

**INFLUENCE OF TRAINING AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION ON
DEVOLVED FUND UTILIZATION: A CASE STUDY OF CONSTITUENCY
DEVELOPMENT FUND IN TAITA TAVETA COUNTY, KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

Devolved funds are development schemes designed to transfer money directly to the county governments, constituency or sub-county to finance local development reports such as schools, markets, hospitals, roads etc. Over the last two decades Kenyans have suffered serious reverses in economic and social well being. There are over twelve funds operated on a devolved basis in Kenya. These have very robust aims of enhancing development in the regions away from the central government as a means of complementing the government efforts in providing goods and services. However, despite huge amounts of funds being allocated for these funds every financial year, a lot of the funds are still not utilized by the end of the year. The study was guided by the following objectives: to determine the influence of the Public Procurement Oversight Authority regulations on the utilization of devolved funds in Taita Taveta County; to establish the influence of community participation on the utilization of devolved funds; to find out the influence of training on the utilization of devolved funds; and to investigate the influence of training on the utilization of devolved funds. A descriptive survey design was used to accomplish the research objectives. The target population for this study included the managers of devolved funds in Taita Taveta County and the three top officials (manager, treasurer, and secretary) of the constituency development fund committees in the county. The respondents were given questionnaires which were both closed to enhance uniformity and open ended to ensure maximum data is obtained. The results show that PPOA regulations, community participation, training, and monitoring and evaluation have a significant influence on utilization of CDF in as a devolved fund in Taita Taveta County. The model generated from the study is: $UT = 2.635 + .452X_1 + .287X_2 + .244X_3 + .359X_4$. The Kenyan government through the administrators of the various funds will obtain crucial information about the factors that influence the utilization of devolved funds in Taita Taveta County, as well as in other counties within the country. The results of the study are significant to administrators in the county governments; other researchers working in the area of devolved funds who are able to get valuable information regarding the perceptions of fund administrators on the best way to enhance utilization of devolved funds; and members of the society who are able to obtain valuable information on available devolved funds.