

**FACTORS INFLUENCING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION
IN CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND PROJECTS.
A CASE OF AKIRANGONDU LOCATION, IGEMBE
CENTRAL CONSTITUENCY, MERU COUNTY IN KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

People's participation can have a powerful positive role in the success of a development policy. Specifically women, who have been excluded from development initiatives for long time due to cultural and other factors have vast role to play in rural development projects. However, little information on the factors influencing women participation in Constituency Development Fund projects is available in Akirangodu location Igembe Central Constituency. Therefore, the study sought to establish the factors influencing women participation in Constituency Development Fund projects, establish nature of women's participation in CDF projects, establish the impact of CDF projects on women, and to find out the role of women in CDF activities in Akirangodu location. Descriptive research design was used to yield quantitative and qualitative data which is required in this study. Purposive sampling procedures were used to draw a sample of 50 respondents from 5000 women in location and 10 key informants especially those involved in the management of CDF projects. The data collected by questionnaire and interview methods was analyzed by descriptive statistics. The study established women assigned manual work, women are active participants in the CDF project activities, and that education level, cultural factors, and training affect women participation in CDF projects in the location. Recommended that emphasis should be laid on governance roles assigned to women and the government need to address constraints to women's participation in development projects.