consideration of the communication channels existed in the county governance but lacked the evaluation of the effectiveness. The findings show that the key pointer of language used was considered and the technical officers used Somali language. This was in tandem with the quantitative results which singled out the specification on language used being rated by majority at neutral. Through the FGDs, it was found that few (25%) participants said the communication of county government on public participation relatively fair and rest said there was no proper communication channel. One discussant said, “we only see them once in a while for specific project implementation kama njia lami (like tarmac road)”.

In another FGD, the discussants were asked to describe how the public is informed of public participation events by the county Government of Garissa. They elaborated that they knew about communications through mosques and religious leaders, barazas, the assembly, local FM radio and even daily nation newspapers (FGD 10).

Different FGDs reflected different communication mechanisms experienced towards public participation. One FGD had some of the respondents confirm receipt of oral communication through the chief and FM radio (particularly health campaigns such the polio and El-nino floods awareness (FGD 11). Some discussants acknowledged receiving communication public participation activities/events from Chiefs, Elders NGAO, Radio and informal social gatherings (fadikudirir) (FGD 15). Another group posited that they could not recall receiving public participation communication in any form but were aware of polio campaign messages (FGD 12). Another FGD showed that the discussants underscored the important role chiefs play in communication with the people on the ground. The MCA is also seen as an important link but their presence/communication is very rare. The use of FM/vernacular was seen as a

popular medium. Surprisingly, social media in the form of WHATSAPP is emerging as a powerful communication tool at those lower levels (FGD 14).

The findings reflect the existing literature where Mukhtarov, Dieperink and Driessen (2018) found that public participation is a core aspect in any type of governance. Sebola (2017) evaluated found that communication tools were key in legislative processes in South African policymaking. This also shows the stem of theoretical framework where Public Value Theory (Bozeman, 2002) is used in the current study to explain the advantages that citizens will gain from being educated about government and given the freedom to make the best decisions for the good of the entire community.

In order to find the relationship between communication channels and the practice of public participation in governance in Garissa County, the collected data analyzed using correlation methods. The results were presented using Table 13.

Table 13 Correlations between Communication Channels and promoting Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County

		1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	Average Level of Public Participation	Pearson Correlation	1					
		Sig. (2-tailed)						
		N	146					
2	Public notice (banners, brochures, flyer, barazas)	Pearson Correlation	.273**	1				
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.001					
		N	146	146				
3	Message Content (clarity and relevance)	Pearson Correlation	.479**	.477**	1			
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000				
		N	146	146	146			
4	Media (TV, radio, social media, newspaper etc.)	Pearson Correlation	.445**	.329**	.457**	1		
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000			
		N	146	146	146	146		
5	Language used	Pearson Correlation	.380**	.327**	.529**	.563**	1	
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000		
		N	146	146	146	146	146	
6	Feedback (indication of variations/adoptions relayed back to community)	Pearson Correlation	.472**	.245**	.518**	.414**	.369**	1
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.003	.000	.000	.000	
		N	146	146	146	146	146	146

***. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).*

Table 13 shows that there was significant and positive correlation between Average Level of Public Participation and Public notice (banners, brochures, flyer, barazas) ($r = .273$), Message

Content (clarity and relevance) ($r=.479$), Media (TV, radio, social media, newspaper etc.) ($r=.445$), Language used ($r=.380$) and Feedback (indication of variations/adoption relayed back to community) ($r=.472$). This implies that all these elements in communication channels about public participation in governance in the County Government of Garissa were very critical. The strength of association differed between the elements but remained significant.

The findings were triangulated with the qualitative findings; and the concerns about communicating the public participation were seen considered to some extent. One key informant noted;

The county government provides a 14-day notice in a print media, the county website, local radio stations as well as the social media platform of the county government. The document under public consideration is shared with the participant in the language it is written in (mainly English) and translated by a technical officer in Somali language for everyone to understand. The public feedback is captured in a form of reports and improvements and adjustments is made in line with the input of the general public [KII 02].

From the findings, it is evident that there was reflection of the positioning of past studies that emphasized the need for communication in public participation. Mukhtarov, Dieperink and Driessen (2018) found that public participation is a core aspect in any type of governance. Sebola (2017) reported that the use of public participation made a platform where people's voices are accelerated to another level by the purpose of involving them. The study also posits that people; decisions play a great role in government projects and development.

4.8 Influence of County Management Structure on Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County

The fourth objective of the study was to investigate the influence of County management structure on public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County. The study used both

questionnaires, key informant interviews and focus group discussions to collect data on this objective. The questionnaire contained an item through a nested table with a list of statements for the respondents to rate. The respondents were asked “to what level of influence do you think the following items determine effectiveness of public participation?” The responses were ranked on a 5-point Likert scale with 1 – not at all influential, 2 – slightly influential, 3– somewhat influential, 4 – very influential and 5 – extremely influential. The collected data was analyzed using descriptive statistics including minimum, maximum, mean and standard deviation, and the results presented using Table 14.

Table 14 Influence of County Management Structure on Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Office hierarchy	146	1.00	5.00	2.5411	1.18686
Existence of the Public Participation office	146	1.00	5.00	2.5479	1.39498
Functions of the Public Participation office	146	1.00	5.00	2.5616	1.35937
Civic education	146	1.00	5.00	2.7740	1.40330
Office Reporting channels	146	1.00	5.00	2.5822	1.43722

Table 14 shows that of all the 5 county management structure elements, each had a minimum score of 1 and maximum of 5. This denoted the differences in the responses among the research participants.

The table also shows the means lying between 2.5 and 2.7 which means that majority of the responses were around slightly influential rating. With the various levels of standard deviations across each element, the results imply that there were variations in the responses among the

participants, that is, while other indicated not at all influential, others pointed at the opposite of extremely influential.

The findings reflect the doubts and inconsistencies that may exist in the county governance structures. As per the legal requirements, there is an established management structure in the county where the governor is the chief executive of the county government. They serve five-year terms and are term-limited to two terms. The governor appoints a deputy governor, who often campaigned as their running mate during elections. In the same line is the County Executive Committee (County Ministers). The governor leads a county executive committee, also known as the “cabinet.” This committee consists of professionals who head various technical departments within the county government. By the management structure lacking the importance in influence towards public participation in projects, the research reveals gaps in practice.

In triangulation of the quantitative findings with the qualitative ones, the Key informant interviewees pointed out the recognition of public participation in governance through the laid procedures and management structures. One of the KIIs posited,

The county government of Garissa has recognized directorate for public participations with fully staff from director, deputy director, senior officers, driver and subordinate staff. The directorate has spacious office at the county headquarter with its mandate guided by existing legislative. The directorate spearheads all public participation activities across the other departments [KII 05].

In comparison to existing literature, the current study pointed out the weaknesses in the county management structures that would be leading in the implementation of public participation in governance. Xie et al., (2017) reported how the level of public participation in the implementation of public construction projects were attributed of good governance at the local level. Casady, Eriksson, Levitt and Scott (2020) pointed out how a designed model was found to work with potential for future prospects in ensuring effective public participation from the

management perspective. This revealed how management of community development projects using public-private partnerships was key for the public interest. In contrast to this, and consistent with the findings of the current study, Whitton, Brasier, Parry and Cotton (2017) found that public opinion was hardly involved in the governance of shale gas and oil resources. This was attributed to management structures of the government body(ies) mandated in the management of shale gas and oil resources.

Through correlations analysis, the study delved into the strength of association between County Management Structure and Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County. The results were presented using Table 15.

Table 15 Correlations between County Management Structure and Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Garissa County

			1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Average Level of Public Participation	Pearson Correlation	1					
		Sig. (2-tailed)						
		N	146					
2	Office hierarchy	Pearson Correlation	.273**	1				
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.001					
		N	146	146				
3	Existence of the Public Participation office	Pearson Correlation	.416**	.515**	1			
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000				
		N	146	146	146			
4	Functions of the Public Participation office	Pearson Correlation	.490**	.434**	.702**	1		
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000			
		N	146	146	146	146		
5	Civic education	Pearson Correlation	.500**	.393**	.599**	.664**	1	
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000		
		N	146	146	146	146	146	
6	Office Reporting channels	Pearson Correlation	.494**	.489**	.693**	.636**	.647**	1
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	
		N	146	146	146	146	146	146

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 15 shows that correlations between average levels of public participation against all the county management structures were positive. While others were weak, more moderate associations. Except for the association between level of public participation and office hierarchy ($r=.273$), the rest had moderate correlations. Association with Existence of the Public Participation office was $r=.416$, association with Functions of the Public Participation office was $r=.490$, association with Civic education was $r=.5$ while association with Office Reporting channels was at $r=.494$. Apparently, all the correlations were significant which implied that changes in any of the county management structure elements would significantly influence public participation in county governance in County government of Garissa.

The qualitative findings reflected inconsistencies in the layout of the county management structure and public participation. In fact, in many FGDs, none of the participants knew the existence of any management structure of county government to ensure public participation. The findings reflect the cases of South Africa where Xavier, Komendantova, Jarbandhan and Nel (2017) found that public participation in projects was based on the leadership role of the directly involved parties. The study showed that involving the locals in decision-making significantly improved the effectiveness in the resource's conservation efforts.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary of the study findings and the conclusions made from the findings. The chapter was guided by research questions. From the conclusion, the chapter presented the recommendations for both policy, practice and further studies. The research questions included; i. What is the extent to which the existing legislative policy framework influences public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County? ii. What is the effect of resource allocation in the promotion of public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County? iii. What is the effect of communication channels in promoting public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County? iv. What is the influence of the County management structure on public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County?

5.2 Summary of Findings

i. What is the extent to which the existing legislative policy framework influences public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County?

The study found that the majority of the respondents were neutral about the statements by not indicating either agree or disagree. Similarly, the majority of the respondents disagreed with the statements about legislative policies addressing public participation. Despite the existence of the Legislative Policy Framework, little elements of the participation were practiced in Garissa County. Despite the county government of Garissa having the required mechanism as well as legal framework in place for public participation, the implementation was not effective.

The findings indicate that the legal framework for public participation only existed on paper but hardly implemented. Thus, the existing legislative policy framework to a very low extent influences public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County. This was seen through a significant weak positive correlation between Average Level of Public Participation and the statement that “I understand the CoK (2010) Constitution stipulation on public participation on governance” ($r=0.191$, $sign=0.021$).

ii. What is the effect of resource allocation in the promotion of public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County?

The study found that the majority of the respondents rated the resource allocation statements at sometimes. The findings generally point to the little allocation of resources on promoting public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County. The qualitative findings implicate the quantitative results and shows a gap that exist between planning and implementation. Despite the existence of the budgetary at the office level, the locals were not informed and never experienced the allocation of resources towards public participation.

The current study findings are critical to the existing literature that points to the need for public participation in governance to obtain a level of effective service delivery. Kronsell and Landgren (2018) point out how municipalities involved themselves in Urban Living Labs.

iii. What is the effect of communication channels in promoting public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County?

The study found variations in responses on how appropriate the listed communication channels were used in public participation in governance in Garissa County. The findings imply that the communication channels for public participation were issues to be addressed as this make up the mechanism for effective public participation. There was consideration of the

communication channels that existed in the county governance but lacked the evaluation of the effectiveness. The findings show that the key pointer of language used was considered and the technical officers used Somali language. Different communication mechanisms were employed towards mobilization for public participation. Some discussants acknowledged receiving communication on public participation activities/events from Chiefs, Elders NGAO, Radio and informal social gatherings (fadikudirir). An emerging medium/channel that is gaining widespread influence is social media both in Facebook and WhatsApp groups.

iv. What is the influence of the County management structure on public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County?

The study established differences in the responses among the research participants about the level of influence of county management structure on public participation. With the various levels of standard deviations across each element, the results imply that there were variations in the responses among the participants, that is, while other indicated not at all influential, others pointed at the opposite of extremely influential.

By the management structure lacking the importance in influence towards public participation in projects, the research reveals gaps in practice. The correlations between the average level of public participation against all the county management structures were positive and significant. This implied that changes in any of the county management structure elements would significantly influence public participation in county governance in County government of Garissa. In many FGDs, none of the participants knew the existence of any management structure of county government to ensure public participation.

5.3 Conclusions

The study found different contexts of legislation, resource allocation, communication channels and county management structures influencing public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County. The existing legislative policy framework was found to have little influence on public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County. This was evident from the neutral agreement among the research participants. The study found that resource allocation in was key in the promotion of public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County. However, there was little evidence of the resource allocation for public participation, especially from the locals' point of view. The current study found that different communication channels were in place for promoting public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County. However, the communication channels had difference levels in appropriateness of use in promoting public participation in county governance. The influence of the County management structure on public participation in the devolved units in Garissa County was found to have slight influence. The study concludes that governance structure influenced public participation in the devolved units in Kenya using the case of Garissa County. This was through legislation, resource allocation, communication channels and county management structures. However, this was at different levels of influence.

5.4 Recommendations

Based on the study findings, the following recommendations are made.

5.4.1 Recommendations for Policy

The study recommends that;

- i. The senate should review the implementation of the legislative policy framework on public participation in county governance to ensure proper compliance with the letter and spirit of the constitution and other enabling statutes.
- ii. The county assembly needs to domesticate civic education policy and legislation principles on public participation in synch with the constitution and other statutes such as the CGA and PFMA. This stems from the FGDs findings that there was no county specific legislation, policy and civic education on public participation.
- iii. The ministry of finance (CECM- Finance) considers the allocation of sufficient budgetary resources for the purposes of promoting public participation in the governance of the County Government of Garissa.
- iv. The office of the Governor and County Assembly in the County Government of Garissa reviews effectiveness of the used communication channels in promoting public participation in governance. This can be done by ensuring timely notice, using appropriate media/channel and language, clarity of purpose, inclusive participation, conducive environment and promote convenient access to venue.
- v. The County Government of Garissa should prioritize the creation and establishment of an appropriate governance structure for public participation which spans from the highest level to the lowest level.

5.4.2 Recommendations for Practice

The study recommends that the county government of Garissa considers raising awareness/civic education about the right of the locals to be part of the county governance. This is informed by the FGDs findings that many discussants knew little about the elements of policy/legislation, budgetary/resource allocation, communication and governance structure in public participation.

5.4.3 Recommendations for further Studies

Future research may dwell on the influence of socio-economic and civic education status on public participation in county governance in County Government of Garissa.



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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Introduction letter

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: PERMISSION TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH

I am pursuing a Master of Arts in Governance at Mount Kenya University and am undertaking a research project titled “Influence of Governance Structure on Public Participation in the Governance of Devolved Units in Kenya: A Case Study of Garissa County” as part of my academic assessment. This study seeks to examine how governance structures in Garissa County facilitate or impede public participation in devolved units, offering insights into enhancing citizen engagement in local decision-making. Your participation is crucial to achieving the study’s objectives, and I sincerely request your involvement. All data collected will be used solely for academic purposes, with your anonymity guaranteed—your name will not be included in the final report. The findings aim to inform strategies for strengthening participatory governance and can be shared with you upon request. By participating, you will contribute to a deeper understanding of devolution dynamics in Garissa County, supporting both academic research and practical efforts to improve local governance. Your input will help shape recommendations for fostering inclusive, transparent, and effective governance in Kenya’s devolved system, benefiting communities and policymakers alike. Thank you for considering this opportunity.

Your assistance and cooperation was highly appreciated.

Thank you in advance.

Yours faithfully,

Abdisalam Sheikh Mohamed



Appendix II: Consent Form for Participants

INFLUENCE OF GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNANCE OF DEVOLVED UNITS IN KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF GARISSA COUNTY

Dear Participant,

I invite you to participate in a research study entitled INFLUENCE OF GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNANCE OF DEVOLVED UNITS IN KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF GARISSA COUNTY. I am currently enrolled in

the Master of Arts in Governance at Mount Kenya University and am in the process of writing my master's project report. The purpose of the research is to analyze the influence of governance structure on public participation in the governance of devolved units in Kenya: a case study of Garissa County.

The enclosed questionnaire has been designed to collect information on: Legislative policy framework, Resources for public participation, Communication regarding Public participation, Management structure regarding public participation and public participation in Governance in Garissa County.

Your participation in this research project is entirely voluntary, allowing you the freedom to opt out or leave any questions unanswered without any repercussions. The study poses no risks beyond those encountered in routine daily activities. To protect your privacy, all responses will remain confidential and anonymous, with data securely stored under lock and key. Results will be presented only as aggregated totals, ensuring no individual answers are identifiable. Only the research team will access your responses, maintaining strict confidentiality. While participating offers no direct personal benefits, your input will significantly contribute to understanding governance structures and public participation in Garissa County, potentially shaping policies for community benefit. Your involvement is crucial to this academic study's success, and you may withdraw at any time without issue. Thank you for considering this opportunity to support research aimed at enhancing devolved governance in Kenya.

Your participation in this research offers a meaningful opportunity to engage with critical issues surrounding governance and public participation in Garissa County's devolved units. Discussing these topics may be intellectually stimulating and could yield insights that enhance the field of governance studies. Your contributions may also benefit future communities,

policymakers, and individuals grappling with similar challenges in decentralized governance systems, fostering more inclusive and effective public engagement.

If you agree to participate, please complete the questionnaire as thoroughly as possible, a task expected to take approximately one week. To support the timely completion of the research report, kindly return the questionnaire promptly. For any questions about the study, you may contact the investigator, Abdisalam Sheikh Mohamed, at 0722283260.

Should you have concerns regarding your rights as a participant, please reach out to the Chairman of Mount Kenya University's Ethical Review Committee at P.O. Box 342-01000, Thika. Your involvement is invaluable to this academic endeavor, which aims to deepen understanding of how governance structures influence public participation in Kenya's devolved system. Thank you for supporting this significant research effort.

CONSENT:

I have carefully read and understood the information provided, had the opportunity to ask questions, and acknowledge that my participation is entirely voluntary. I may withdraw at any time without providing a reason or incurring any cost. I understand that I will receive a copy of this consent form and voluntarily consent to participate in this study.

Participant's signature _____ Date _____

Investigator's signature _____ Date _____

Appendix III: Table for determining Sample size from a given Population

TABLE FOR DETERMINING SAMPLE SIZE FROM A GIVEN POPULATION

N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S
10	10	100	80	280	162	800	260	2800	338
15	14	110	86	290	165	850	265	3000	341
20	19	120	92	300	169	900	269	3500	246
25	24	130	97	320	175	950	274	4000	351
30	28	140	103	340	181	1000	278	4500	351
35	32	150	108	360	186	1100	285	5000	357
40	36	160	113	380	181	1200	291	6000	361
45	40	180	118	400	196	1300	297	7000	364
50	44	190	123	420	201	1400	302	8000	367
55	48	200	127	440	205	1500	306	9000	368
60	52	210	132	460	210	1600	310	10000	373
65	56	220	136	480	214	1700	313	15000	375
70	59	230	140	500	217	1800	317	20000	377
75	63	240	144	550	225	1900	320	30000	379
80	66	250	148	600	234	2000	322	40000	380
85	70	260	152	650	242	2200	327	50000	381
90	73	270	155	700	248	2400	331	75000	382
95	76	270	159	750	256	2600	335	100000	384

Note: "N" is population size
"S" is sample size.]

Krejcie, Robert V., Morgan, Daryle W., "Determining Sample Size for Research Activities", Educational and Psychological Measurement, 1970.



Appendix IV: Questionnaire for the County leaders

Section A: Demographic information (Tick appropriately in the row below the characteristic)

1. Position

Chiefs Ward Admins MCAs

Chief Officers

CECs

Subcounty admins

Office of the Clerk of the County Assembly

2. Gender

1- Male	2-	3- Female

3. Age

1-Below 22 years	2-22-30 years	3- 31-39	4- Above 39 years

4. Highest educational level

1-No formal education	2-Primary school	3- Secondary school	4- post-secondary

5. Experience in the current position

1-Less than a year	2-1to 2 years	3-3 to 4 years	4-5 to 6 years	5-7-8 years	6- Above 8 years

Section B: Legislative policy framework

6. Rate the level of your agreement on the understanding and upholding of the following areas by the Garissa County Government

Item	1-strongly disagree	2- disagree	3- neutral	4- agree	5-strongly agree
I understand the CoK (2010) stipulation on public participation on governance					
I understand that the County Government Act 2012 advocates for public participation in governance					
I understand that there are governance public participation guidelines used in Garissa County					
The County government considers the inclusion of special/need/ minorities in public participation					
The County government has civic education guidelines on public participation					

Section C: Resources for public participation

7. How often does the County government provide the following during public participation sessions?

Item	1 – Never	2 – Rarely	3 – Occasionally	4 – Sometimes	5 – Frequently

Facilitation for transport					
Facilitation for refreshments					
Provision of token for engagement					
Facilitation of venue					
Facilitation for meeting facilities e.g., PA system					

Section D: Communication regarding Public participation

8. To what level of appropriateness do you think the County Government uses the following to communicate in regard to public participation?

Item	1 – Absolutely inappropriate	2 – Inappropriate	3 – Neutral	4 – Appropriate	5 – Absolutely appropriate
Public notice (banners, brochures, flyer, barazas)					
Message Content (clarity and relevance)					
Media (TV, radio, social media, newspaper etc.)					
Language used					
Feedback(indication of variations/adoptions relayed back to community)					

Section E: Management structure regarding public participation

1. To what level of influence do you think the following items determine effectiveness of public participation?

Item	1 – not at all influential	2 – slightly influential	3– somewhat influential	4 – very influential	5 – extremely influential
Office hierarchy					
Existence of the PP office					
Functions of the PP office					
Civic education					
Office Reporting channels					

Section F: Public participation in Governance

1. How frequent are the following considered by the County government as measures of effective public participation?

Item	1 – Never	2 – Rarely	3 – Sometimes	4 – Often	5 – Always
Frequency of meetings					
Inclusiveness					
Proportion of participants					
Public views generated					
Public priorities adopted					

END

Thank you.

Appendix V: Interview Guide for the CECs

1. Briefly, explain the legislative and policy framework of public participation in County Government projects in Garissa County based on the themes including the COG (2010), the County Government Act 2012, County public participation guidelines, inclusion, and civic education guidelines.
2. State whether the county government has budgetary allocations for public participation in development projects based on facilitation for transport, refreshments, venue, public address and token for engagement.
3. How would you describe the communication undertaking of the public participation by the county Government specifically based on notices, medium, media, language used, and feedback?
4. What would you say about the management structure that exists in the county government to ensure public participation in governance? Base your views on rank of offices, responsible office for public participation, TOR of the office, whether civic education is part of the TORs, and the office reporting channels.
5. Explain how the frequency of each of the following considered by the County government determine the effectiveness of the public participation; meetings, inclusiveness (gender, youth, PWDs, marginalized), proportion of participants (turnout), public views (budget, legislation, projects), public priorities (extent to which public participation generated view are adapted and or incorporated in governance).

Appendix VI: FGD Guide for the Members of the Public

1. Discuss the legislative and policy framework of public participation in County Government projects in Garissa County
2. Discuss whether the county government have budgetary allocations for public participation in development projects
3. Describe how the communication undertaking of the public participation by the county Government
4. Discuss the management structure that exist in the county government to ensure public participation in governance
5. Explain effectiveness of the County government in ensuring public participation in its projects

Appendix VII: Sample Field Photos (FGDs with members of the Public)




Disclaimer: Consent for use of the photos obtained from the participants



Disclaimer: Consent for use of the photos obtained from the participants

Mount Kenya

Appendix VIII: Ethical Review Committee Clearance



Mount Kenya University

REF: **MKU/ISERC/2831** Date: 05 June 2023
TO: **ABDISALAM SHEIKH MOHAMED**
REG: **MGE/2013/51128**

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: INFLUENCE OF GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVOLVED UNITS IN KENYA; STUDY OF GARISSA COUNTY

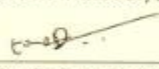
This is to inform you that **Mount Kenya University** has reviewed and approved your above research proposal. Your application approval number is **1875**. The approval period is **05/06/2023 - 04/06/2024**.

This approval is subject to compliance with the following requirements;

- i. Only approved documents including informed consents, study instruments, MTA will be used
- ii. All changes including amendments, deviations and violations are submitted for review and approval by **Mount Kenya University**
- iii. Death and life-threatening problems and serious adverse events or unexpected adverse events whether related or unrelated to the study must be reported to **Mount Kenya University** within 72 hours of notification
- iv. Any changes, anticipated or otherwise that may increase the risks or affect the safety or welfare of study participants and others or affect the integrity of the research must be reported to **Mount Kenya University** within 72 hours
- v. Clearance for export of biological specimens must be obtained from relevant institutions
- vi. Submission of a request for renewal of approval at least 60 days prior to expiry of the approval period. Attach a comprehensive progress report to support the renewal
- vii. Submission of an executive summary report within 90 days upon completion of the study to **Mount Kenya University**

Prior to commencing your study, you will be expected to obtain a research license from National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) <https://research-portal.nacosti.go.ke> and also obtain other clearances needed.

Yours sincerely,




The Chairman
Mount Kenya University
Ethics Review Committee
P. O. Box 342 - 0100, Thika

Dr. Peter G. Kirira
Chairman, Mount Kenya University ISERC

Main Campus, General Kago Road, P.O. Box 342-01000 Thika.
Tel: 020-2878 000, Cell: +254 709 153 000
Email: info@mku.ac.ke, Web: www.mku.ac.ke

Appendix IX: MKU Postgraduate Introduction Letter



Mount Kenya University

DIRECTORATE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MGE/2013/51128

5th June 2023

*National Commission for Science Technology & Innovation (NACOSTI)
Off Waiyaki Way, Upper Kabete,
P.O Box 30623- 00100
NAIROBI, KENYA*

Dear Sir/Madam,


RE: ABDISALAM SHEIKH MOHAMED- REGISTRATION NO. MGE/2013/51128

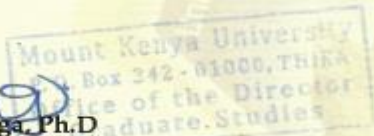
The purpose of this letter is to introduce the above named student who is pursuing **Master of Arts in Geography** in the department of **Psychology, Languages and Humanities** in the school of **Social Sciences**.

The title of the research is **“Influence of Governance Structure on Public Participation in the Devolved Units in Kenya: Study of Garissa County.”** It has been cleared by the University’s Ethics Review Committee (Certificate attached) and now has to proceed to the field to collect data between **June, 2023 and August, 2023**.

Any assistance accorded to the student will be highly appreciated.


Thank you.



Dr. Samuel M. Karenga, Ph.D
Director, Graduate Studies
Enc.



Main Campus, General Kago Road, P.O. Box 342-01000 Thika.
Tel: 020 2878 000 Cell: +254 709 153 000


Appendix X: NACOSTI Research License


REPUBLIC OF KENYA


NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Ref No: **456759** Date of Issue: **30/June/2023**


RESEARCH LICENSE




This is to Certify that **Mr. Abdulsalam Sheikh Mohamed of Mount Kenya University**, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the **Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014)** in Garissa on the topic: **INFLUENCE OF GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVOLVED UNITS IN KENYA: STUDY OF GARISSA COUNTY** for the period ending : **30/June/2024**.

License No: **NACOSTI/P/23/27057**

Applicant Identification Number: **456759**


Director General
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Verification QR Code



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Scan the QR Code using QR scanner application.

See overleaf for conditions

Appendix XI: County Authorization Letter



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION STATE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

Telegram: "SCHOOLING" Garissa
Telephone: 046-210-2458, Garissa.
Fax: 046-210-2002
Email: cdegarissacounty@gmail.com
When replying please quote



COUNTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
GARISSA
P. O. Box 8-70100
GARISSA

REF: NEP/ED/6.26/VOL.IV (146)

DATE: 4th March, 2024

ABDISALAM SHIEKH MOHAMED
MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY
GARISSA.

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION.

Refer to your letter *Ref. No. NACOSTI/P/23/27057/456759* dated 30th June, 2023 from Director General/CDE on application for authority to carry out research on ***"Influence of Governance Structure on Public Participation in The Devolved Units in Kenya. A Study of Garissa County Kenya"***. for the period ending 30th June, 2024.

We are pleased to inform you that you have been authorised and given consent for your research outcome.

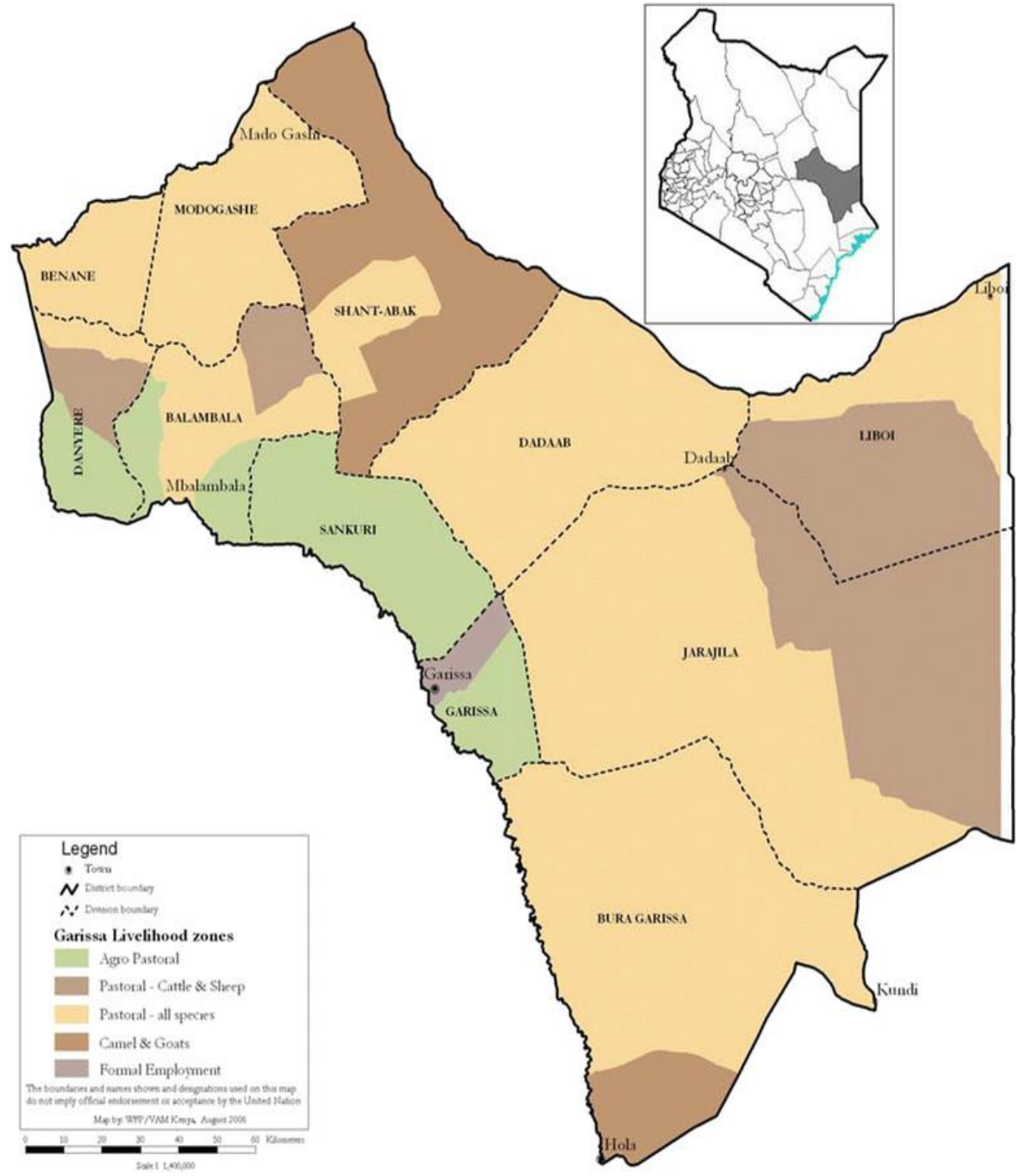
ABDIHAMID MAALIM
COUNTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
GARISSA.

Cc:

-Regional Director of Education -**North Eastern Region.**

Appendix XII: Map of the Study Location

Map of Garissa County



Appendix XIII: Turnitin Report

**INFLUENCE OF GOVERNANCE
STRUCTURE ON PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION IN THE
DEVOLVED UNITS IN KENYA:
STUDY OF GARISSA COUNTY**

by Abdisalam Sheikh Mohamed

Submission date: 28-Apr-2025 06:25PM (UTC+0300)

Submission ID: 2649444224

File name: Sheikh_PROJECT_REPORT_APRIL_2025-Revised.docx (3.45M)

Word count: 21940

Character count: 127195

Mount Kenya

INFLUENCE OF GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVOLVED UNITS IN KENYA: STUDY OF GARISSA COUNTY

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