



FACTORS INFLUENCING WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN DONOR FUNDED PROJECTS IN KENYA: A CASE OF LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS IN MWINGI CENTRAL SUB-COUNTY, KITUI COUNTY

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Abstract

In Kenya, a few donors funded livelihood projects have either crumpled halfway or they have not profited the planned beneficiaries. This brings up issues regarding whether or not non-participation of women in conceptualizing and executing the projects may be the reason. This study assessed the factors that may influence the participation of women in donor funded livelihood projects using a case of Mwingi Central Sub-County, Kitui County, Kenya. The objectives of the study were to assess how women leadership, reproductive roles, customary norms and women literacy levels may influence their participation in donor funded projects. The study utilized a descriptive study and the study's population involved seventeen women donor funded livelihood projects in Mwingi Central Sub County with the unit of study being project managers, project supervisors and project chairpersons. The study carried out a census of the 17 women donor funded projects in the six wards in Mwingi Central Sub County. The study utilized primary data information collected through questionnaires which were dropped and picked from the purposefully targeted respondents after fourteen days. The study further conducted interview schedules to 49 beneficiaries across the 17 projects. The study findings revealed that there is minimal participation of women in developmental activities particularly in productive resource ownership, decision

making, leadership and access to education. Therefore, there is need for more sensitization to the relevant stakeholders on the importance of educating a woman and the need for women inclusiveness in developmental activities.

Keywords: women participation, Donor funded Projects, women leadership, reproductive roles, customary norms, women literacy levels

INTRODUCTION

Women around the world are instrumental in playing a major role in poverty reduction by ensuring there are various diversified implementation of livelihood projects. (Jaka and Shava, 2018). However, women are majority hard hit by global financial constraints which limit their spending plans with majority of women living in extreme poverty. This is demonstrated by every family unit with statistics showing that the most vulnerable and the most powerless are women and young girls because of their long lasting hardship in education, health, insurance, cover, decision making, and access to assets and rights (Rashid et al 2008). Thus, in an attempt to achieve women empowerment and emancipation, various donor organizations have put women empowerment plan with an objective of promoting gender equality (Yang, 2012).

Livelihood projects which are donor funded are viewed essential due to their financial and job creation opportunity and delivery of community public service (Okech and Lelegwe, 2016). In all regions of the world, Women empowerment and development is significantly influenced by donors especially in situations where there is limitation of state funds, fluidity in politics, rampant ethnic conflict and lastly the index of per capital income deters women from purchase of essential goods and services (Coe, 2009). Donor funding has been a prevalent strategy adopted by many third world countries in alleviating poverty among women over the past years (Akerkar, 2011). Livelihood projects funded by donors are geared towards comprehensive activities and programs which are meant to raising the living standards of poor people at national and regional level (Coe, 2009).

However, various gender based challenges influence individual and household decisions around women's participation and the effect of this participation on donor funded projects (Fallavier, 2012). In Bangladeshi, predominant social and financial conditions, women are exposed to basic segregation, for example, access to and authority over assets, property rights, access to business opportunity and low representation in political circle (Tanjeela and Rutherford, 2018). In Africa specifically, Women remain marginalized due to their voluntary Labour for development which makes their socio-economic contribution to be unrecognized. (Ndambiri, 2018).

The phenomenon of gender empowerment and equality has an issue of concern in Kenya. However, Kenyan deep social and cultural conditions deter them from engaging in community development projects (Iddy & Kisimbii, 2018). Nonetheless, Kenya as a country has made great efforts to entrench gender equity policies in public management positions, but there have been challenges derailing operationalization of the gender policies (Wambu, 2017). NGOs have become basic to the accomplishment of women improvement ventures, in both their front work and through their campaigning activism. They have made remarkable commitments to changing and changing enactment, arrangement and open judgments. The push for women women rights to access to equal economic opportunities still remains a women prerogative (Magero and Muchelule, 2019). A large portion of projects in Kenyan which are donor funded deal with women related issues and social improvement attempts, which are generally executed by non-legislative associations (Shigoli, 2018). However, despite various intervention by donors, religious organizations, NGOs and other organization, poverty levels and marginalization among women in Mwingi is considerably high which led to the research on investigating the factors that influence women participation in projects which are donor funded.

Statement of the Problem

Women's voice is a crucial factor for highlighting women's concerns in livelihood and also in promoting women's interests both at the local level and within the national policy making processes (Nazneen, 2012). As such, women conference was organized by United Nations in Mexico to spearhead inclusion of women in major decision making process. Nonetheless, at national and local level women are unable to participate in decision making which makes it hard to get involved in development initiatives and policy formulation in many countries in the world (Adam, Muturi & Samantar, 2018). A UN report in 2015 indicated that 50% of world comprises of women however their economic, social and political status is low compared to that of men in developing countries (Mohajan, Uddin & Reyad, 2019). To date, unequal economic opportunities has made women to be ranked 70% of the world poorest gender (Bayeh, 2016). Furthermore, women involvement in utilization of resources at formal and informal remains insignificant (Okumagba, 2016).

Most of community development projects have been donor funded in Kenya for more than 35 years however; statistics indicate that despite operating for those years it is not clear whether the donor-funded projects benefit women (Ngatia & Kihara, 2018). Most women donor funded livelihood projects in Kenya have been faced by a number of challenges which are both external and internal leading to immature failure of the projects (Shigoli, 2018). Several women donor funded livelihood projects in Kenya have either collapsed midway or they have not

benefited the intended beneficiaries raising questions as to whether low women participation in conceptualizing and executing the projects might be the cause (Ochieng, 2016). In Mwingi Central Sub County for instance, most donor-funded projects are faced with issues of record keeping, transparency, accounting and lack of enough time dedication thus most of the projects having little and non-substantial impact on women. Some of the livelihood projects have low women ownership levels and have not achieved the intended levels of sustainability despite the NGO and government intervention on policy frameworks and sensitization initiatives towards participation of community projects. This necessitated a study on the factors that may influence the participation of women in donor funded livelihood projects in Mwingi Central Sub-County, Kitui, Kenya.

Objectives of the study

- i. To determine the extent to which women leadership may influence their participation in donor funded livelihood projects in Mwingi Central.
- ii. To assess the extent to which reproductive roles may influence women participation in donor funded livelihood projects in Mwingi Central.
- iii. To establish the extent to which customary norms may influence women participation in donor funded livelihood projects in Mwingi Central.
- iv. To determine the extent to which women literacy levels may influence their participation in donor funded livelihood projects in Mwingi Central.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The women in development (WID) theory was conceptualized by Boserup in (1970) and was developed on the ideology that the societies in the traditional set up are dominated by men and authoritarian and that current social orders in the society are majority rule and populist. The supposition was that if society gets current, then the disparities will gradually decrease (Moser, 2012). WID perspective has a greater focus on productive spheres of life and underpinned on the women's need to access income generative activities. As indicated by the hypothesis, women association into aggregated groupings is much elevated so as to build womens bartering power in the predominant financial framework (Välimaa, 2004). The WID approach advocates for increment of local women's inclusion in the market economy and project work (Jaquette, 2017).

The Gender and Development (GAD) theory arose in the late 1980s and was conceptualized by Sen and Grown (1987) as a pre-Beijing viewpoint in light of the failure and gaps in women and developed (WID) way to deal with and change the lives of women and

impact more extensive advancement plan (Azuh et al., 2017). GAD intends to take gender issues at the social relations and connections among women and men, and the unique circumstances and developments of masculinities and femininities (Sarker, 2006). GAD amends the presumption that women in third world countries are a homogenous group and declares that women in all circumstances are partitioned by components of class, race, and faith, it centers around the strategies and mechanism that provided for ascending to women burdened position and opens the entryway for women as significant actors in political, economic and financial matters (Zanza, 2015).

The Empowerment approach radiated from Kabeer in (1986) as a moderately new methodology in women and development talk. The approach perceives the imbalance among people but also additionally underscores that women have a diversely subordinate position dependent on race, class, and frontier historic and economic circumstance of their nation (Välilmaa, 2004). The theory assumes that it is essential to change the force balance in the general public so as to give more capacity to women and it isn't by dis-empowering men. The empowerment approach is a methodology that targets helping women to pick up the power they require for breaking the relations of reliance (Tasli, 2007). Women need to figure out how to confide in their own aptitudes and capacities to have the option to impact their own lives and their situation in the general public (Rahman, 2013).

Participation in Donor Funded Livelihood Projects

Participation is viewed as a means by which the community members are allowed to express their opinions and also take part in issues that concern their day to day lives (Akerkar, 2011). Participation is also termed as ensuring that have a role in designing and implementing development intervention. The best way to define participation specifically is to taking part in decision-making process (Mohajan, Uddin & Reyad, 2019). Gender participation has a lens on how better women's issues are taken up in the political space and mechanisms that can be employed to increase women's involvement in the project work (Eneji et al ,2015).

Donor funded livelihood projects assume a key role towards the advancement of development that would take the legislature or its institution relatively longer time to create. The greater part of the livelihood projects is in both reducing food insecurity and agrarian advancement in African continent and globally as well. These project donation funds are more often than not, if not always, given by Western donation agencies (Lelegwe, 2015). Donor funded livelihood projects positively affects growth of projects with participatory and accountable systems and policies in Kenya (Ochieng, 2016). The major factor that influences responsibility

and ownership for donor funded livelihood projects is beneficiaries participation levels (Akerkar, 2011).

Taking part in decision making process enables project beneficiaries to influence the donors decisions in greater and mensurable ways (Eneji et al, 2015). Participation is seen as developmental and makes sure that the the participants opinions are at the center of decision making process. The major assumptions of being fully involved in project activities is that the beneficiaries will own the project and become supportive to all the initiatives and activities, and increasing the project sustainability and success at large, if the beneficiaries make inputs in the planning and decision making process (Iddy & Kisimbii, 2018).

Women Leadership and their participation in Donor Funded Livelihood Projects

Women's interest and representation in authority in dynamic forums at each level and in each division are consequently crucial to eliminate gender-based poverty. Not only is women's representation in leadership fundamental and essential in mitigation and handling gender-based imbalance, but its also a fundamental women right (Hoare and Gell, 2008). Providing focused and specific training to women who need to accept places of authority is a method among many of empowering more girls and women to impact dynamic project planning process (Abbott and Malunda, 2015).

Women investment in projects is enormously debilitated by lack of leadership and initiative, the participation of project management is impeded by failure to take the leadership mantle by women (Eneji et al, 2015). According to Minhas, Rizvi and Druzca (2018) providing leadership skills and opportunities for women is effective in initiating social change. Additional activities such as social empowerment, capacity building with market linkages, and governance awareness proved to be successful for the empowerment of women, is there is a woman leader in the forefront. Jaka and Shava (2018) study on execution of women projects towards the economic capacity strengthening of the women in Zimbabwe through a case study approach revealed that women lacked effective leadership and project management skills.

Hoare and Gell (2008) notes that despite different ways of advancing gender balance informal structures of leadership, women keep on being under-represented in every aspect of dynamic and face noteworthy hindrances to their full participation and organization in the institutions that oversee, and influence their day to day lives. A study by Eneji et al (2015) explored women participation constraints in utilization of natural resource management and documented that leadership skills, educational status as well as occupational status were significant determinants of women participation.

Reproductive Roles and women participation in Donor Funded Livelihood Projects

Women's obligations regarding domestic work just as vocation work imply that they are involved in work for quite longer hours contrasted with male counterparts. Unpaid care work which is additionally a social commitment, which requires significant investment and exertion and inhibits the involvement of women and young ladies in other ventures including monetary social, civic and political space (Abbott, Mutesi and Norris, 2015). Women's reproductive roles are socially constructed by execution of family obligations which are as often as possible as opposed to the demands of the community livelihood projects, for instance, poultry enterprise which requires a throughout the day consideration (Zanza, 2015). Women's involvement and association in executives of the project management roles are additionally regularly considered tedious for women and time consuming, which time could some way or another be utilized in family unit action (Khandker, Gandhi and Johnson, 2020).

According to Abbott, et al (2015) the twofold weight of work and child bearing responsibility and the resultant time destitution is one of the best perceptible contrasts among people in Rwanda. Women do a significant part of the developing just as gathering wood and water, cooking cleaning, shopping and taking care of kids, leaving them scant time for different exercises – for example participation in governance and administration. Inside the family unit, women worry about the mind-boggling concern of unpaid regenerative work and care work, which influences women capacity to participate in political arenas and to impact economic advancements choices in the political space (Hoare and Gell, 2008).

Schindler (2010) posits that women accomplish a greater amount of a wide range of domestic work than their male counter parts and men accomplish more paid work than women do. They additionally accomplish increasingly reproductive duties and are considerably not liable to take part in income generative activities than men do. Just as in the caring work of members from their own family unit, women frequently have older family members that they should take care of. Abbott, et al (2015) see that the time usage and allocation of women restrain the measure of time they can spend on different economic activities, including governance and administration. It likewise negatively affects the accomplishments of studies by high school young ladies, as they are expected to have most of their hours at home helping their mothers.

Customary Norms and women participation in Donor Funded Livelihood Projects

Norms and community practices control and intercede women and young ladies' investment in the family, livelihood project work, and political roles just as their entrance to vocation openings. Women are kept down by male-controlled society and sexism inserted in

conventional laws and norms which inhibit women from achieving their entitlement to personhood, thus becoming an obstruction to women having the option to claim for their rights and their privileges (Abbott, et al (2015). Gender-related social norms dictate how men and women act in society, the roles they play and the behaviors they aspire towards. Social norms can inhibit women from participating in economic activities and in agriculture innovations (Minhas et al, 2018).

Conventional norms and society convictions about women's role in the public arena keep on prejudicing both men and women inclinations with respect to women's capacity to partake completely in economic activities. These standards incorporate generalizations that women are reliant, untalented, and irrational for the institutional strategic planning process (Hoare and Gell, 2008). Some social standards preclude their presence in certain get-together meetings or general participation, for example informal gatherings or ceremonies. A portion of the women have always been molded by social norms not to be heard in open particularly within the sight of their spouses in any event, even when they have well-thought ideas (Ndambiri, 2018). Mohajan, Uddin and Reyad (2019) posit that societal values and norms has core influence on women involvement in the local government in Bangladesh and in many societies women empowerment especially decision making in politics is heavily hampered by cultural norms.

Women Literacy Levels and women participation in Donor Funded Livelihood Projects

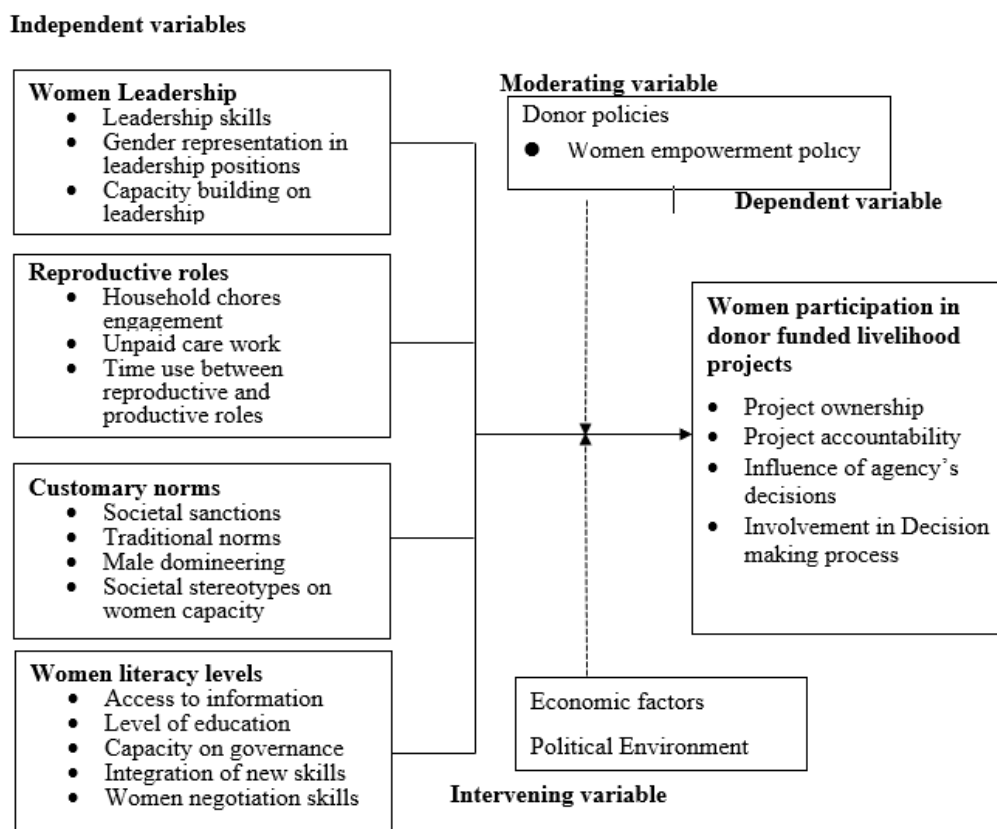
Literacy levels and skills give women an opportunity to get involved in a setting that is formal and give them a chance to be able to access important information that can get them more involved in developmental activities. However, the education accessibility by women is very limited, moreso within the ethnic groups and marginalized groups within the areas that are isolated (Vixathep, 2011). Literacy skills have been very common in women's life that is greatly associated with success in leadership development. According to Khandker, Gandhi and Johnson (2020) low levels of involvement by women in project management is occasionally driven by low literacy levels among women who are also in many cases alluded to be not having ability of contributing meaningfully due to their illiteracy, and lack of communication and negotiating skills.

Abbott, Mutesi and Norris (2015) noticed that women over the time have a disadvantage in education progress which implies that they have low chances of getting education opportunities like attending to school than their male counter parts and are altogether less inclined to having finished elementary school level. Moreover, women low educational fulfillment as well as absence of aptitudes is a significant boundary to their ability to get into economical

occupations and investment in administration; influencing capacities and ability, and giving the individuals who try to challenge gender-based inequality with stronger ground for withholding, or not supporting women advocacy for their privileges.

Eneji et al (2015) states that high paces of ignorance and low degrees of training within the women have always been key factors to compel the productivity of women and may influence their habit of receptivity of new strategies and abilities. A paper by Lelelit, Macharia and Mburugu (2017) on factors affecting women involvement in projects on wildlife conservation in Samburu County Kenya documented that the education levels had a great influence towards the participation of women in projects on wildlife conservation. The study alluded that women involvement in general community projects had a positive correlation with education levels and media factors.

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework



RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Descriptive research design was employed since it can be used to gather information on nature of existing condition as well to gathering population data which is essential in forecasting the current population status in regard to other variables under study. Various attributes like

human attitude, characteristics and behavior can only be determined by using descriptive research tools (Saunders et al 2009). Population study comprised total number of women funded donor livelihood projects in Mwingi Central Sub County with unit of analysis being project managers, project supervisors and project chairpersons. According to the County Government of Kitui (2019), there are 17 women funded donor livelihood projects within the 6 wards in Mwingi Central Sub County which mostly focus on education funding, bursary to needy girls, capacity building programmes, agribusiness, healthcare training, humanitarian assistance among others. A census of all the projects was used. The study used the methodology of purposive sampling by selecting the three respondents from each project comprising of project managers, project supervisors and project chairpersons thus making up a sample of 51 respondents.

This study used a questionnaire for data collection which was formulated by the researcher and was based on the study objectives. The questions were structured in nature in so as to ascertain the collection of all numerical data and consistency of data elicitation from the selected targeted community members and comprised of sections divided into two. The initial section collected data on respondents profile while the second section contained a likert scale based questions and collected data on the study variables. The researcher conducted a pilot study to determine instruments dependability, accuracy and adequacy. Pre-testing of a research instrument is of great significance in every survey and conducting a pilot study helps the analyst to engage members for criticism on the poll and furthermore eliminate the bias from the author. For this study, 10% of the respondents were selected for piloting thus seven questionnaires were admitted to five respondents from the study population. Cronbach alpha test was carried out to measure the internal consistency and reliability of the instrument to be use to collect data instruments where an alpha coefficient of 0.7 or more was considered an indication of reliability. The Cronbach alpha for the study was 0.85 which is higher than 0.7.

The researcher used the drop and pick questionnaire after two weeks to the sampled respondents. The researcher also made a follow up by calling the respondents before picking the questionnaires. The drop and pick method was suitable since it gave the respondents adequate time to discuss, understand and give response to the questions therein. descriptive and inferential statistical tools were used for analysis of the collected data using SPSS statistical software. In descriptive statistics, central measures, such as average, maximum, minimum, and standard deviation, are used to organize and summarize collected data in a meaningful way. Inferential statistics entailed correlation and multiple regression analysis, which shall be employed to assess the link between the dependent, and explanatory variables and the

analyzed data was presented in tables. Regression analysis was done to establish correlation between the independent and the dependent variables.

The study used a multiple linear regression based on the regression model below:

$$Y_s = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \text{Error term}$$

Where:

Y_s = Factors influencing women participation in donor funded projects β_0 = Constant (coefficient of intercept) X_1 = Leadership, X_2 = Productive roles, X_3 = Customary norms, X_4 = Women literacy levels.

The principles of research ethics which are crucial for a study was taken into considered before and after data collection, report writing and dissemination of the results. Before administering the questionnaires, the respondents were informed about the study's purpose and the period it would take. In addition, the respondents consent was sought after which the respondents confidentially was maintained. The respondents were not requested to write their names and other personal details like identification card on the questionnaire. Furthermore, the respondents were informed about them having a right to stop answering the questionnaire if they do not wish to do so.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

A total of 51 questionnaires were issued out to project managers. The completed questionnaires were edited for completeness and consistency, of the 51 questionnaires issued, only 49 were returned. This represented a response rate of 96 % which according to Mugenda is a reliable response rate for data analysis hence the study adopted it as adequate for analysis . Any response above 60% is adequate for analysis (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). The study further conducted a interview schedule to 49 beneficiaries to get their response on the four study objectives.

Descriptive statistics

Lack of leadership skills inhibits women participation

63% of the project managers involved in this study strongly agreed that lack of leadership skills among women inhibits their participation at the project decision making process. Other responses included; 12.2% -Agree, 6.1%- Neutral, 12.2%- Disagree and 6.1%- Strongly Disagree. Lack of leadership skills makes women an inferior gender and unable to seek for leadership position in the various projects

Table 1: Lack of leadership skills inhibits women participation

Opinion	frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree [SA]	31	63.4
Agree [A]	6	12.2
Neutral [N]	3	6.1
Disagree [D]	6	12.2
Strongly Disagree [SD]	3	6.1
Total	49	100

Failure to take the leadership mantle by women impedes project participation and management

The response on whether the failure to take the leadership mantle by women impedes the participation did not have a wide range of percentage between the agreeing and disagreeing respondents. 22.4% were strongly disagreeing with the statement while 24.5% agreed with the statement. Some of the women projects were headed by men who clearly understood the broad goal of the project - supporting women empowerment - and executed all the project undertaking in line with the goal. In such case, the women did not necessary want to take the leadership mantle but rather to have their opinions factored in the leadership decision making process. However the 24.5% of respondents were of the view that it was necessary for women to take up leadership mantle so to easily adopt the women views and interests in the project work.

Table 2: Failure to take the leadership mantle by women impedes project work

Opinion	frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree [SA]	9	18.4
Agree [A]	12	24.5
Neutral [N]	8	16.3
Disagree [D]	9	18.4
Strongly Disagree [SD]	11	22.4
Total	49	100

Women leadership capacity building leads successful project activities execution

The study sought to understand whether leadership capacity building has influence on women participation. 67.4% of the responded strongly agreed on the statement with only 2.0% strongly disagreeing. Other responses included 6.1% for agree, 16.3% for neutral and 8.2% for disagree. Women capacity building sharpens their leadership skills and hence better decision making process that are inclusive of all relevant stakeholders and well informed too.

Table 3: Women leadership capacity building leads successful project work

Opinion	frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree [SA]	33	67.4
Agree [A]	3	6.1
Neutral [N]	8	16.3
Disagree [D]	4	8.2
Strongly Disagree [SD]	1	2.0
Total	49	100

Poor understanding of governance among women lead to lower levels of women participation

The targeted respondents showed a small extend to which understanding of governance directly influence women level of participation in Mwingi central constituency. 34.7% strongly disagreed with 26.5% disagreeing on the statement. As such, understanding the system and structures of governance has little to do with participation of women as shown in table 4.

Table 4: Poor understanding of governance among women lead to lower levels of women participation

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree [SA]	7	14.3
Agree [A]	3	6.1
Neutral [N]	9	18.4
Disagree [D]	13	26.5
Strongly Disagree [SD]	17	34.7
Total	49	100

Regression and correlation analysis

Regression was done with the four independent variables (women leadership, reproductive roles, customary norms, and women literacy levels) against the dependent variable, women participation and implementation of donor funded projects. The following were the results;

Table 5: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.668a	0.446	0.395	0.59395

a Predictors: (Constant), Women Literacy Levels, Customary Norms, Women Leadership, Reproductive Roles

It was observed that the model was significant, and that the four independent variables of Women Literacy Levels, Customary Norms, Women Leadership, and Reproductive Roles led to 44.6% change in dependent variable, women participation in implementation of donor funded projects. This further indicates that the four independent variables were associated with a variance of 44.6% in women participation in implementation of projects.

Table 6: ANOVA Summary

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	12.478	4	3.119	8.843	.000b
	Residual	15.522	44	0.353		
	Total	28	48			

a Dependent Variable: Implementation of donor funded project

b Predictors: (Constant), Women Literacy Levels, Customary Norms, Women Leadership, Reproductive Roles

The ANOVA summary produced a p-value of 0.000 (significance value) which when compared to alpha level of 0.05, it is very small. Since the p-value is very small, it was concluded that the independent variables (Women Literacy Levels, Customary Norms, Women Leadership, Reproductive Roles) in this model had significant relationship/influence on the dependent variable, which was women participation in implementing donor funded projects. This further means that the independent variables can be reliably used to predict the dependent variable, women participation in donor projects.

Table 7: Regression Coefficients ^a

Model		Unstandardized		Standardized	t	Sig.
		Coefficients		Coefficients		
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-0.006	0.816		-0.007	0.995
	Women Leadership (X1)	0.385	0.131	0.241	2.753	0.008
	Reproductive Roles (X2)	0.104	0.253	0.058	0.41	0.684
	Customary Norms (X3)	0.05	0.157	0.042	0.32	0.751
	Women Literacy Levels (X4)	0.449	0.126	0.48	3.566	0.001

a Dependent Variable: Implementation of donor funded project

There were two variables, women leadership and women literacy levels, that were significant predictors of implementation of donor funded projects. This is because they had

significance values of below the alpha level of 0.05 as shown on table 4.33. Reproductive roles and customary norms were found not to influence implementation of donor funded projects as their significance (p) values were greater than the alpha value of 0.05, at Customary Norms (0.751) and Reproductive Roles (0.684). In substituting the equation,

$$Y_s = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \text{Error term}$$

$$\text{Women participation} = -0.006 + 0.385 X_1 + 0.104 X_2 + 0.05 X_3 + 0.449 X_4 + \text{Error term}$$

Since only women leadership (X1) and Women literacy levels (X4) were significant, this could be interpreted as follows; for every unit increase in women leadership, a 0.385 times positive change would be seen in women participation in implementing donor funded projects. Similarly, a unit increase in women literacy levels (X4) would see a positive change/increase of 0.449 in women participation in implementing such donor funded projects.

CONCLUSIONS

From the research work findings and the answers given to the research questions, some possible conclusions can be made about the study. From the study it can be concluded that women leadership, reproductive roles, customary norms and lack of literacy among women contribute directly to low participation by women in livelihood donor funded projects. This is supported by the fact that the significance of the model showed 44.6% change in the dependent variable which is caused by the independent variables under study in table 4.36% .

The study was premised on among other theories the women empowerment theory. The theory is based on the premises that there should be equal importance of the reproduction work, the production of commodities and even participation in community development projects. It also assumes that women are discriminated against and that it why they don't have much involvement in the income generative activities. This theory was also appropriate in examining factors affecting women participation in community based development projects.

This theory stipulates that the women are supposed to participate in development projects equally with men. This is very important since women are the majority and considering their number they can be able to mobilize resources which can assist in community livelihood projects.

The findings from this study have revealed that the community does not have a high regard towards women participation in the project work. These study findings further noted that the women in the community are sidelined. This is in support of social feminist theory which argue that the class and women's subordination were both of equal importance and had to be continuously challenged simultaneously (Mitchell 1983). Further, community under study

acknowledges the fact that the women ideas in most cases are not all taken into consideration during the project implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the above conclusions made, this study hereby arrives at the following recommendation which are relating to policies programs and future research work regarding examining factors influencing women participation in donor funded livelihood projects. While much effort and resources have been put into the donor funded livelihood project work, some community ideologies and norms have are retrogressive might deny women the full potential to benefit from the livelihood project work. This explains the high levels of poverty in the communities that have been benefiting from donor funded livelihood projects. For sustainable livelihoods, the project design should be mainstreaming gender and should have affirmative actions that correct the existing gender bias in the community. Such actions should include compulsory creation of some leadership positions that are specifically ring fenced to make sure that women take the leadership mantle and able to push for women agenda in the leadership decision making process. The projects should initiate household dialogues to have men assisting women with household chores and thus let the women have enough time to attend to the project work. Correct empowerment approaches should not overburden one gender, for this study women and give the other gender enough time to attend to economic activities. The study does not however advocate for sharing of duties in a 50/50 basis but rather making sure that every gender has an equal opportunity to participate in the reproductive, productive and community roles.

Generally, there is minimal participation of women in developmental activities particularly in land ownership, livestock ownership, credit service accessibility, decision making, leadership and access to education. Therefore, there is need for more sensitization of the community on the importance of educating a woman and the need for women inclusiveness in developmental activities.

The study identified that women are prejudiced by the societal sanctions that associate them with certain less valued duties and roles and devalue their productive work. Such societal sanctions inhibit their full participation to the project work.

In order to ensure that there is equal and meaningful participation of the women, a combination of both empowerment and capacity development measures have to be put in place with gender equality to bring to fruition the potential of development of women in the rural areas.

AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The subject matter of women meaningful participation in donor funded livelihood project has in the past attracted limited research work attention especially in the study area.

Further there is a great need to compare community based developmental project in which women are actively participating and the ones which they less participate and don't take part at all. This will show case whether or not there is variation between these two groups as far as livelihood project management is concerned.

Another area where there is limited research is on the role of women during project design and whether the designing is need based or only seeks to push an agenda of the donor.

The other area which may need to be further studied is the advantageous part of women participating in donor funded projects to understand the extent to which the community livelihood can be improved.

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