

**ASSESSMENT OF SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC
POLICY FORMULATION IN THE NATIONAL GENDER AND EQUALITY
COMMISSION, KENYA**

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DECLARATION AND APPROVAL

DECLARATION BY THE STUDENT

This research proposal is my original work and never been presented for an award in any other university or any other award.

Signature.......... Date.....31/10/24.....

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APPROVAL BY THE SUPERVISOR

I confirm that the work reported in this research project was carried out by the candidate under my supervision.

Signature.......... Date.....31/10/2024.....

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DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to my parents and sisters. Their encouragement and support have been of great source of inspiration which has blessed my life.



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I give thanks to the Almighty God for providing the grace and strength I needed to finish this task. Heartfelt gratitude goes to the lecturers of Mount Kenya University for their support during my course study. Special recognition goes to my supervisor, Dr. Abuga, for all of his support, enthusiasm, and commitment to helping me finish my project on time and with excellence. I would also like to acknowledge staff and management of National Gender and Equality Commission and to everyone I have interacted in the course of this project.



ABSTRACT

This report evaluates the role of Special Interest Groups in public policy formulation, focusing on the National Gender and Equality Commission. Special interest organizations play a crucial role in shaping public policy by raising awareness and championing their ideologies. They help vulnerable and minority members of society voice their concerns, share their ideas with policymaking institutions, and act as a link between citizens and government institutions by providing information on government actions. However, there is little representation of SIGs in governing bodies as well as decision making organs. The government is currently facing a serious governance crisis due to the SIGs inadequate inclusion in public affairs. The research thus investigated the involvement and inclusion of SIGs in public policy formulation within the National Gender and Equality Commission. The objectives were to ascertain how information sharing affects public policy formulation, to assess how fostering public support impacts development of public policy, to evaluate the influence of advocacy on the creation of public policy and to determine how identifying problems and generating solutions aids in creating public policies through the National Gender and Equality Commission. The system analysis approach, institutional approach and group theory served as the study's foundation for elucidating the variables' relationships. The study used 64 persons within the National Gender and Equality Commission drawn from the department of women and gender, youth and children, persons with disabilities and minority and marginalized groups as the target group. The research adopted a descriptive research design. For the unit of analysis, the study used the census technique. The primary means of gathering data were questionnaires, which underwent validity and reliability pretesting as part of a pilot project. The respondents were given the questionnaire by the researcher using the drop and pick approach. To facilitate analysis using SPSS, the gathered data was transformed into a quantitative format. Descriptive data, such as mean and standard deviation, and inferential statistics, such as correlation analysis and ordinal regression, were produced by the study. A 0.05 factor represents a unit progress in the part that special interest organizations play in the creation of public policy. The results showed that higher levels of information sharing, advocacy and building public support are associated with greater likelihood of more positive agreement with policy solutions. The study recommends that the National Gender and Equality Commission fosters more lobbying avenues, mainstream and social media outreaches, public participation and brainstorming with government institutions so as to ensure the involvement of special interest groups in decision making. Such efforts will further the positive steps already existent and promote the right of inclusivity of SIG's as enshrined in the Kenyan constitution.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACDC:	African Centre for Disease Control
AU:	African Union
AUC:	African Union Commission
ELOG:	Elections Observation Group
ICT:	Information and communications technology
ILO:	International Labour Organization
IMF:	International Monetary Fund
INTERPOL:	International Criminal Police Organization
NGEC:	National Gender and Equality Commission
OAU:	Organization of African Unity
SIGs:	Special Interest Groups
TJRC:	Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission
UN:	United Nations
WHO:	World Health Organization

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

This chapter comprises of the background of the study, Statement of the problem, Purpose of the study, Objectives of the study, Research questions, Significance of the study and Definition of key terms used.

1.1 Background Study

The rise of special interest groups is articulated by many as the citizen's watchdog. Scholars argue that special interest groups develop gradually over time as they compete for shares of the governments' economic shares. Petracca (2018) adds that special interest group's lengthy favor government's citizens by ensuring government stability as a proxy for these groups. These groups are vital in influencing administration and law within national government level. They encompass a larger group of individuals with shared interest in political sectors, economic and cultural interests as well as education. Globally, special interest groups are known to influence decision making in their attempts to lobby for public policy formations. As a result, (Haskell, 2018) agrees that periodically democracy has evolved for the benefit of both the citizens and governments through the activities of special interest groups.

Without identifying a policy or research context, evaluating the impact of special interest organizations is next to impossible. Radically, special interest groups between the periods (1960-1980) have created fragmentation lines and opportunities for the government systems to respond to their interests while effectively representing electoral and public interests (Skilling & Griffiths, 2019). Driven by corollary development, the combined effort by special interest groups and government systems has become functional while diminishing negative integrations by the national

governments. In Kenya, special interest groups have over the years lobbied the national government for the creation and implementation of policies that would favor and uplift the communities and societies around them. Although met with backlashes, the special interest group members have fought through the negativities and ensured that they work for the community no matter the consequences.

The Kenyan government through its constitution describe special interest groups as “Women, persons with disabilities, youths, marginalized communities and ethnic and other minorities”, (Article 100 of the Kenyan Constitution). The special interest groups are representative of a subset of members either in an organization, community or society. Together they organize meetings and forums where their main focus is mutual interest and shared characteristics of its members. Ngigi & Busolo (2019) discuss that in Kenya, these special interest groups assume the role of lobbying and supporting special need areas. They embrace a common interest of encouraging individual groups to come together in a flexible way across intellectual topics or professional concerns.

Lawmakers rely on special interest groups to provide them with details and information on policy proposals as well as the constituents’ perception on the policies, Schneider, (2003). These cues give them an indication on what to lobby on and gain positivity among the constituents’, present and future voters. When a policy needs to be implemented, government officers will call out to the public to articulate their expertise on the said policy. The targeted members familiarize with the policy and give out their opinions and reason out whether or not to agree to the policy. These stages take time and resources and therefore it is paramount that the public is made away of these governmental policies before the government affects them.

Weede (1995) expands on this idea, noting that interest groups actively work to influence government procedures in order to gain from the government and further their interests. The primary purpose of a special interest group is to influence government policies to benefit the group's cause. Special interest groups further their interests by lobbying, building public support and sharing information. Special interest groups can also identify problems that require policy solutions and also provide solutions towards policy making. Once, a policy has passed the required stages and implemented into law, these special interest groups will be required to lobby relevant government arms for approval.

Special interest groups champion certain interests and causes which may be economic, social or ideological. Interest groups try to influence government policy towards their interests. They're crucial because they help get people out to vote and donate as a group. According to Richardson (2000), they also educate the public and government officials about the problems at hand and provide a forum for citizens to have a say in policymaking.

Research into the roles and impacts of interest groups in policy making is not new. Most of them concluded that special interest groups have had a positive contribution and have become valuable in decision making unless they prioritize self-interest as opposed to the public good of the people. Several case studies also assessed the impact of specific interest group campaigns on public opinion and decision making (Burstein 1985; Wlezien & Goggin 1993; Andsager 2000; McKnight & Hobbs 2013; Dür & Mateo 2014). While some of them find little evidence of an impact of these campaigns (e.g., Andsager 2000), others offer evidence of interest groups' ability to push public opinion in the desired direction (McKnight & Hobbs 2013; Dür & Mateo 2014).

Findings show that most of the groups are reasonably successful in changing certain technical features but their chances of success diminish noticeably when they influence the essence of policy.

Berry & Wilcox (2015) mentions that interest groups are supposed to participate in public policy formulation through advocacy, policy formulation and capacity building. Examining new laws, sending comments to select committees of Parliament, lobbying government ministers and their advisers, and trying to affect public opinion are all instances of advocacy. Direct action can be taken by interest groups through petitions, public comments, picket lines, demonstrations, and media/advertising campaigns. Supporting or sponsoring a legislative candidate or party, or sending employees to assist in a candidate's campaign, are all ways they could attempt to influence election outcomes.

When it comes to shaping public policy, special interest organizations are indispensable. They help in educating the public on policy issues by raising awareness and championing for their ideologies. Many vulnerable and minority members of society get their voices heard by use of interest groups. Interest groups also share their ideas and issues to policy making institutions. They act as a link between citizens and government institutions by passing information to the citizens on government actions.

Anderson et.al (2022) describes policy formulation as a process is the identification of a public problem or dissatisfaction with the aim of providing a course of action in the form of a policy that is geared at providing clear guidelines for action. Policy formulation is crucial for governance as it drives social and economic development of a government. With new and dynamic problems arising every day, policy formulation is an interactive process that allows identification of issues to be resolved by creation of new policy or amendment of the older ones. Therefore, public policy formulation is necessary for governance as it offers solutions to existing problems in the society by providing clear directions for action to be taken by public institutions.

Globally, special interest groups are known to influence decision making in their attempts to lobby for public policy formations through international bodies such as the UN, International Labor Organization and other bodies that help shape policy on a global scale. Regionally, in Africa, special interest groups are organized in bodies that champion their interests through regional institutions such as the African Union. Some of the example of special interest groups in Africa are Access to Information Network (ATINA), which is a special interest group engaged in activities aimed at broadening effective access to information and knowledge for development in Africa. Others include: African Interest Groups (AIG), and Facility of Public Health Special Interest Group. These groups advocate for their interests in African policy making institutions such as the AU and African Union Commission. Policies formed provide guidelines for member countries to implement within their state agencies.

In Kenya, the Kenyan government through its constitution describes special interest groups as women, persons with disability, youth, marginalized communities and ethnic and other minorities. These groups educate the public and government about the problems at hand and provide a forum for citizens to have a say in decision making. The Kenyan government's administration, legislature, judiciary, public workers, interest groups, special commissions and panels, and other state institutions are the main players in policy creation at the local level. These actors are responsible for identifying key issues of policy action as well as reviewing old policies to address arising problems and challenges.

In an ideal society, policy formulation should be undertaken in five steps as indicated by Capano et.al (2020). Agenda setting, policy creation, decision making, policy implementation, and policy assessment are all parts of the policy cycle. These processes result in a cycle which is known

as policy cycle due to the dynamic nature of our societies where new issues keep arising thus the need for new solutions.

1.1.1 Policy formation cycle.

Policy formation cycle encompasses various models and this study will explore on the linear model to articulate the policy cycle phases. Vohs et al., (2018) discuss that this model outlines policy formation as a problem-solving process that hems into a rational, objective, analytical and balanced process. The linear model births sequential phases beginning with problem identification and ending with ideologies to solve or deal with the problem. These phases are categorized as explained below.

Problem recognition which is the first step in solving any problem is figuring out what's wrong and why it's a problem. After identifying the problem, it is important to identify possible actions to deal with the problem. A new statute or an executive order can be necessary, depending on the specifics of the policy. It is then followed by finding out the advantages and disadvantages of the actions. This can be evaluated in three different ways: Impact, Process, and Cost-benefit analysis which results in choice of the best action plan. Here, the policy is either adopted or dropped depending on the outcomes and finding of the policy evaluation. Finally, outcome evaluation is done. This is focused on determining if and when the policy will be adopted into law as per the special interest groups evaluation.

The model categorically assumes the problem rationally and beseches every phase of the process by implementing consideration of any and all information needed. This model is essential because it builds each step of the framework. Not all social problems can be solved at the same time. This approach, however, specifies the following components of a public issue: The problem as it is perceived; that is, from the time it is obvious that something is wrong until it changes the way a

large number of people see the world. Clarification of the issue at hand is also a component in this approach.

Skok (1995) identifies policy formation as the second stage. Here, we may observe the procedure of developing public policy alternatives. At this point, alternatives for development and debate have been outlined. This stage receives more attention from the media because it stimulates discussion and puts analysts, politicians, and decision-makers to the test. In the third and last phase, decision-making, a preferred plan of action is chosen among those that were previously offered. The nature of the resulting policy is highly sensitive to the choices made at this juncture. For this reason, it might be seen as a conversation between thought and deed. In contrast to earlier stages, only individuals with the actual power (soft and/or hard) and formal authorization to make binding public decisions are included in the decision-making process.

The point at which laws, customs, and social processes are actually implemented is called "enforcement," which stands for the carrying out of policy measures. The final stage of the policy cycle is evaluation, during which the policy's implementation method and design are scrutinized to ascertain the policy's efficacy.

Special interest groups tend to have more interest on social policy. Social policy as mentioned by Baldock et.al (2011), deals with how governments meet the human needs of its citizens. As a field of study, it critically examines the rules, regulations, and financial distribution that define the supply of welfare while also considering the efforts influencing quality of life (such as health services, social care, housing, education, and financial aid). Therefore, social policy addresses issues like poverty, age, health, handicap, and disadvantage, which are all social and economic variables that determine access barriers. It shows the ways in which policies can be contentious and encourage privilege and social inequality by focusing on race, gender, class, sexual orientation, and economic status. Examining anti-discrimination laws, employment laws

promoting equal opportunity, unemployment benefits, pensions, and welfare programs are some examples of social policy.

Peters (2018) has reported various challenges in establishing the measure of Influence special group interests have on social public policy. In developing countries, tracking the influence of special interest groups has not been well researched due to the temporary functionality of most of them that are not well formally organized thus making it difficult to track their progress. This study intends to create better understanding of how special interest groups influence the social policy formulation process and policy outcomes.

1.2 Statement of the Problem.

The government is currently experiencing a serious governance crisis due to the SIGs' inadequate inclusion in public affairs. Berry et.al (2013) stated that citizens, particularly those from minority groups, perceive that only individuals with strong economic standing or strong ties to those in positions of political authority may access the government. In Kenya, it is not unusual for entire sections of the nation to be excluded from the advantages of state-sanctioned growth and for particular communities to be the focus of discrimination. There is little representation of SIGs in governing bodies as well as decision making organs.

In the 2010 promulgated constitution, the participation of the youth and special interest groups in decision making is a promise. As per ELOGs findings in their research (2017), Act 2011 does not provide for a clear framework for representation of marginalized groups, women, and youth. Instead, they are all put in a lump as minority groups and marginalized communities. It is therefore quite difficult to know whether they have a significant contribution towards policy making. There is need to ensure special interest groups are adequately informed and actively

participating in decision making through public policy formulation processes especially with regards to social policy as it regards matters of social welfare and wellbeing.

Although research has increasingly addressed the issue of interest group influence (e.g., Binderkrantz et al., 2014; Dür et al., 2015; Klüver, 2011; Mahoney, 2007; Tallberg et al., 2018), the elusiveness of the concept and the difficulties linked to its empirical observation hamper the ability to accumulate knowledge on this topic. There is therefore a need to assess the inclusion of special interest groups in decision making and to come up with better ways that will improve their involvement in policy making processes.

Some of the challenges on special interest groups inclusion have been addressed by ensuring proper capacity building of policy makers and policy making institutions. Also, citizens have been enlightened through civic education and public participation forums which try to capture their issues and suggestions of policy solutions as mentioned by Berry, Bouka and Kamuru (2021). National government and county governments have also been budgeting for the cost of policy formulation in aspects such as public participation activities. Some county governments and institutions of government have set up Liaison offices or call centers for the public so that citizens can raise their issues and bypass the heavy bureaucracy.

Influencing policy outcomes is a hurdle, however the participation of special interest groups is necessary. There is need to understand how special interest groups influence policy outcomes, through advocacy, information sharing, building public support and identifying problems as well as creating solutions for policy formulation. Additionally, it is paramount to articulate the challenges and strides that have been made to ensure their inclusion through the National Gender and Equality Commission.

1.3 Purpose of the study.

The research assesses the participation of special interest groups in public policy formulation through the National Gender and Equality Commission

1.4 Objectives of the study.

- (i) To ascertain how information sharing affects public policy formulation.
- (ii) To assess how fostering public support impacts public policy formulation.
- (iii) To evaluate the influence of advocacy on public policy formulation.
- (iv) To determine how identifying problems and generating solutions aids in public policy formulation.

1.5 Research Questions

- (i) How does information sharing impact public policy formulation?
- (ii) How can developing public support influence public policy formulation?
- (iii) What impact does advocacy have on public policy formulation?
- (iv) What role does problem identification and coming up with solutions have in public policy formulation?

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study findings will establish the involvement of special interest groups in formulation of social policy within the National Gender and Equality Commission. Additionally, the study findings will explore if there is need for more efforts to be made to improve on social policy and whether there is adequate information sharing between the commission and special interest groups. The study will explore on efforts that can be made by policy makers and intervention strategies in identifying special areas of focus in social policy. Finally, the results will be more useful in comprehending

the part that special interest groups play in the creation of social policy and how their strategies affect the ultimate success of this policy.

1.7 Scope of the study.

The study assesses the participation of special interest groups in public policy formulation through the National and Gender and Equality Commission. The research intends to evaluate the influence of advocacy, information sharing, building public support, identifying problems and generating solutions on public policy formulation.

The study was conducted at the National Gender and Equality Commission office located at 1st Floor, Longonot Road, Upper hill, Nairobi. This study targets 64 persons from each of the four special interest groups groups. The study draws the members from each special interest group of: Women and Gender department, Youth and Children's department, Persons with Disabilities (PWD) department, Minorities and Marginalized groups department. The National Gender and Equality Commission was established by the National Gender and Equality Commission Act, 2011 in accordance with article 59(4) of the Constitution of Kenya. The commission is governed by Section 8 of the National Gender and Equality Commission Act of 2011.

Women, young people, people with disabilities, children, the elderly, members of racial and ethnic minorities, and members of other marginalized groups have been given particular attention by ensuring the research captures their responses through each department. The Commission is in charge of advancing gender equality and the absence of discrimination in Kenya, as well as guaranteeing adherence to treaties and conventions and mainstreaming concerns of marginalized groups including women, people with disabilities, and other minorities in national development.

With this mandate, the commission granted access to the individual interest groups through each department to conduct the research so as best determine the extent to which interest groups have been involved in policy making. The study has been done in the duration of 7 months and covered the period from September 2023 to March 2024.

1.8 Limitations of the study

The study has certain data-related limitations. Research findings could have been weakened if too much effort wasn't put into collecting data or enrolling participants. Changing course and assembling a new strategy, such as focusing more on involving individuals than on particular interest groups, was, thus, essential. Another barrier was the existence of divergent perspectives, whether they be the result of age, gender or disability status differences or individual ones. Obviously, this would have an impact on the study. The best way to avoid this issue was to carefully consider the problem statement and to avoid ambiguous questions and when collecting data.

1.9 Delimitation of the study

Previous studies have excluded main objectives based on involvement of special interest groups in public policy formulation. In order to test the research parameters, this study will employ inferential statistics, which involved forming inferences from the data and describing the relationship between the variables in a population. Implementing these techniques denote accurate statistical data on the Contribution of Special Interest Groups in Public Policy Formulation; A case study of the National Gender and Equality Commission.

1.10 Assumption of the study

The study assumed that the role of special interest groups is vital and a great move in involving the national government on policy creation. The study believed that the involvement of special interest groups is an advantage towards the greater good and a great move towards the countries and society's liberation.

1.11 Definition of Key Terms used.

Special Interest Groups -An interest group is a formal or informal organization whose members lobby for favorable legislation on behalf of a specific cause, sector of the economy, set of beliefs, or set of people.

Social policy – Explores the ways in which communities around the globe provide for the safety, training, employment, health, and happiness of their members.

Public Policy - Standards of behavior established by society as a whole in response to problems and crises, whether formally or informally codified.

Policy cycle – The policy cycle is an idealized process for formulating, implementing, and assessing policy.

Community – A social unit sharing norms, identity, geographical place, ideologies & religion.

Government – A system or a group of people governing an organized society and community through legislature, executive, and judiciary arms.

Lobbying -Groups of people who come together formally or informally to champion for their objectives in the political sphere, whether those reasons are social, religious, or ideological, economic, or corporate.



CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

Advocacy groups, often known as special interest groups, have a considerable impact on government policymaking. These organizations seek to influence policy that will affect their members on behalf of the entire group they represent. The National Gender and Equality Commission's mission is to increase the poor and vulnerable population's access to resources that will allow them to improve and maintain their standard of living and well-being. The commission's policies and regulations have far-reaching effects on citizens' daily lives and the operations of a wide range of government agencies. Thus, the role of interest groups in public policy making is crucial.

2.1 Empirical literature review

2.1.1 Advocacy and public policy formulation

Cullerton et al. (2018) studied the issue of government nutrition policy and how best to affect it. To help activists with limited resources better understand the levers that can be utilised to influence changes in public health policy, a conceptual model was created. To create the model, the authors combined the theories of policy process and network with three studies they conducted: a systematic review of the literature, a social network analysis of the key players influencing Australian nutrition policy, and in-depth interviews with a sample of these key players representing a range of opinions on influencing nutrition policy. The results demonstrate how challenging and complicated it may be to influence public policy, particularly for people with little financial and political clout. The commercial sector and public health advocates are two examples of entities that could push for opposing policy positions on any given issue.

Researchers Weible and Ingold (2018) looked into the value of advocacy coalitions and the lessons that may be learned from them. They discovered that advocacy coalitions are groups of people working toward a common political goal. Members of an advocacy coalition have similar ideas and worldviews and are working together to influence a policy (for health, the environment, or another issue). The upshot of political one-upmanship between opposing coalitions is a game of constructing and undoing public policy that can endure for years or decades. Political disagreements on normative problems can last for a very long time. Advocacy groups can work across local, state, and federal levels of government, and they incorporate traditional political power centres like electoral politics and regulatory decision-making.

Strong evidence is provided by Smith's (2000) work that public opinion influences business success in advocacy and lobbying, even when corporations operate collectively, defying conventional wisdom's expectation that this should be the case. Topics with high business unity are often ideological, contentious, and significant to the broader public, so politicians have strong electoral incentives to respond to them, in his view. This claim highlights the need for studies of lobbying effectiveness and public opinion influence at the level of specific policy concerns, where the nuances of these issues can be taken into account. It is suggested in the paper that the influence of public opinion on the success of lobbying actors other than companies, such as interest associations and individual advocates like specialists and concerned individuals, be studied as well. Politicians and government officials rely on the votes of the broader public, although many of these players represent narrower interest groups.

2.1.2 Information sharing and public policy

Tchamyou (2019) looked into how the spread of knowledge can moderate the impact of wealth on inequality. Between 2004 and 2014, researchers in this study looked at 48 different African countries to see how the availability of knowledge about financial resources affected income

inequality. The research confirmed that both private credit bureaus and public credit registries serve as information sharing middlemen. Unexpectedly, it called for more use of ICT to improve information-sharing offices and so increase their moderating effect on finance for inclusive growth. It may be the focus of future research to see if their suggestions hold up to empirical testing. Offices for information sharing and information technology can be treated as independent variables in this paradigm. It has also given some country-specific information on which nations are in control and which need stronger governmental action. More focused policy implications will result from combining these ideas with studies that focus on particular nations.

Researchers Hall and Saygin (2012) examined the effect of data sharing on supply chain efficiency. A supply chain's on-time delivery rate and overall cost are examined through simulation of the impact of information sharing. Capacity constraints, resource dependability, and information sharing strategies, such as exchanging information on resource dependability, customer demand, and inventory level, are some of the experimental elements. The simulation results demonstrate the statistical significance of each of the three experimental parameters. The analysis of the primary and interaction effects, however, reveals that the information sharing options perform very well. Capacity constraints, resource dependability, and information sharing methods were found to interact with one another to varying degrees, depending on operational characteristics and supply chain elasticity. As a result, adding greater flexibility might be more practical than only emphasizing information exchange as a collaboration tool.

Information sharing has an effect on networked manufacturing, as determined by D'Amours et al. (1999). This research examined the effects of data sharing among companies operating in a supply chain. In networked manufacturing, the optimal planning model selects and schedules networked enterprises to fulfil an order based on a price-time evaluation of the companies' bids. The level of pricing and capacity information transmission within corporate partnerships is used to classify

networking techniques into several groups. An example scenario is used to demonstrate the impact of information sharing on networked manufacturing through the use of three distinct bidding protocols to describe how businesses aggregate their data to conform to networking standards. In conclusion, the results show that businesses that place a premium on close relationship contacts are more likely to benefit from a range of price-time possibilities provided by their networks, leading to better scheduling performance.

An operational study of emergency event management systems was conducted by Fan (2013), who looked at how information sharing and redesigned government processes affected performance. Information technology capabilities, information interchange, and process redesign in the public sector were examined to see how they affect the operational efficacy of an emergency management system. Using emergency information systems and other case studies, a survey of 286 employees was conducted in Shanghai, China. In three stages, it analysed the connections between IT, process redesign, and emergency response efficiency. Information technology capabilities, government process redesign portfolio, and information sharing and redesign portfolio were also studied in addition to the delivery and flexibility performance effects. When we broke down the variables into their respective stages of development, we were able to employ a factorial design to test out the various instruments that contribute to the interaction's significance. Interactions between information sharing and government process redesign and information technology capability and government process redesign both positively predicted flexibility response, and the latter was also positively correlated with delivery efficiency. It was shown that GIS and the exchange of spatial data moderated the redesign of government processes, improving responsiveness and adaptability. The responsiveness to change considered both the reengineering of government processes and the mutual use of spatial data. Geographic information systems (GIS) and/or global positioning

systems (GPS) should be the key information technology used to coordinate the responses of many local departments during an emergency.

2.1.3 Building public support and public policy formulation

Public support for policy initiatives to reduce obesity was studied by Gortmaker et al. (2011). Based on the findings, public support is essential for implementing obesity prevention programs and reducing resistance to them. However, modern public health initiatives place a premium on dialogue between political leaders and health professionals. The creation of a receptive political environment through the integration of change agents across organisations and sectors, the streamlining and improvement of public information, the identification of effective frames for each population, media advocacy, the development of citizen protest and engagement, and the cultivation of an engaged citizenry are some strategies to increase public demand for obesity prevention policies. In order to generate shared value, cross-sector collaboration requires funding and sustained support. It will be necessary to reassess current practices and alter resource allocations in order to transition from a top-down to a hybrid bottom-up and top-down strategy. Despite persistent requests for social change, there hasn't been much progress made in the essential policy sectors. There is often a lack of political and institutional will to take such action, and it may not materialize without increasing public demand for the adoption and execution of policies in both the public and private sectors.

The positive effect of public support on lobbyists' chances of achieving or sustaining their favoured policy should coexist with the influence of support among the advocate community, according to previous research (e.g., Dür et al., 2015). According to the study's hypotheses, advocates have a better chance of having their demands granted if they enjoy widespread public support and the backing of a substantial segment of the lobbying community. However, the lobbying industry's power may not be independent of public opinion. The study argued that a greater impact of public

support for an advocate's perspective should be expected if there are more participants lobbying on the subject. There is a lot of pressure on decision-makers to listen to the numerous parties involved if there is a lot of lobbying action to gain public support. High advocacy action likely also raises the policy issue's profile in the public sphere. This could make it easier for the general public to form an opinion and find out if their demands are being taken seriously and implemented. As a result, when there are more lobbyists involved, policymakers may be more reluctant to take public opinion into account.

Dür and Mateo (2014) make a similar argument in their case study of the ratification of the AntiCounterfeiting Trade Agreement. They find that there was extensive interest group activity on the topic, which was critical in getting the word out and letting lawmakers know how people felt. Therefore, we expect the lobbying community to influence the actor's choice of an advocate not only by the degree to which it supports the actor's demand but also by emphasizing the importance of getting public support.

2.1.4 Problem identification and developing solutions in public policy

Research by Olyae (2018) assessed policy analysis, problem identification, and policy option proposals for Iran's health insurance benefit package. Between 2014 and 2017, this qualitative investigation on health policymaking was conducted. There were two halves to the process, one looking backward and one forward. Interviews, document reviews, and field notes were used to compile a dataset that was analysed using MAXQDA V. 11. Ten issues, twenty-two themes, and one hundred and eighty-six subtopics emerged from the policy analysis of health insurance benefit packages. By analysing the outcomes of the previous stage, twenty problems and constraints were investigated during the problem identification phase, and sixty-four policy options were found in the context of twenty-seven overarching solutions. Adaptations, such as focusing on the health sector's financial and economic resources and employing effective economic and policy

approaches, should be factored into the creation and rollout of the health insurance benefit package. The framework for mission-oriented innovation policy was developed by Wanzenböck et al. (2020) and consists of alternate routes through the problem-solution space. According to the research, the policy discourse on directionality and mission-orientation pays insufficient attention to the context of social challenges linked to different perspectives on the problem and the solution. To avoid conflicts or contestation along core principles and to promote widespread acceptance, it is possible that remaining unclear and defining societal challenges widely is the best political strategy. But there may be repercussions for taking such action. Ignoring the normative factors involved in prioritizing a certain problem framing or a particular innovation may have negative effects on the validity of the mission or the adoption of solutions across various institutions of business and society.

This research focused on a "tame" topic, clearly defining the problem and offering a remedy without any consideration for wider social or economic effects (Mowery et al., 2010). Current mission approaches frequently target enduring societal issues, also known as "grand societal challenges," like climate change, aging, and security in Europe (EC 2011; Cagnin et al. 2012; Mazzucato 2018a), and the United States (to promote technological competitiveness and market development in particular industries). The paper concludes that there are governance implications for two-dimensional goal-oriented innovation policy from broadening the scope of innovation policy to meet social problems. On the problem side, mission-oriented innovation policies face the non-trivial challenges of identifying a societal challenge and the attendant problem framings, as well as the choosing and translation of these framings into a precise problem formulation. Finding solutions to social problems often necessitates departing from the standard scientific and technological methods used by the vast majority of academia, industry, and government. Solutions emerge from various kinds of searching, may be based in technology or in institutions, and

necessitate the participation of various people and organizations in order to be developed and disseminated. Therefore, we can also consider the wicked aspects of the solutions. Because of this, it may be difficult and counterproductive to try to codify a universal recipe for mission-driven social policy that can solve all of society's ills.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

According to Nord et al. (2019), rational choice theory, theory of change, policy output analysis, political system theory, group theory, and elite theory are the theoretical frameworks most closely associated with public policy creation. The cyclic/stages model provides a methodical framework for analysing public policy. Initiated a review study of theoretical methods for studying public policy, which investigated the public policy cycle.

2.2.1 System Analysis Approach

The main feature of this theory is its framework of input, process, and output, forming a continuous feedback loop. According to Olaniyi (1995), systems consist of numerous parts or units, each characterized by three essential elements: parts themselves, their relationship to the whole, and their contributions to the overall survival of the system.

In a societal context, the economic, political, and cultural pillars function as the driving force that sustains the political system's operation. Consequently, the political system responds to public needs and advocates for specific policies, ensuring these demands are addressed and translated into actionable outcomes. This dynamic illustrates the system's responsiveness and adaptability to societal demands.

Hoos (1983) emphasizes that the effectiveness of policies hinges on the quality of outcomes they produce, influencing decisions on policy shifts or adopting new approaches. Successful

government policies are typically endorsed when they effectively meet public needs, thereby garnering support and fostering collaboration. Conversely, ineffective policies fail to garner support, leading to disengagement from stakeholders.

Various interest groups play an active role in influencing political processes by advocating for changes within the system. For instance, the National Gender and Equality Commission can utilize this theoretical framework to analyze how interest groups contribute to the input, processing, and outcomes of political decisions. Understanding these dynamics enhances the Commission's ability to advocate for inclusive policies and reforms that reflect diverse societal perspectives and needs

2.2.2 Institutional Approach

The Institutional Approach to policy analysis places significant emphasis on the conventional government institutions such as the legislative, executive, and judiciary. These institutions, according to Linder & Peters (1990), are structured in ways that profoundly influence the outcomes of policies they oversee. Central to this perspective is the recognition that institutions are not merely bureaucratic entities but are deeply rooted in societal norms and behaviors developed over time, serving crucial social functions.

Rules and structures within institutions establish regularized patterns of behavior that guide decision-making and policy formulation. These institutional arrangements are not neutral; rather, they often reflect and reinforce particular societal interests. When examining the adoption and content of public policies, understanding these institutional frameworks is essential as they shape the context within which policies are crafted and implemented.

Moreover, institutional structures, arrangements, and procedures wield significant influence over policy outcomes. They dictate the processes through which policies are formulated, enacted, and enforced, thereby impacting their effectiveness and inclusivity. Researchers applying this theory

can assess how institutional frameworks either facilitate or hinder the involvement of special interest groups in policy-making processes.

For instance, the National Gender and Equality Commission can utilize this theoretical framework to evaluate how institutional structures accommodate the participation of diverse interest groups. By analyzing these dynamics, the Commission can advocate for reforms that enhance inclusivity and ensure policies reflect the varied needs and perspectives of society. Understanding these institutional dynamics empowers stakeholders to engage more effectively in shaping policies that promote fairness and equity across different societal sectors.

2.2.3 Group Theory

Group theory posits that public policy emerges from ongoing power struggles among various interest groups. At any given moment, the balance of power among these groups defines what constitutes public policy. The theory delves into the intricate processes through which different interest groups vie to shape policies that reflect their respective agendas and priorities. These policies, therefore, represent temporary outcomes of these ongoing contests.

The dynamics of these power struggles are shaped by the collective actions of diverse interest groups, often with overlapping memberships, creating a mosaic of influences on public policy. The ability of a particular group to assert its influence depends on several factors, including its wealth, organizational capabilities, leadership effectiveness, negotiation skills, access to decisionmakers, and sometimes, sheer luck. These elements collectively determine the group's capacity to sway policy outcomes in its favour over time.

When the equilibrium among competing interest groups shifts, it can lead to the emergence of new policies or revisions to existing ones. This continuous evolution highlights the adaptive nature of public policy in response to changing societal dynamics and power dynamics among interest groups.

Researchers employing this framework can critically examine how lobbying efforts by special interest groups and public opinion influence government decisions on social policies. By analyzing these interactions, researchers gain insights into the mechanisms through which policies are formulated and modified to accommodate diverse societal needs and preferences. This understanding enables policymakers and stakeholders to navigate the complexities of policymaking processes more effectively, aiming for outcomes that are equitable and responsive to societal challenges.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

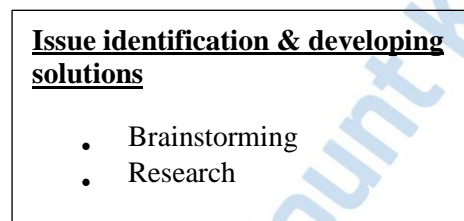
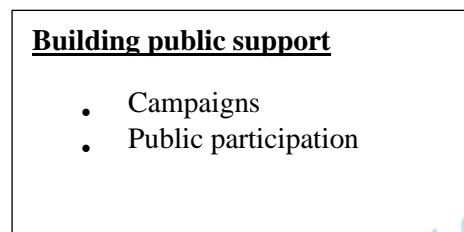
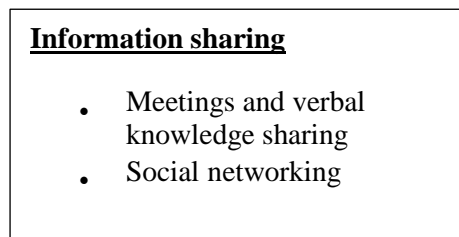
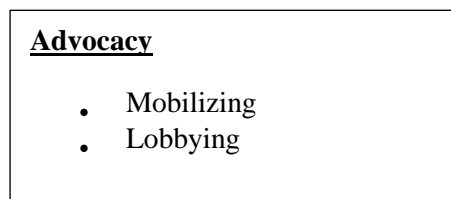
All research must start with a solid conceptual framework. According to Kivunja (2018), a conceptual framework acts as a "guide and ballast for research," an "integrated ecosystem" that facilitates the deliberate integration of research components during the design phase. In research, it is essential to understand what a conceptual framework is, what its components are and how they interact, and how it can be used to guide rigorous, high-quality qualitative research. The conceptual framework is composed of several components that perform various cross-cutting and sequential functions for researchers who initiate and engage in research and the research it generates. Various parts of the conceptual framework interact with one another and have a bearing on one another. The conceptual framework's function is threefold: to establish the significance of the topic at hand, to locate the topic within its various contexts (both theoretical and practical), and to direct the formulation and refinement of research questions.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

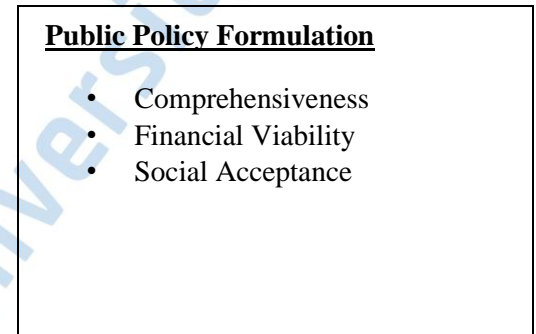
Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

Special Interest groups



DEPENDENT VARIABLES



Source: Researcher: 2022

2.3.1 Advocacy

Lacey (2007) highlights the various forms of advocacy, including lobbying, legal action, public awareness campaigns, and networking with relevant parties. Advocacy is a tool used by individuals

and groups to influence government policies and practices in economic and social spheres. It involves activities and writings that inform elected officials and the public with facts, their linkages, the media, and messaging. Public policy advocacy, defined by Gen and Wright (2013), involves persuading decision-makers to alter the outcome of public policies like laws and regulations. Citizens often promote or oppose regulations on the environment, healthcare, and education, while businesses support or oppose regulations affecting their operations and financial results. Nonprofits work on laws supporting their objectives, such as environmental sustainability, social justice, and human rights. Government organizations also support laws impacting their duties and ways of doing things, like defence.

2.3.2 Information sharing

Estevez (2010) emphasizes the importance of information sharing in government operations, stating that it is crucial for various governmental responsibilities. Governments must acquire, hold, and use shared information to execute their duties effectively. Estevez argues that information sharing is essential for one-stop and networked government, such as sharing information about services or resources for whole-of-government response to emergencies. However, overcoming technological, organizational, and cultural hurdles is challenging for governments. To make better policy decisions, the government must share information with the public and non-governmental organizations. Information flow enables the public to participate in policy formulation and offer criticism or recommendations. This involvement of different stakeholders leads to better decisionmaking, supporting good policy-making. Therefore, it is essential for government organizations to embrace information sharing in their operations.

2.3.3 Building public support

Public support is crucial for improving local circumstances and gaining community ownership. In Colonial New England and Ancient Greece, leaders sought to gain public support to address issues.

Public backing can put pressure on elected officials and ensure long-term solutions. Citizen participation in democratic decision-making has long provided individuals with a voice in shaping public policy. Before the 1960s, the government instituted policies and practices to inspire "external" participation. Cogan & Sharpe (1986) highlight five benefits of community involvement in planning: insight into public concerns, public support for planning decisions, avoidance of disputes and costly delays, a stockpile of goodwill that can be applied to future decisions, and an environment of cooperation and trust between the public and the agency. However, there is no consensus on what "citizen participation" means or implies in terms of government decisionmaking. Effective citizen involvement programs can have tangible benefits, such as insight into public concerns, public support for planning decisions, avoidance of disputes and costly delays, a stockpile of goodwill, and an environment of cooperation and trust between the public and the agency.

2.3.4 Issue identification and developing solutions

OECD (2017), emphasizes the importance of effective policymaking in addressing issues. It highlights the role of representative groups, media, and government in articulating challenges and determining the government's authority to manage them. Civil employees must recognize and understand the underlying causes of policy difficulties, requiring analytical abilities to combine various disciplines and viewpoints into a coherent narrative. They must also be able to network and use digital tools to locate relevant stakeholders and professionals outside the public sector. Civil service professionals must be able to envision multiple futures and come up with robust solutions to problems. Skills in foresight, systems, and design thinking can help them understand and influence interactions between internal and external stakeholders. They must also identify and draw upon internal and external assets to aid in solution creation and implementation. Recent achievements and best practices should be identified to address current difficulties.

2.4 Research Gaps

It is evident from the literature evaluation that in evaluating the role of special interest groups in public policy, emphasis has been placed on the variables proposed by this study, namely advocacy, information sharing, gaining public support, identifying problems, and providing solutions. According to the current study, the National Gender and Equality Commission has to fill this conceptual and contextual gap. Despite the conclusions from the empirical investigations listed above, methodological gaps were evident in most studies since they either used an exclusively qualitative or quantitative methodology. A study that just uses a quantitative methodology may not be able to fully grasp the role that special interest groups play in public policy or provide a personal viewpoint on it, let alone have its results be applicable to other fields. The ability to generalize the results of investigations that only use the qualitative method is also lacking in these studies. With a mixed methods strategy that incorporates quantitative and qualitative methodologies, the current study aims to close this methodological gap by utilizing both approaches' strengths and bridging their respective flaws.

2.5 Recap of the literature

The chapter begins with an analysis of the empirical literature that focuses on the role that special interest groups play in the development of public policy: a case study of the National Gender and Equality Commission. The purpose under each of the study variables—advocacy, information sharing, gaining public support, problem identification, and solution development—has been reviewed in the empirical literature. System analysis approach, institutional approach, and group theory are the three theories that have been examined. After that, the conceptual framework is explained using measurements of effective policy as the dependent variable and features of how

special interest groups are anticipated to participate in the formation of public policy as the independent variables. The indications for the two variables are prominently displayed. Finally, it has been determined what research gaps exist based on the empirical literature.



CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introductions

This chapter on research methodology focus on research background, research design, targeted population, sampling procedure and models, sampling size, data collection strategies and data analysis.

3.1 Research Methodology

Research technique refers to the specific procedures and methods used to collect, screen, organize, and evaluate data for a study. Readers can evaluate the general validity and reliability of a study by examining its methods (Gupta, 2022). This study used a quantitative approach, which involved gathering and analysing data using SPSS software to achieve descriptive analysis as well as correlation and inferential statistics.

3.2 Research Design

According to Asenahabi (2019), a research design is the overall strategy and analytical technique you've chosen to integrate the many components of the study in a coherent and logical fashion, guaranteeing that the research problem will be adequately handled. Information and data collection, analysis, and interpretation are all guided by this document. Data collection follows naturally from the research questions posed. The research structure is designed to clarify research questions and the modules of answering them creating guidelines for researchers and frameworks for data collection, analysis and interpretation the research intends to survey method as it is most suitable for practical problems.

The study adopted descriptive research design. Primary data was obtained from questionnaires with members of special interest groups through the National Gender and Equality Commission as

well as officials of special interest groups. Observation and analysis of existent data has also been applied to obtain data. The data was analyzed using SPSS software to derive findings and conclusions from the study.

3.3 Location of the study

The study was conducted at the National Gender and Equality Commission located at 1st Floor, Longonot Road, Upper hill, Nairobi. The National Gender and Equality Commission was established by the National Gender and Equality Commission Act, 2011 in accordance with article 59(4) of the Constitution of Kenya. The commission is governed by Section 8 of the National Gender and Equality Commission Act of 2011. Women, young people, people with disabilities, children, the elderly, members of racial and ethnic minorities, and members of other marginalized groups are given particular attention.

According to the Constitution of Kenya from 2010, the Commission's job is to ensure that all Kenyans, including those who fall into the categories of women, people with disabilities, children, youth, older members of society, minorities, and marginalized groups, enjoy the same protections against discrimination as everyone else. According to Section 8 of the NGEC Act, The Commission is in charge of advancing gender equality and the absence of discrimination in Kenya, as well as guaranteeing adherence to treaties and conventions and mainstreaming concerns of marginalized groups including women, people with disabilities, and other minorities in national development. It keeps tabs on and offers guidance on the formulation of affirmative action policies, looks into infringements of equality and the absence of discrimination, and collaborates with other organizations to create standards for the application of such policies. A culture of respect for equality and freedom from discrimination is fostered by the Commission's coordination of public education initiatives.

3.4 Targeted Population

(Cox, 2013) In research, the term "target population" refers to the entire group of individuals for whom the data will be extrapolated. According to Gall, Borg, and Gall (2003), the validity and dependability of a study can be built atop the solid groundwork provided by a carefully selected target group. Cases will be selected for the study based on this criterion, among others.

This study targets 64 members from each of the four special interest groups. The study will draw the persons from the departments of: Women and Gender department, Youth and Children's department, Persons with Disabilities (PWD) department, Minorities and Marginalized groups department.

The target population is illustrated in the table below.

Table 1: Target Population

Category	Target Population
Women and Gender	16
Youth and Children	16
Persons with disabilities	16
Minority and marginalized groups	16
Total	64

Source (NGEC, 2023)

3.5 Sampling Technique

Sampling technique denotes selecting individual members of a set population to formulate characteristics of the general set population (Buntin, 2020). Given the small and controllable population under investigation, the census approach has been used in this study. How effectively a sample design represents the features of the population it is intended to represent is the ultimate test of a sample design, according to Kothari (2009).

3.6 Sample Size

Sample size refers to the number of observations or participants in a research project. The sample size is the number of individuals, objects, or measurements used to generalize about a larger population. According to Alterrud, Siersma, and Guassora (2016), the sample size is a small group of individuals or components drawn from the entire population and used to represent the entire population and be used to draw conclusions about the entire population. Due to the small number of the target population, the census approach was adopted. The sample comprised of 64 individuals. The sample size included 64 persons drawn from each of the four special group departments in the Commission.

Table 2: Sample Size

Category	Sample size
Women and Gender Department	16
Youth department	16
Persons with Disabilities department	16
Minorities and Marginalized groups department	16
Total	64

Source: NGECC, 2023

3.7 Data Collection Instruments

3.7.1 Questionnaires

Primary data was collected by a questionnaire administered to the department officials involved in the study. The persons were given questionnaires to fill out at their leisure. Section A of the questionnaire requested basic demographic information from respondents, and Section B featured questions (statements) formatted using a Likert scale. Each of the four study questions had

corresponding statements that the respondents were asked to rate. There were five categories on the Likert scale. In this scale, 1 meant you strongly agree, 2 meant you agree, 3 meant you're not sure, 4 meant you disagree, and 5 meant you disagree strongly. With the Likert scale, respondents could swiftly and easily convey their ideas, even if they were unsure of the exact words to use. Once replies are scaled, it was much simpler to read and analyse the results.

Data gathered was analysed using SPSS software while tabulating the established daily occurrences cropping up from National Gender and Equality Commission. Additionally, the analysis created a deeper understanding and further toss around the proposed solutions and their vulnerabilities.

3.8 Pilot of research instruments

Prior to conducting the main research, the researcher conducted a pilot study to pretest and validate the questionnaire. A subset of the responders was used for the pilot test. Ten percent of the sample was used in the study. The rationale behind the 10% comes from Kothari's (2004) recommendation that pilot research be carried out with a sample size ranging from 1% to 10%. The pilot study involved special interest groups persons and department heads from different backgrounds. The respondents who were chosen were not included in the final data set. Pretesting research tools improved the data collection process's validity, dependability, and correctness.

3.9 Validity and reliability

3.9.1 Validity

Measurements must be accurate if they are to be considered valid. Both the face and content validity of the questionnaire will be evaluated during the pilot project. A group of specialists reviewed the study's equipment to determine whether or not all of the variables of interest have been measured. Expert feedback and judgment were integrated to strengthen the document's

external credibility. Construct and content validity were also used in the research. The questionnaire was broken down into manageable chunks so that each portion can be independently validated, and it was also carefully aligned with the conceptual framework's sub-constructs to ensure construct validity. Cooper and Schindler's (2013) methods, which involve identifying the current scales from the writing and information accumulation instruments, was used to conduct the content validity analysis.

3.9.2 Reliability

According to Mugenda & Mugenda (2003), reliability refers to how consistently a research instrument yields results. The researcher determined the validity of study instruments through extensive testing and recalibration. The research tool was given twice, once as a test and once as a retest. The research instrument was reliable since it consisted of questions that make sense and use clear language. Ten percent of the sample group, or 13 people, filled out questionnaires to gauge their usefulness and validity. Statistical analysis utilizing Cronbach's alpha was used to determine the questionnaires' consistency. Within acceptable reliability limits, a coefficient of 0.6–0.7, and good reliability, 0.8 and above.

3.10 Data collection procedures

The first step in conducting the study was for the researcher to secure institutional approval from the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI). The researcher approached the respondents personally to hand them the questionnaires.

3.11 Data processing and analysis

Recording, editing, coding, categorization, transforming, and modelling data into information for decision making is what data processing entails. Quantitative method of analysis was used to compile the study's findings. To acquire descriptive statistics like frequency, percentage, mean,

standard deviation, and coefficient of variation, the data obtained for this study was loaded into SPSS software for analysis. Methods of inferring meaning from data included tally charts and correlation analyses. It is presented in tabular, graphic, and pie form. The correlation between the factors have been calculated using a regression model. Using the value of an independent variable, it returned the dependent variable's values.

3.12 Ethical considerations

Ethical considerations in research are the principles you should follow when planning and carrying out your studies. Some examples of these principles include: participant choice, confidentiality, and disclosure of outcomes, disclosure of risk, and disclosure of adverse events. (Arifin, 2018). The study's aimed at: safeguarding research participants' rights, increasing the reliability of the findings and preserving of academic or scientific integrity.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH FINDINGS, RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

The research findings and analysis from the data collected at the National Gender and Equality Commission about the evaluation of special interest groups in the creation of public policy are illustrated in this chapter. The analysis was guided by the study's research objectives, which were outlined in the first chapter of the research. The response rate, analysis of the variables, and validity and reliability will all be covered in this chapter. The outcomes of the presentations have been interpreted in light of the empirical research on this study's second chapter. The information collected is visually represented through graphs and tables.

4.2 Validity and Reliability Analysis

Reliability is a metric that quantifies how error-free (i.e., not biased) the research instrument is, ensuring consistent measurement of its numerous components over time. The table below shows that the dependability coefficient, or Cronbach's Alpha, is 0.713. As reported by Kothari & Guarav (2014), the results demonstrate that the instrument has a good consistency, with $\alpha=0.713 \geq 0.7$ indicating that it is dependable. As a result, the researcher kept every item in the tool and used it to gather data.

Table 3: Cronbach's Alpha

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.713	17

Source: Author 2024

4.3 Response Rate

The data collection tool was administered to 64 official cutting across four departments of youth, women, persons with disabilities, minority and marginalized groups. T out of the 64, 62 returned and two are two were unreturned questionnaires. This shows that the response rate from the target population was 96.875% which is very high and dependable for getting proper results (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2008, Shende & Upagade, 2013). According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), a response rate above 50% is considered good and a rate exceeding 70% is deemed very good.

Table 4: Response Rate

Response rate	Sample Size	Percentage (%)
Returned questionnaires	62	96.875
Un-returned questionnaires	2	3.125

Source: Author (2024)

4.4 Descriptive statistics of nominal data

Descriptive statistics are numbers that summarize water guard in the sample. It helps researchers detect sample characteristics that may influence their conclusions. Miksza, Peter and Kenneth Ellis, (2018) Descriptive analysis was carried out on the total sample of 62 respondents (N = 62).

Table 5: Descriptive Statistics of Nominal data

Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Variance
Gender of Respondent.	62	1.40	.495	.245
Age range of respondent.	62	2.68	.845	.714
Any form of disability.	62	1.84	.371	.137
Respondent's ethnic community's population.	62	1.26	.441	.195
Respondent considers themselves from a disadvantaged group, socially or economically.	62	1.52	.504	.254

Source: Author
(2024)

4.4.1 Gender

A frequency table was generated to describe the distribution of gender in the sample. As shown in the table, majority were Male with 37 respondents (59.7%), while 25 respondents (40.3%) were Female. The balanced representation of both sexes, as demonstrated in table 4.4 is a positive outcome. Copper and Schindler (2006) highlighted the preference for male dominance in formal and informal research studies. However, Ngechu (2004) emphasizes the significant role women play in informal sector, underscoring the importance of both genders in research studies. This underscores the value of considering both genders in this research.

Table 6: Gender of Respondents

Gender of Respondent.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	37	59.7	59.7	59.7
	Female	25	40.3	40.3	100.0
	Total	62	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author 2024

4.4.2 Age

Descriptive statistics were calculated to summarize the distribution of age group in the sample.

The largest age group was 46 – 55 years (n = 27, 43.5%), followed by 36 - 45 years (n = 20, 32.3%), and Above 50 years (n = 10, 16.1%). The smallest age group was Under 35 years (n = 5, 8.1%). The study considered respondents from old age brackets. However, as much as the youth form the bulk of the population, are 35% in Kenya, the unemployment rate stands at 67% according to FKE (2023) . This reflects in the study as they use officials at the NG ISC form 8.1% of the informants which is typical of most organizations in Kenya.

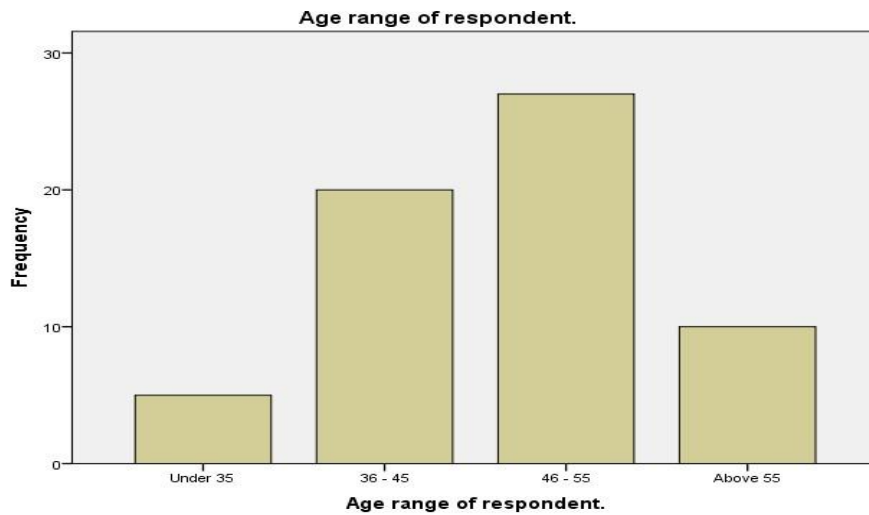


Figure 2: Age range of respondents

Source: Author 2024

4.4.3 Any form of disability

Out of the 62 respondents, 10 (16.1%) reported having a disability, while 52 (83.9%) did not report any disability which is very positive. According to Goethals(2017), the inclusion of persons with disabilities in work, education and other social setting promote greater attitudinal shifts towards persons with disabilities and impresses equity and social inclusion. Puzzles disabilities constitute to 2.2% of Kenya's population (UNFPA, 2023). Therefore, the good participation of persons with disabilities in this research is positive and very encouraging.

Table 7: Disability status

Any form of disability.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	10	16.1	16.1	16.1
	No	52	83.9	83.9	100.0
	Total	62	100.0	100.0	

Source: Author (2024)

4.4.4 Ethnic community's population

When asked about the size of their ethnic community's population, 46 respondents (74.2%) indicated that their community is large, while 16 respondents (25.8%) indicated that their community is small.

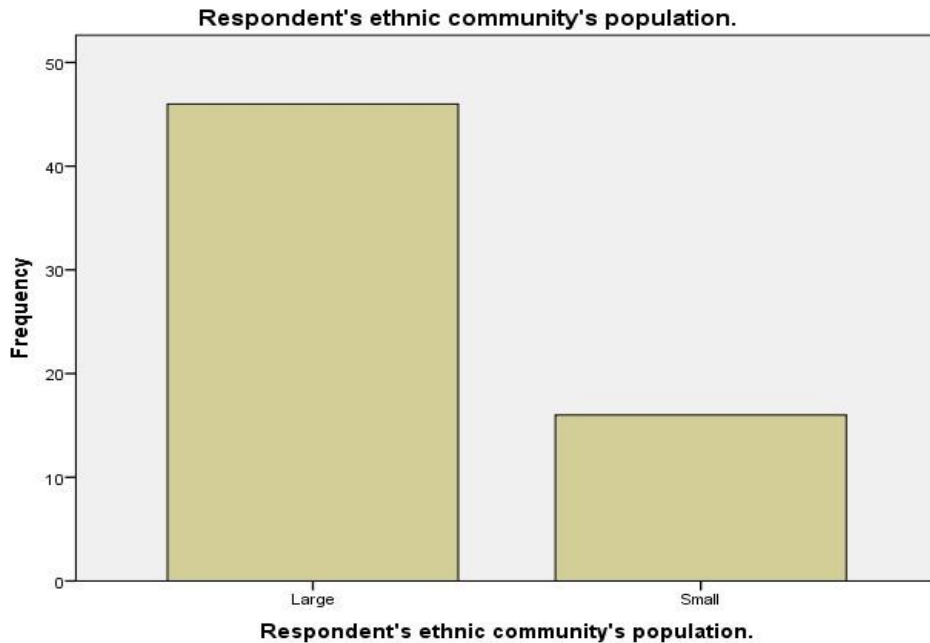


Figure 3: Ethnic community's population

Source: Author (2024)

4.4.5 Marginalized and non-marginalized groups

Regarding whether respondents consider themselves part of a disadvantaged group, socially or economically, 30 respondents (48.4%) answered "Yes," and 32 respondents (51.6%) answered "No."

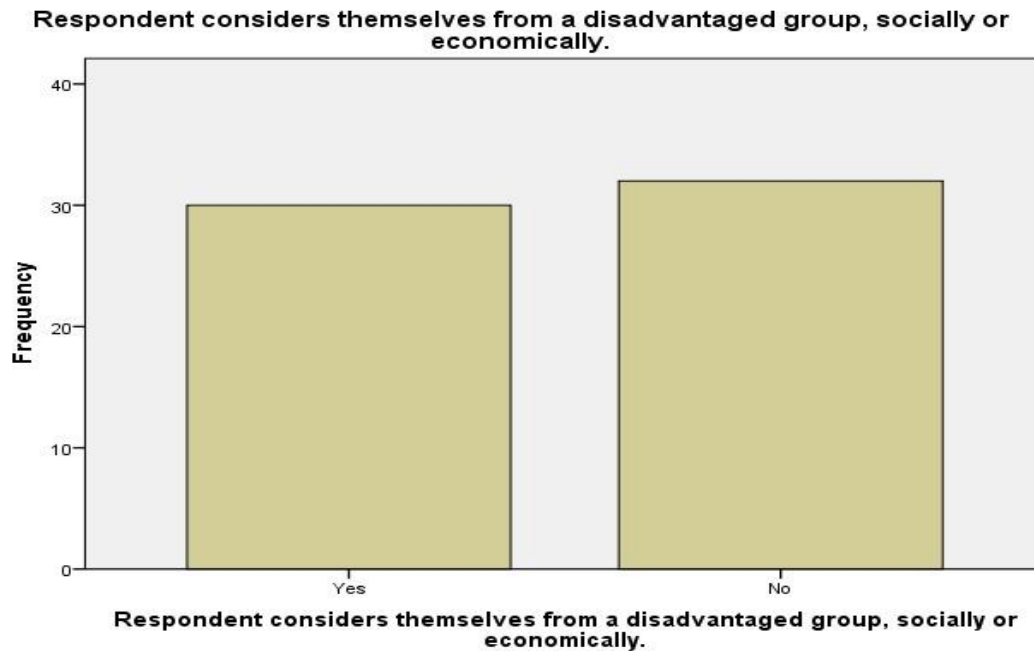


Figure 4: Marginalized and non-marginalized groups

Source: Author: (2024)

4.5 Data analysis of the research objectives

The variables examined include: Advocacy, Information sharing, building public support, Issue identification & developing solutions as well as public policy formulation.

4.5.1 Descriptive Analysis

The research utilized descriptive analysis to analyze the responses and derived frequencies as well as the mean and standard deviation. Descriptive statistics give a summary about the sample being studied without drawing any influences based on probability theory.

Findings:

4.5.2 To evaluate the influence of advocacy on creation of public policy

Table 8: Descriptive analysis on advocacy

STATEMENT	SD (%)	D (%)	NS (%)	A (%)	SA (%)	MEAN	□
The organization mobilizes towards the inclusion of special interest groups during policy formulation.	0	1 (1.6)	1 (1.6)	38 (61.3)	22 (35.5)	4.31	0.589
All minority groups are engaged to incorporate their views during social policy formulation.	1 (1.6)	7 (11.3)	9 (14.5)	28 (45.2)	17 (27.4)	3.85	1.006
Lobbying gives special interest groups the ability and platform to air their views.	0	0	2 (3.2)	36 (58.1)	24 (38.7)	4.35	0.546

Source: Author: (2024)

Note: $N = 62$, $SD =$ strongly Disagree, $D =$ Disagree, $NS =$ Not Sure, $A =$ Agree, $SA =$ Strongly Agree, $\square =$ Standard Deviation. **Weighted Average = 4.11**

On whether the organisation mobilises towards the inclusion of special interest groups during policy making, 61.3% agreed while 35.5% strongly agreed as shown in table 4.6. there was a very small variance of 0.589 which means that most of them agree that the organization engages in mobilization activities towards public policy formulation. Lobbying as well was also a big factor in trying to give special interest groups the platform and ability to air their views. 58.1% of the officials agree and 38.7% strongly disagree with that fact this shows how seriously the

organization engages in lobbying to ensure the inclusion of special interest groups in public policy formulation.

4.5.3 To ascertain how information sharing affects public policy formulation processes

Table 9: Descriptive analysis on Information sharing

STATEMENT	SD (%)	D (%)	NS (%)	A (%)	SA (%)	MEAN	□
Through the commission, special interest groups are able to exchange ideas and information on social welfare that will aid in decision making.	1 (1.6)	2 (3.2)	3 (4.8)	39 (62.9)	17 (27.4)	4.11	0.770
The commission through its departments socially network with interest groups through websites and other platforms to get input for social policy decisions.	0	8 (12.9)	3 (4.8)	34 (54.8)	17 (27.4)	3.97	0.923
The commission shares information with interest groups in an attempt to get feedback for policy formulation and review.	0	2 (3.2)	4 (6.5)	38 (61.3)	18 (29.0)	4.16	0.682
Use of mainstream and social media allows special interest groups to channel their contributions and	2 (3.2)	6 (9.7)	2 (3.2)	41 (66.1)	11 (17.7)	3.85	0.938
concerns towards proper policy making.							

Source: Author (2024)

Note: N = 62, SD = strongly Disagree, D = Disagree, NS = Not Sure, A = Agree, SA = Strongly Agree, σ = Standard Deviation. Weighted Average = 4.11

According to table 4.7, the majority agree that through the commission especially interest groups are able to exchange ideas and for information on social welfare that will aid in decision making. 34% agree and 17% strongly agree that the national gender and equality commission socially network with interest groups through websites and other platforms to get their input on social policy decision. The table also shows that the commission shares information in an attempt to get feedback with a little deviance of 0.682. majority, 55% agree and strongly agree with the use of mainstream and social media to connect with special interest groups and get the input. Meaning officials agree that information sharing in the organization plays a major role in public policy formulation.



4.5.4 To ascertain how fostering public support impacts development of public policy

Table 10: Descriptive analysis on building public support

STATEMENT	SD (%)	D (%)	NS (%)	A (%)	SA (%)	MEAN	σ
The commission attempts to build relationships with interest groups in the society to understand their concerns	0	2 (3.2)	1 (1.6)	47 (75.8)	12 (19.4)	4.11	0.576
and contributions towards social development.							

Special interest groups engage in campaign forums to champion for better decision making on disadvantaged members of the community.	0	2 (3.2)	5 (8.1)	40 (64.5)	15 (24.2)	4.10	0.670
Public participation has enabled the commission to get views from minority groups in the society.	0	0	1 (1.6)	31 (50.0)	30 (48.4)	4.47	0.535
The commission gets support for social development initiatives that promote inclusivity of special interest groups in decision making.	1(1.6)	4 (6.5)	2 (3.2)	42 (67.7)	13 (21.0)	4.00	0.810

Source: Author (2024)

Note: *N* = 62, *SD* = *strongly Disagree*, *D* = *Disagree*, *NS* = *Not Sure*, *A* = *Agree*, *SA* = *Strongly Agree*, σ = *Standard Deviation*. **Weighted Average = 4.11**

According to table 4.8, 2% disagree, 47% agree, and 12% strongly agree on the commission attempts to build relationships with interest groups in the society to understand their concerns and contributions towards social development. Majority as well, 40% and 15% agree and strongly agree respectively on the use of campaign forums to champion for better policies. Most of them agreed that public participation has enabled the commission to get views from minority groups in the society as shown by the little standard deviation of 0.535. Many respondents, 55% agreed that the commission get support for social development initiatives that promote inclusivity of special interest groups in decision making.

4.5.5 To determine how identifying problems and generating solutions aids in creating public policies

Table 11: Descriptive analysis on issue identification and developing solutions

STATEMENT	SD (%)	D (%)	NS (%)	A (%)	SA (%)	MEAN	□
During policy formulation special interest groups try to understand the issues at hand and gather all the facts to assist in facilitating proper decision making.	1 (1.6)	4 (6.5)	6 (9.7)	33 (53.2)	18 (29.0)	4.02	0.896
Policy making institutions brainstorm with the National Gender and Equality Commission to come up with inclusive decisions.	0	1 (1.6)	4 (6.5)	32 (51.6)	25 (40.3)	4.31	0.667
Thorough research is done to ensure policy decisions do not disadvantage vulnerable persons in the society.	2 (3.2)	11 (17.7)	6 (9.7)	34 (54.8)	9 (14.5)	3.60	1.047
Proper investigation is done by the commission to ensure special interest groups are satisfied with policies set out by policy making institutions.	0	10 (16.1)	1 (1.6)	41 (66.1)	10 (16.1)	3.82	0.897

Source: Author (2024)

Note: $N = 62$, $SD =$ strongly Disagree, $D =$ Disagree, $NS =$ Not Sure, $A =$ Agree, $SA =$ Strongly Agree, $\square =$ Standard Deviation. Weighted Average = 4.11

According to table 4.9, 5% disagree, 51% agree, while 6% are not sure that all facts are usually gathered to public policy formulation. A large number of them conquer the national gender inequality commission brainstorms with other government institutions during public policy making. 34% agree and 9% strongly agree that's thorough research is done to ensure of special interest groups are not disadvantage during policy formulation.

4.6 Inferential Analysis

4.6.1 Test of Normality

The **Shapiro-Wilk test** is a statistical test used to assess whether a sample comes from a normally distributed population. For **sample sizes less than 100 ($N < 100$)**, this test is typically preferred over other normality tests, like the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test.

Significance Level (α): 0.05 (5%). This means that if the **p-value is less than 0.05**, we reject the null hypothesis.

Table 12: Shapiro-Wilk test of normality

Tests of Normality						
	Kolmogorov-Smirnov ^a			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.
Advocacy	.176	62	.000	.935	62	.003
Info_sharing	.200	62	.000	.916	62	.000
Public_support	.233	62	.000	.908	62	.000
Issues_solutions	.210	62	.000	.914	62	.000
Policy	.215	62	.000	.916	62	.000

Source: Author (2024)

Note: Advocacy = Advocacy, Info_sharing = Information sharing, Public_support = Building public support, Issues_solutions = Issue identification & developing solutions, Policy = Public policy Formulation, $H_{(0)}$ = Null Hypothesis, $H_{(1)}$ = Alternative Hypothesis

Key Coefficients Explained

- **Statistic (Shapiro-Wilk Statistic):**

The Shapiro-Wilk statistic measures the goodness of fit between the sample data and a normal distribution. Values closer to 1 indicate that the data is closer to being normally distributed.

Lower values suggest the data deviates from normality.

In your case, for all variables, the Shapiro-Wilk statistics are below 0.95, indicating some deviation from normality.

- **df (Degrees of Freedom):**

The degrees of freedom (df) indicate the sample size used in the test. In your case, it's 62, which reflects the number of observations or participants included in the test.

- **Sig. (p-value):**

The p-value tells you whether to reject or fail to reject the null hypothesis. If the p-value < 0.05 , it means there is enough evidence to reject the null hypothesis (H_0), suggesting that the data is not normally distributed.

For all variables, the p-values are less than 0.05, which means that you reject the null hypothesis for all of them. This leads to the conclusion that the data is not normally distributed for each of the five variables listed.

Conclusion

*Since all p-values for the Shapiro-Wilk test are **below 0.05**, we **reject the null hypothesis** for each variable.*

Interpretation: None of the variables—**Advocacy, Information Sharing, Public Support, Issue Identification & Solutions, and Policy Formulation**—are normally distributed.

Implication: Because the data does not follow a normal distribution, using non-parametric tests (like the Mann-Whitney U-test) is more appropriate for analyzing these variables. Nonparametric tests do not assume normality and are therefore suitable for this type of data.

**Note: The data was transformed into logarithms and re-tested in order to ascertain the data cannot be normalized.*

Non-parametric tests will be used in further analysis of the data.

4.6.2 Mann-Whitney U-test

The **Mann-Whitney U test** is a non-parametric test used to determine whether there is a significant difference between the distributions of **two independent samples**.

The Mann-Whitney U test was conducted to examine differences in responses between male and female respondents regarding various statements about policy formulation and the involvement of special interest groups. The results are summarized below.

For each statement, the following was tested:

(H₀): There is no difference in responses between male and female respondents regarding the given statement.

(H₁): There is a difference in responses between male and female respondents regarding the given statement.

Significance Level ○

p < 0.05 Results

1. Inclusion of Special Interest Groups During Policy Formulation

- **Mean Rank:** Males (33.95), Females (27.88)
- **Mann-Whitney U:** 372.000
- **Z:** -1.525
- **p:** .127
- **Conclusion:** There was no significant difference between male and female respondents' views on the organization's mobilization towards the inclusion of special interest groups during policy formulation. **Fail to reject H₀.**

2. Incorporation of Minority Groups' Views in Social Policy Formulation

- **Mean Rank:** Males (32.89), Females (29.44)
- **Mann-Whitney U:** 411.000
- **Z:** -0.786
- **p:** .432
- **Conclusion:** No significant difference was found in the perception of the incorporation of minority groups' views during social policy formulation between genders. **Fail to reject H₀.**

3. Lobbying and Platform for Special Interest Groups

- **Mean Rank:** Males (29.72), Females (34.14)

- **Conclusion**

- Mann-Whitney U:** 396.500

- Z:** -1.096

- **p:** .273

- **Conclusion:** The difference in views on lobbying giving special interest groups the ability and platform to air their views was not significant between males and females.

- Fail to reject H₀.**

4. Exchange of Ideas and Information Through the Commission

- **Mean Rank:** Males (31.69), Females (31.22)

- **Mann-Whitney U:** 455.500

- **Z:** -0.118

- **p:** .906

- **Conclusion:** There was no significant difference between genders on the perception of exchanging ideas and information through the commission. **Fail to reject H₀.**

5. Social Networking with Interest Groups Through Websites

- **Mean Rank:** Males (31.84), Females (31.00)

- **Mann-Whitney U:** 450.000

- **Z:** -0.199

○ ○

○ **p:** .842

: Male and female respondents did not significantly differ in their views on social networking with interest groups through websites and other platforms. **Fail to reject H₀.**

6. Information Sharing for Policy Feedback

○ **Mean Rank:** Males (30.91), Females (32.38)

○ **Mann-Whitney U:** 440.500

○ **Z:** -0.366

○ **p:** .715

○ **Conclusion:** No significant difference was found between genders regarding the commission's sharing of information to get feedback for policy formulation and review.

Fail to reject H₀.

7. Use of Mainstream and Social Media for Policy Contributions

○ **Mean Rank:** Males (33.16), Females (29.04)

○ **Mann-Whitney U:** 401.000

○ **Z:** -1.051

○ **p:** .293

- **Conclusion**

- **Conclusion:** The differences in views on the use of mainstream and social media to channel special interest groups' contributions were not significant between males and females. **Fail to reject H₀.**

8. Building Relationships with Interest Groups

Mean Rank: Males (32.04), Females (30.70)

Mann-Whitney U: 442.500

- **Z:** -0.384
- **p:** .701
- **Conclusion:** There was no significant difference between genders on the commission's attempts to build relationships with interest groups. **Fail to reject H₀.**

9. Campaign Forums for Better Decision Making

- **Mean Rank:** Males (32.68), Females (29.76)

- **Mann-Whitney U:** 419.000

- **Z:** -0.737

- **p:** .461

- **Conclusion:** The differences in views on campaign forums for better decision making were not significant between males and females. **Fail to reject H₀.**

10. Public Participation Enabling Minority Views

○ ○

○ **Mean Rank:** Males (31.01), Females (32.22)

○ **Mann-Whitney U:** 444.500

○ **Z:** -0.296

○ **p:** .767

: No significant difference was found between genders regarding public participation enabling the commission to get views from minority groups. **Fail to reject H₀.**

11. Support for Inclusivity in Decision Making

○ **Mean Rank:** Males (32.49), Females (30.04)

○ **Mann-Whitney U:** 426.000

○ **Z:** -0.635

○ **p:** .525

○ **Conclusion:** There was no significant difference between male and female respondents on the commission getting support for social development initiatives that promote inclusivity. **Fail to reject H₀.**

12. Policy Understanding and Fact Gathering

○ **Mean Rank:** Males (28.89), Females (35.36)

- **Conclusion**
- **Mann-Whitney U:** 366.000
- **Z:** -1.526
- **p:** .127
- **Conclusion:** The differences in views on policy understanding and fact gathering during formulation were not significant between genders. **Fail to reject H₀.**

13. Brainstorming with the National Gender and Equality Commission

Mean Rank: Males (32.30), Females (30.32)

Mann-Whitney U: 433.000

- **Z:** -0.474
- **p:** .635
- **Conclusion:** There was no significant difference in perceptions of brainstorming with the National Gender and Equality Commission to come up with inclusive decisions between genders. **Fail to reject H₀.**

14. Research Ensuring Non-Disadvantaged Policies

- **Mean Rank:** Males (30.11), Females (33.56)
- **Mann-Whitney U:** 411.000
- **Z:** -0.813

○ ○

○ **p:** .416

○ **Conclusion:** The differences in views on research ensuring policies do not disadvantage vulnerable persons were not significant between genders. **Fail to reject H₀.**

15. Investigation to Ensure Satisfaction with Policies

○ **Mean Rank:** Males (32.65), Females (29.80)

○ **Mann-Whitney U:** 420.000

○ **Z:** -0.728

○ **p:** .467

○ : There was no significant difference between male and female respondents on the commission's investigation to ensure special interest groups are satisfied with policies. **Fail to reject H₀.**

16. Inclusivity of Policies Covering Pertinent Issues

○ **Mean Rank:** Males (30.22), Females (33.40)

○ **Mann-Whitney U:** 415.000

○ **Z:** -0.892

○ **p:** .373

- **Conclusion**
- **Conclusion:** The differences in views on the inclusivity of policies covering all pertinent issues were not significant between genders. **Fail to reject H₀. 17. Financing Initiatives for Long-term Sustainability**
- **Mean Rank:** Males (30.22), Females (33.40)
- **Mann-Whitney U:** 415.000
- **Z:** -0.778
- **p:** .436
- **Conclusion:** No significant difference was found between genders regarding the financing of initiatives for long-term sustainability. **Fail to reject H₀. 18. Harmony of Policy Decisions with Society's Norms and Values**
- **Mean Rank:** Males (29.99), Females (33.74)
Mann-Whitney U: 406.500
- **Z:** -0.941
- **p:** .347
- **Conclusion:** There was no significant difference between male and female respondents on the harmony of policy decisions with society's norms and values. **Fail to reject H₀.**

Key Coefficients Explained

- i. **Mean Rank (Males and Females):**

o o

This is the average rank assigned to each group's responses. In the Mann-Whitney U test, the responses are ranked together, and then the ranks are separated by group (male vs. female). The mean rank gives an indication of whether one group tends to have higher (or lower) values in the sample.

For example, in the "Inclusion of Special Interest Groups During Policy Formulation" statement, the mean rank for males was **33.95**, while for females it was **27.88**. This suggests that, on average, males rated the statement slightly higher than females, though this difference may not be statistically significant.

ii. **Mann-Whitney U:**

The Mann-Whitney U statistic is the test's main output. It's a value calculated from the rank sums and is used to determine whether there is a difference in distribution between the two groups. The U statistic is compared against critical values in order to determine statistical significance. However, by itself, the U value is difficult to interpret without additional information (such as the p-value).

iii. **Z-score (Z):**

The Z-score is a standardized test statistic that tells you how far away your sample's result is from the null hypothesis (which assumes no difference between groups). It adjusts for sample size and allows comparison across different tests.

A Z-score near zero means there's little difference between the groups, while a Z-score far from zero indicates a larger difference. However, whether this difference is significant depends on the p-value. iv. **p-value (p):**

The p-value indicates the probability that the observed difference (or one more extreme) would occur if the null hypothesis were true (i.e., if there really is no difference between male and female responses).

***Note: Significance threshold :** Typically, if $p < 0.05$, the difference is considered statistically significant, meaning you would reject the null hypothesis (H_0) and conclude that there is a difference between male and female responses. For instance, in the "Inclusion of Special Interest Groups During Policy Formulation" statement, the p-value is 0.127, which is greater than 0.05. Therefore, you would fail to reject the null hypothesis, concluding there is no significant difference between male and female responses.

General Interpretation Across All Statements

□ **Mean Ranks:** In most cases, the mean ranks for males and females are close to each other, with no consistent pattern indicating that one gender consistently ranks higher or lower across all statements.

□ **Mann-Whitney U and Z-scores:** The U values vary across statements, but the Z-scores are mostly close to zero, indicating minimal differences between male and female responses. This is confirmed by the consistently **high p-values**.

□ **p-values:** All the p-values are **greater than the typical threshold of 0.05**, meaning none of the differences in responses between males and females are statistically significant.

There is **no significant difference between male and female respondents' views** on the statements about policy formulation and the involvement of special interest groups. The lack of significant differences suggests that both males and females share similar perceptions across these aspects.

** Note: Variables (Age range of respondent, Any form of disability, Respondent's ethnic community's population, Respondent considers themselves from a disadvantaged group, socially or economically) , were all tested using the Mann-Whitney U test and provided similar results suggesting no significant differences in responses, across the various statements regarding policy formulation and the involvement of special interest groups, between categories in either of these categorical variables.*

4.6.3 Spearman's rho Correlation

Table 13: Correlation analysis

Correlations					
			Advocacy	Info_sharing	Public_support
Spearman's rho	Advocacy	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.410**	.260*
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.001	.041
		N	62	62	62
	Info_sharing	Correlation Coefficient	.410**	1.000	.312*
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.	.014
		N	62	62	62

		N	62	62	62
	Public_support	Correlation Coefficient	.260*	.312*	1.000

	Sig. (2-tailed)	.041	.014	.
	N	62	62	62
Issues_solutions	Correlation Coefficient	.403**	.474**	.268*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.000	.035
	N	62	62	62
Policy	Correlation Coefficient	.231	.292*	.112
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.071	.021	.386
	N	62	62	62

Correlations

		Issues_solutions	Policy	
Spearman's rho	Advocacy	Correlation Coefficient	.403	.231**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.071
		N	62	62
	Info_sharing	Correlation Coefficient	.474**	.292
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.021
		N	62	62
	Public_support	Correlation Coefficient	.268*	.112*
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.035	.386

		N	62	62
	Issues_solutions	Correlation Coefficient	1.000**	.352**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.005
		N	62	62
	Policy	Correlation Coefficient	.352	1.000*
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.005	.
		N	62	62

Source: Author (2024)

Note: Advocacy = Advocacy, Info_sharing = Information sharing, Public_support = Building public support, Issues_solutions = Issue identification & developing solutions, Policy = Public policy Formulation.

Significance Levels

○ *p < .05 ○ **p

< .01

i.) To evaluate the influence of advocacy on creation of public policy

The report utilized the Spearman's Rho to test the relationship between advocacy and public policy formulation. There is a **positive non-significant correlation coefficient** ($\rho = 0.231$, $p = 0.071$). This may suggest that while advocacy is crucial for influencing public discourse and identifying issues, its direct influence on formal policy formulation may be limited.

The weak correlation between advocacy and policy formulation aligns with findings from

"*Advocacy and Policy Change: The Role of Strategic Campaigns*" by Keck, M. E., & Sikkink, K. (1998), who found that advocacy efforts can influence policy when combined with effective information dissemination and international alliances, but the correlation between advocacy and direct policy outcomes can be weak without these support mechanisms. This suggests that advocacy on its own may not directly lead to policy change without additional support from institutional or international actors. **ii) To ascertain how information sharing affects public policy formulation processes**

As shown in table 4.12, the relationship between information sharing and public policy formulation is a weak positive significant correlation ($\rho = 0.292$, $p = 0.021$). It suggests that strategic communication and the accessibility of information can have a notable impact on shaping policy formulation. This analysis is consistent with findings from "*Information, Politics, and Policy Formulation in the Digital Age*" by Chadwick, A., & May, C. (2017). Chadwick and May found a significant positive correlation between effective information dissemination (especially through digital platforms) and the likelihood of policy adoption, particularly in democracies where public opinion is influential. **iii) To ascertain how fostering public support impacts development of public policy**

The report utilized the Spearman's Rho to analyze the non-parametric correlation between building public support and public policy formulation, providing insights into the interconnection. As seen in table 4.12, there is a weak and non-significant correlation ($\rho = 0.112$, $p = 0.386$), suggesting that while public support may help surface key issues, its direct impact on policy outcomes is limited.

Burstein, P., & Linton, A. (2002) study on the relationship between public opinion and legislative policy outcomes across various issues in the U.S, titled "*Public Opinion and Policy Change: A Study of Public Support and Legislative Action*", found that public support alone does not guarantee policy change; rather, its impact is often filtered through political institutions and interest groups. This is in line with the findings and suggests that public opinion, while important, often requires additional advocacy or institutional support to influence actual policy decisions. **iv) To determine how identifying problems and generating solutions aids in creating public policies**

The report utilized the Spearman's Rho to analyze the non-parametric correlations between identifying problems and generating solutions in relation to public policy formulation, providing insight into the interconnection as shown in table 4.12.

A **moderate positive correlation** ($\rho = 0.352$, $p = 0.005$) indicates that identifying issues and developing solutions are positively associated with policy formulation. The significant correlation between issue identification and policy formulation in the current study is supported by findings from Stone, D. (2012) "*Problem Identification, Policy Formulation, and the Role of Advocacy in Environmental Policy*". Stone examined how the identification of issues and the development of practical solutions are pivotal to policy-making in the context of environmental regulations. The study found a strong correlation between issue framing and policy outcomes. Thus, when advocacy groups clearly articulate issues and propose viable solutions, they are more likely to see their concerns translated into policy outcomes.

4.6.4 Ordinal Regression

This test is used when the dependent variable is ordinal, meaning the categories have a natural order but the intervals between the categories are not necessarily equal.

**Note: Advocacy = Advocacy, Information_Sharing = Information sharing, Public_support = Building public support, Issues_solutions = Issue identification & developing solutions, Policy_formulation = Public policy Formulation, $H_{(0)}$ = Null Hypothesis, $H_{(1)}$ = Alternative Hypothesis*

$H_{(0)}$: Information sharing has no impact on the creation of public policies

$H_{(1)}$: Information sharing has a significant impact on the creation of public policies

$H_{(0)}$: Developing public support has no influence on the development of public policies

$H_{(1)}$: Developing public support has a significant influence on the development of public policies

$H_{(0)}$: Advocacy has no impact on the formulation of public policies

$H_{(1)}$: Advocacy has a significant impact on the formulation of public policies

$H_{(0)}$: Problem identification and solution development have no role in the development of public policies

$H_{(1)}$: Problem identification and solution development have a significant role in the development of public policies

Significance Level ○

$$p < 0.05$$

Summary of Key Findings

1. "All policies made are inclusive, extensive, and cover all pertinent issues across the board."

□ **Case Processing Summary:** A majority (74.2%) of respondents disagree with the statement.

- **Model Fitting Information:** The significant Chi-Square statistic indicates that the model with predictors is significantly better than the null model.

- **Goodness-of-Fit:** Pearson's Chi-Square is significant, indicating poor fit, but the deviance is non-significant, suggesting the model fits well overall.

- **Pseudo R-Square:** The model explains between 14.5% and 25.1% of the variance, which is relatively moderate.

- **Test of Parallel Lines:** The **non-significant** ($p = .387$) result suggests the proportional odds assumption is **not** violated.

- **Parameter Estimates:**
 - ✦ **Advocacy (Estimate = 1.074, $p = .226$) :** Advocacy shows a positive coefficient (1.074), but it is **not statistically significant** ($p = .226$). This suggests that advocacy has a positive but weak and insignificant effect on respondents' agreement that policies are comprehensive and inclusive. In practical terms, advocacy doesn't have a meaningful impact in this context.

 - ✦ **Information Sharing (Estimate = 1.748, $p = .032$) :** Information sharing has a positive and **statistically significant** coefficient (1.748, $p = .032$). This indicates that as information sharing increases, the likelihood of respondents agreeing that policies are inclusive and extensive also increases. It plays a **significant role** in shaping positive perceptions of policy comprehensiveness.

 - ✦ **Public Support (Estimate = -0.420, $p = .650$) :** The coefficient for public support is negative (-0.420) but **not significant** ($p = .650$), suggesting that public support

does not have a meaningful effect on respondents' views about whether policies are comprehensive.

- ✦ **Issues & Solutions (Estimate = 0.549, p = .462)** : Addressing issues and developing solutions has a positive but **non-significant** effect (0.549, p = .462). This means that while the direction is positive, it does not significantly influence perceptions of policy inclusiveness.

2. "Every initiative for policy change is well-financed to ensure long-term sustainability."

- **Case Processing Summary:** Most respondents (96.8%) disagreed.

-

Model Fitting Information: The Chi-Square statistic is non-significant, showing that the predictors don't improve the model.

- **Pseudo R-Square:** The model explains very little variance (1.1% to 2.2%).

-

Test of Parallel Lines: The test is **non-significant** (p = .499), suggesting the proportional odds assumption **holds**.

- **Parameter Estimates:**

- ✦ **Advocacy (Estimate = -0.120, p = .870)** : Advocacy has a **non-significant** negative coefficient (-0.120, p = .870), meaning it does not meaningfully impact perceptions about whether policy initiatives are well-funded. The negative sign suggests a weak association between advocacy and the belief that policies are financially sustainable.

- ✦ **Information Sharing (Estimate = 0.375, p = .540)** : Information sharing has a positive but **non-significant** effect (0.375, p = .540). This means that information

sharing does not significantly affect perceptions of policy initiatives being wellfinanced.

- ✦ **Public Support (Estimate = 0.476, p = .546)** : Public support has a small, positive, and **non-significant** effect (0.476, p = .546). This shows that public support does not significantly influence perceptions of financial sustainability for policy initiatives.
- ✦ **Issues & Solutions (Estimate = -0.215, p = .706)** : The effect of addressing issues and developing solutions is **negative and non-significant** (-0.215, p = .706). This suggests that addressing issues has little to no effect on perceptions of well-financed policy initiatives.



3. "Policy decisions made are in harmony with societal norms and values."

- **Case Processing Summary:** The majority (98.4%) either agree or strongly agree.
- **Model Fitting Information:** The Chi-Square statistic is marginally non-significant.
- **Goodness-of-Fit:** Both Pearson's and deviance chi-square values indicate a good fit.
- **Pseudo R-Square:** The model explains 9.3% to 16.6% of the variance.
- **Test of Parallel Lines** : The **non-significant** (p = .911) result suggests the proportional odds assumption is **not** violated.
- **Parameter Estimates:**

- ✦ **Advocacy (Estimate = 0.177, p = .826)** : Advocacy has a small, positive, but **non-significant** coefficient (0.177, p = .826), indicating that it has no meaningful impact on perceptions that policies align with societal norms.
- ✦ **Information Sharing (Estimate = 0.004, p = .995)** : The coefficient for information sharing is almost zero (0.004) and **non-significant** (p = .995). This suggests that information sharing does not influence perceptions of harmony between policies and societal values.
- ✦ **Public Support (Estimate = -0.010, p = .990)** : Public support has a near-zero and **non-significant** effect (-0.010, p = .990), indicating no meaningful relationship between public support and perceptions of policies being in line with societal norms.
- ✦ **Issues & Solutions (Estimate = 1.448, p = .024)** : This coefficient is **positive and statistically significant** (1.448, p = .024), indicating that addressing issues and developing solutions significantly **increases** the likelihood that respondents will agree that policy decisions align with societal norms. This is a key driver in this context.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter focusses on the summary of the findings, recommendations and conclusion. It also contains reflections on the research result, possible improvement and recommendation for various stakeholders.

The findings were concerned with the role played by special interest groups in public policy formulation in the National Gender and Equality Commission. The study was guided by the objectives of determining the effect of advocacy, information sharing, building public support, identifying and developing solutions in public policy formulation.

5.2 Summary of the findings

Advocacy shows generally positive but non-significant effects across all models, indicating it does not have a strong influence on policy outcomes. Dür and Mateo (2013) argue that advocacy alone is often insufficient to influence policy change, especially without lobbying or institutional backing. Their study, "Gaining Access or Going Public? Interest Group Strategies in Five European Countries" (Dür & Mateo, 2013), found that while advocacy plays a role, it is often not enough to significantly affect policy decisions without strategic alliances or public mobilization.

Information sharing has a significant and positive effect, meaning it is crucial for policy inclusiveness and comprehensiveness but does not significantly impact other aspects of policy perceptions. Fung, Graham, and Weil (2007) in their study "Full Disclosure: The Perils and Promise of Transparency" discuss how information sharing improves policy decisions by

enhancing transparency and public engagement. This aligns with the finding that more extensive information sharing can lead to better-informed, more inclusive policy formulation.

Public support has non-significant effects across all models, suggesting that it does not have a direct or strong influence on the studied policy outcomes. Burstein (2003) in "The Impact of Public Opinion on Public Policy" noted that while public opinion is an essential element of democracy, its direct influence on policy can be weak. He found that public opinion often needs to be combined with advocacy and elite support to produce meaningful policy changes, reflecting the nonsignificant effects found in this analysis.

Identifying issues & Solutions is significant, showing that focusing on societal issues and solutions helps align policies with societal norms and values. Ingram, Schneider, and DeLeon (2007) in "Social Construction and Policy Design" discuss how issue framing and solution development are crucial in ensuring that policy aligns with societal values. Their work highlights how developing practical solutions that resonate with societal norms significantly impacts policy acceptance and effectiveness.

5.2.1: To evaluate the influence of advocacy on public policy formulation

Descriptive analysis was used to analyse responses and frequencies, as well as the mean and standard deviation. The results showed that 61.3% of respondents agreed that organizations mobilize towards the inclusion of special interest groups during policy making, while 35.5% strongly agreed. Lobbying was also a significant factor in giving special interest groups the platform to air their views. 58.1% of officials agreed and 38.7% strongly disagreed with this fact,

indicating the organization's seriousness in lobbying to ensure the inclusion of special interest groups in public policy formulation.

The Spearman's Rho test was used to analyse the non-parametric correlation between variables, indicating a positive but not statistically significant relationship between advocacy and policy formulation. The correlation coefficient ($\rho = 0.231$, $p = 0.071$) indicated a positive but not statistically significant relationship between advocacy and policy formulation.

The Mann-Whitney U test was conducted to examine differences in responses between male and female respondents regarding various statements about policy formulation and the involvement of special interest groups. The results showed no significant difference between male and female respondents' views on the organization's mobilization towards the inclusion of special interest groups during policy formulation. No significant difference was found in the perception of the incorporation of minority groups' views during social policy formulation between genders. In terms of lobbying giving special interest groups the ability and platform to air their views, the difference in views was not significant between males and females. Overall, the Mann-Whitney U tests did not reveal any significant differences between male and female respondents' views across the various statements regarding advocacy in relation to policy formulation and the involvement of special interest groups. These findings suggest that gender does not significantly influence perceptions in these areas.

Variables such as age range, any form of disability, respondent's ethnic community's population, and respondent's consideration of themselves from a disadvantaged group, socially or economically, were all tested using the Mann-Whitney U test and provided similar results suggesting no significant differences in responses across the various statements regarding policy

formulation and the involvement of special interest groups between categories in either of these categorical variables.

5.2.2: To ascertain how information sharing affects public policy formulation

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) plays a significant role in public policy formulation, with the majority of officials agreeing that interest groups can exchange ideas and information on social welfare through the commission. 34% of respondents and 17% strongly agree that the commission socially networks with interest groups through websites and other platforms to get their input on social policy decisions. The commission shares information in an attempt to get feedback with a little deviance of 0.682. The majority, 55%, agree and strongly agree with the use of mainstream and social media to connect with special interest groups and get the input.

The report also utilized Spearman's Rho to analyse the non-parametric correlation between variables, finding a weak positive correlation ($\beta = 0.292, \alpha = 0.021$) suggesting a significant relationship between information sharing and policy formulation. A weak positive correlation ($\beta = 0.292, \alpha = 0.021$) signifies a significant relationship between information sharing and policy formulation, suggesting that increased information sharing is associated with better policy formulation.

The Mann-Whitney U test was conducted to examine differences in responses between male and female respondents regarding various statements about policy formulation and the involvement of special interest groups. The results showed no significant difference between genders regarding the commission's sharing of information for policy feedback or the use of mainstream and social media for policy contributions.

In terms of building relationships with interest groups, there was no significant difference between genders on the commission's attempts to do so. Overall, the Mann-Whitney U tests did not reveal any significant differences between male and female respondents' views across the various statements regarding policy formulation and the involvement of special interest groups, suggesting that gender does not significantly influence perceptions in these areas.

5.2.3: To assess how fostering public support impacts public policy formulation

The study conducted a descriptive analysis to analyse the responses of a commission on social development. The results showed that 2% disagreed, 47% agreed, and 12% strongly agreed on the commission's efforts to build relationships with interest groups in society to understand their concerns and contributions towards social development. The majority also agreed on the use of campaign forums to champion for better policies. Most respondents agreed that public participation has enabled the commission to get views from minority groups in society.

The Spearman's Rho was used to analyse the non-parametric correlation between building public support and public policy formulation. A weak positive correlation ($\rho = 0.292$, $p = 0.024$) signifies a significant relationship between information sharing and policy formulation, suggesting that increased information sharing is associated with better policy formulation.

The Mann-Whitney U test was used to examine differences in responses between male and female respondents regarding various statements about policy formulation and the involvement of special interest groups. The results showed no significant difference between genders on the perception of exchanging ideas and information through the commission.

Male and female respondents did not significantly differ in their views on social networking with interest groups through websites and other platforms. No significant difference was found between genders regarding the commission's sharing of information to get feedback for policy formulation and review.

The differences in views on the use of mainstream and social media for policy contributions were not significant between males and females. Overall, the Mann-Whitney U tests did not reveal any significant differences between male and female respondents' views across the various statements regarding policy formulation and the involvement of special interest groups. These findings suggest that gender does not significantly influence perceptions in these areas.

Variables such as age range, any form of disability, respondent's ethnic community's population, and respondent's consideration of themselves from a disadvantaged group, socially or economically, were all tested using the Mann-Whitney U test and provided similar results suggesting no significant differences in responses across the various statements regarding policy formulation and the involvement of special interest groups between categories in either of these categorical variables.

5.2.4: To determine how identifying problems and generating solutions aids in public policy formulation

The descriptive analysis of responses to policy formulation and the involvement of special interest groups was conducted. The results showed that 5% disagree, 51% agree with comma, and 6% are not sure that all facts are usually gathered during public policy formulation. A large number of respondents believe that the National Gender and Equality Commission brainstorms with other government institutions during public policy making to come up with inclusive decisions. 34% agree, and 9% strongly agree that thorough research is done to ensure special interest groups are not disadvantages during policy formulation.

The Spearman's Rho was used to analyse non-parametric correlations between identifying problems and generating solutions in relation to public policy formulation. The correlation coefficient showed a positive but non-significant relationship between public support and policy formulation.

The Mann-Whitney U test was used to examine differences in responses between male and female respondents regarding various statements about policy formulation and the involvement of special interest groups. The results showed no significant difference in views on policy understanding and fact gathering during formulation between genders.

Brainstorming with the National Gender and Equality Commission was also found to be a common practice among policy-makers. However, there was no significant difference in perceptions of brainstorming with the commission to come up with inclusive decisions.

Research ensuring non-disadvantaged policies was also found to be a common practice among policy-makers. There was no significant difference between male and female respondents on the commission's investigation to ensure satisfaction with policies.

In conclusion, the study found no significant differences in views on policy understanding, fact gathering, brainstorming with the commission, research ensuring non-disadvantaged policies, or investigation to ensure satisfaction with policies between genders.

5.3 Conclusion

The study shows that as much as the national gender and equality Commission engages in advocacy, information sharing, building public support and identifying solutions for policy formulation, most of these efforts do not reflect when it comes to policymaking. However, some of these variables such as identifying problems and developing solutions have led to better policy formulation. When it comes to policy comprehensiveness, information sharing has shown positive effect when there is negative effect on all variables when it comes to well financed policy formulation.

However, fostering information sharing, identifying issues and providing solutions show positive effect on ensuring all policies conformed with the country's laws, norms and beliefs. Overall

assessment indicates, advocacy information sharing, building public support, identifying of issues and developing solutions determine the quality of policies formed in the policy formulation process.

5.3 Recommendation

5.3.1: To evaluate the influence of advocacy on public policy formulation

Advocacy has shown a positive effect towards public policy formulation but the effect is not very significant. The National Gender and Equality Commission should put more effort towards mobilization of special interest groups to participate and partake in the policy process. Advocacy is process of undertaking active interventions with the explicit goal of influencing government policy. Special interest groups through NGECE should work on the process of negotiating and mediating a dialogue through which influential networks, opinion leaders, and ultimately, decision makers to take ownership of the ideas, evidence, and proposals, and subsequently act upon them. Mobilization and lobbying creates idea of the transfer of ownership of core ideas and thinking. In essence, this implies preparing decision makers and opinion leaders for the next policy window or even pushing them to open one in order to take action. If advocates do their job well, decision makers will take the ideas that have been put forward and make changes to the current policy approach in line with that thinking. Such efforts in advocacy will promote the inclusion of special interest groups in public policy formulation

5.3.2: To ascertain how information sharing affects public policy formulation processes

The research shows that the information sharing positively affects public policy formulation especially by promoting inclusiveness and comprehensiveness. Information sharing is a very important component of public policy formulation since it forms the basis for public participation. NGECE can promote information sharing by organising meetings and verbal knowledge sharing

forums. However, due to the social media and digital media uptake in Kenya, digital spaces will prove more helpful than use of verbal information sharing.

Use of social media, mainstream media and others forms of digital media gives a bigger platform to access and reach more people in the special interest groups category and thus allow them to be part of the conversation on ongoing government actions and areas of policy making and review. IT will also provide comprehensive databases that will aid policymakers and actors on the policy processes in the formulation of policies. This would help to facilitate improved planning, budgeting and overall decision-making & management by increasing access to relevant data at all levels of implementation.

5.3.3: To access how fostering public support impacts public policy formulation

Building public support showed non-significant effects on public policy Building public support needs to be combined with advocacy in order to bring meaningful impact. Building public support can be encouraged by use of campaigns and public participation. NGEK should engage stakeholders early and explain policy changes and initiatives in detail, using plain language. Building public support ensures they maintain transparency with the primary goal of building public trust for better governance.

Public support means that special interest groups can apply more pressure to politicians and officials. It will allow the community to take ownership of the issue, making it more likely not only that it will be dealt with, but that it will continue to be dealt with over the long term. Once the issue is in the community consciousness, it won't disappear.

5.3.4: To determine how identifying problems and generating solutions aids in public policy formulation

The research has shown that identifying a problem and coming up with solutions by special interest groups positively affects public policy formulation. It makes the policies more effective and encourages social acceptance. This therefore means that special interest groups through the National Gender and Equality Commission should engage more in identifying societal problems that need policy change by brainstorming and researching more. This will help in not only identifying problems but also assist in coming up with solutions to address those problems. This makes special interest groups part of the policy making process.

Issue identification and definition is the first stage of the policy cycle and involves problem identification and diagnosis. Issues for policymaking can be identified proactively or they can be identified reactively, where a gap or problem arises. The participation of special interest groups in this stage of public policy formulation is very important and can thus be enhanced through brainstorming and researching.

5.4 Recommendation for further research

The present study was confined to the National Gender and Equality Commission which acts as an umbrella body that represents all special interest groups. This mean that the researcher could not test specific interest groups adequately. Further research should be done by narrowing down to specific interest groups such as women, youth, persons disabilities and minority and marginalised groups. This will help to assess each group individually and their role towards policy formulation.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Letter of Introduction

Dear Sir/Madam

I'm Doreen Cherotich, a Kenyan graduate student at Mount Kenya University. My university administration has given me the go-ahead to do research. In order to meet the requirements for the qualification, I am now gathering data. It will be necessary for me to administer questionnaires created in your facility in order to gain some insights and, at the same time, to

kindly support my research proposal on the study titled "Contribution of special interest groups in public policy formulation in the National Gender and Equality Commission."

Your company has been selected as a representative of my sample demographic. I'm writing to ask for permission to fill out the questionnaire at your organization. It will take you about 20 minutes to complete all of the components of the questionnaire, which are divided into different time slots. To the best of your knowledge and in the sincerest manner possible, please respond to the questions. As the study will solely be conducted for academic purposes, there won't be any advantages or victimization from taking part. We will treat the confidentiality of either your identity or the identity of the facility with respect.

Your thoughtfulness will be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Doreen Cherotich



Informed Consent Form

My name is Doreen Cherotich. I am a student pursuing a master's degree in Public Administration and Management. The research project I'm working on is called "**ASSESSMENT OF SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS IN PUBLIC POLICY FORMULATION IN THE NATIONAL GENDER AND EQUALITY COMMISSION.**" The purpose of the study is to assess how public

policy affects people and how well special interest groups use direct and indirect lobbying tactics. In order to fully analyse the function of special interest groups in the development of public policy, this study will explore the theoretical background as well as the empirical literature. **Procedures to be followed**

I will need to give you both quantitative and qualitative questionnaires to complete in order to assess your involvement in the procedures involved in the creation of public policy if you want to participate in this study. For analysis, I'll put the data on a Likert scale.

Voluntarism

You are free to decline taking part in this research. Remember that this study is completely volunteer, and your participation is completely voluntary. Anytime you have inquiries concerning the study, please do so. You have the right to end the interview at any moment and to decline to answer any questions. Additionally, you can leave the study at any moment without facing any repercussions either now or in the future.

Discomforts

You can decide to decline or disregard some of the questions if you find them to be too awkward, personal, or upsetting. Additionally, you can end the interview at any moment. **Confidentiality**

The interviews will take place in a discreet atmosphere in your offices or wherever you feel most at ease. The questionnaire will not contain your name. At Mount Kenya University, the surveys

will be stored in a closed cabinet for security. All information will be kept confidential and shared solely with the research study team.

Contact Information

If you have any questions about the study, call my supervisor or Post Graduate Coordinator, Nairobi Campus, Dr. Isaac Mokono Abuga on telephone number +254 720 062505.

Participant's Statement

I understand the information above about my involvement in the study. I've been given an explanation of the study, given the opportunity to ask questions, and had satisfactory answers to my questions. I willingly choose to participate in this study in full. I am aware that I can withdraw from the study at any moment and that my records will be kept confidential.


Name: - _____ Designation: - _____

Signature: - _____ Date: - _____

Investigator's Statement

I, the undersigned, have explained to the participant in a language s/he understands, the procedures, and the reasons for this study.

Name of Interviewer: - **Doreen Cherotich**

Signature: - 

Date: - 14/03/2024

Appendix II: Questionnaire for special interest groups officials.

Statements in this questionnaire refer to "the contribution of special interest groups in formulation of public policy": a case study of the National Gender and Equality Commission.

Please provide the most accurate answers you can to the following questions.

SECTION A: GENERAL/DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

1. Please specify your gender.

- a) Male
- b) Female

2. What age range do you fall under?

- a) Under 35
- b) 36-45
- c) 46-55
- d) Above 56

3. Do you have any form of disability?

- a) Yes
- b) No

4. How would you categorize your ethnic community's population?

- a) Large
- b) Small

5. Do you consider yourself to come from a disadvantaged group socially or economically?
- a) Yes
 - b) No

SECTION B: ADVOCACY

Please rate how much you agree or disagree with the statements below on "the role of special interest groups in the development of public policy in the National Gender and Equality

Commission." The evaluation is on a scale of 1 to 5. **Where, 1= strongly Disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Not Sure, 4=Agree, 5=Strongly Agree.**

STATEMENT	SD	D	NS	A	SA
	1	2	3	4	5
The organization mobilizes towards the inclusion of special interest groups during policy formulation.					
All minority groups are engaged to incorporate their views during social policy formulation.					
Lobbying gives special interest groups the ability and platform to air their views.					

SECTION C: INFORMATION SHARING

Please rate how much you agree or disagree with the statements below on "the role of special interest groups in the development of public policy in the National Gender and Equality

Commission." The evaluation is on a scale of 1 to 5. **Where, 1= strongly Disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Not Sure, 4=Agree, 5=Strongly Agree.**

STATEMENT	SD	D	NS	A	SA
	1	2	3	4	5
Through the commission, special interest groups are able to exchange ideas and information on social welfare that will aid in decision making.					
The commission through its departments socially network with interest groups through websites and other platforms to get input for social policy decisions.					
The commission shares information with interest groups in an attempt to get feedback for policy formulation and review.					
Use of mainstream and social media allows special interest groups to channel their contributions and concerns towards proper policy making.					

SECTION D: BUILDING PUBLIC SUPPORT

Please rate how much you agree or disagree with the statements below on "the role of special interest groups in the development of public policy in the National Gender and Equality

Commission." The evaluation is on a scale of 1 to 5. **Where, 1= strongly Disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Not Sure, 4=Agree, 5=Strongly Agree.**

STATEMENT	SD 1	D 2	NS 3	A 4	SA 5
The commission attempts to build relationships with interest groups in the society to understand their concerns and contributions towards social development.					
Special interest groups engage in campaign forums to champion for better decision making on disadvantaged members of the community.					
Public participation has enabled the commission to get views from minority groups in the society.					
The commission gets support for social development initiatives that promote inclusivity of special interest groups in decision making.					

SECTION E: ISSUE IDENTIFICATION & DEVELOPING SOLUTIONS

Please rate how much you agree or disagree with the statements below on "the role of special interest groups in the development of public policy in the National Gender and Equality

Commission." The evaluation is on a scale of 1 to 5. **Where, 1= strongly Disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Not Sure, 4=Agree, 5=Strongly Agree.**

STATEMENT	SD	D	NS	A	SA
	1	2	3	4	5
During policy formulation special interest groups try to understand the issues at hand and gather all the facts to assist in facilitating proper decision making.					
Policy making institutions brainstorm with the National Gender and Equality Commission to come up with inclusive decisions.					
Thorough research is done to ensure policy decisions do not disadvantage vulnerable persons in the society.					
Proper investigation is done by the commission to ensure special interest groups are satisfied with policies set out by policy making institutions.					

SECTION F: PUBLIC POLICY FORMULATION

Please rate how much you agree or disagree with the statements below on development of public policy in the National Gender and Equality Commission. The evaluation is on a scale of 1 to 5.

Where, 1= strongly Disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Not Sure, 4=Agree, 5=Strongly Agree.

STATEMENT	SD	D	NS	A	SA
	1	2	3	4	5
All policies made are all inclusive, extensive and covers all pertinent issues across the board.					

Every initiative for policy change is well financed to ensure long term sustainability.					
Policy decisions made are in harmony with the society's norms and values.					



Mount Kenya University



DIRECTORATE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MPAM/2021/40270

2nd April, 2024

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

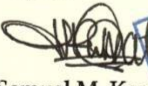
RE: DOREEN CHEROTICH - REGISTRATION NO. MPAM/2021/40270

The purpose of this letter is to introduce the above named student who is pursuing **Master of Arts in Public Administration and Management** in the department of **Management** in the school of **Business and Economics**.

The title of the research is "**Assessment of Special Interest Groups in Public Policy Formulation in The National Gender and Equality Commission.**" 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 **April, 2024 and June, 2024.**

Any assistance accorded to the student will be highly appreciated.

Thank you.


Dr. Samuel M. Karenga, B.A.
Director, Graduate Studies
Enc.

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



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Ref No: 719138

Date of Issue: 29/April/2024

RESEARCH LICENSE



This is to Certify that Miss.. Doreen Cherotich 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 Nairobi on the topic: ASSESSMENT OF SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS IN PUBLIC POLICY FORMULATION IN THE NATIONAL GENDER AND EQUALITY COMMISSION for the period ending : 29/April/2025.

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