WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION IN DEVOLVED FUNDS; A CASE STUDY OF KANDUYI CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND, BUNGOMA COUNTY IN KENYA.

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NOVEMBER, 2013
DECLARATION

This project is my own original work and to the best of my knowledge has not been previously presented for the award of a degree in this and/or any other university.

Signed........................................... Date....................................................

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This project has been presented for examination with my approval as the supervisor duly appointed by the university.

Signed........................................... Date.....................................................

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DEDICATION
This project report is dedicated to my family; my loving husband Jared Oluoch and baby Ivy Akinyi. Your boundless love has been my support system during this academic journey. I would also dedicate this study to my Parents, my father Samuel Ekasirimait Wamalwa and mother Margaret Wamalwa and my siblings Eric, Emily, Edwin, Ennedy, James, Eznas, Christine, Suzanne, Nancy and Andrew in equal measure. This journey would not be completed without your sacrifices.
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CDC - Constituency Development Committees
CDFC - Constituency Development Fund Committee
CDF - Constituency Development Fund
CEDAW - Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
DFRD - District Focus Rural Development
NMC - National Management Committee
NTA - National Taxpayers Association
PMC - Project Management Committee
SRDP - Special Rural Development Program
WID - Women in Development
ABSTRACT

Leadership has for long been characterized by male-dominance, gender biasness in distribution and control of resources as women in the modern economic conditions have had to assume more responsibility in agriculture and other domestic roles to be able to fend for their families, rather than engage in more official duties. This study seeks to investigate women's participation in the governance and ownership of projects of devolved funds, a case study of Kanduyi Constituency Development Fund. Among the pertinent factors in this study include; CDF projects and women's needs, women's participation CDF projects, constraints to women's participation in CDF projects and the legal framework guiding CDF operations as outlined in the CDF Act 2003 and how they affect women's participation. Full women's participation in development activities at the grassroots level has been a mirage owing to low literacy levels amongst womenfolk, retrogressive beliefs, the nature of various development projects which are often perceived to be laborious, the various roles assigned to women in CDF projects' activities; although we note that the lack of clearly defined legislation outlining women's participation and/ or lack of information concerning the CDF Act itself by most locals, alongside a women's resigned attitude towards activities outside the confines of the conventional home making role as factors which indirectly come in the way of the realization of full women's participation in development activities funded by CDF, thus a great undoing to the strides made towards promoting gender equity, a tenet of the affirmative action, as well as the two- third constitutional gender requirement.

This indicates a disconnect between the factors mentioned therein, hence, this study set out to investigate how to bridge the gap by conducting an in-depth study of the extent women's participation in devolved funds, a case study of Kanduyi CDF. A brief introduction of the Kanduyi CDF has been done highlighting the variables under study and secondary data collected on how strides have been made to enhance women's participation in various devolved development projects the world over. Some information about devolved funds as well as women's participation in Kenya is highlighted and a conceptual framework depicting the relationship between the variables discussed. The third chapter outlines the research methodology which includes the research design, target population, sample and sampling procedure as well as data collection instruments. A cross-sectional survey design characterized by a stratified random sampling design was used to select the sample from the population. The study utilized questionnaires, Focus Group interviews, in-depth and Key informant interviews and a review of secondary data. The questionnaires were pretested to
meaningfully analyzed by use of descriptive statistics such as frequency tables, percentages, charts, and presented in charts tables and graphs for easy interpretation. Qualitative data was presented in prose and repetitive responses grouped in themes.

The study found out that there is more uptake of roles at all levels of development projects, and the barriers that have characterized lack or minimal participation are slowly being tamed. Women are now participating in CDF projects at all levels right from decision making to implementation, constraints to participation such as retrogressive beliefs are slowly losing face, more women are enrolling in schools to get educationally empowered so as to compete at par with men, as well as acquainting themselves with the legal guidelines touching on their roles in development activities. There is need to liberate mindsets from unorthodox beliefs, sensitize women on their rights through thorough civic education as well as effect legislation that will enhance more women’s participation. Women should also play their part in cultivating their attitude towards participation in order to claim their rightful positions in development activities. Authorities will need to check on a regular basis if stipulated laws guiding CDF especially those concerning women empowerment are observed at the constituency levels and new CDF officials should strive to ensure gender balance in CDF operations. This study will be significant to the people of Kanduyi constituency, the Ministry of National Treasury and underlying departments, policy makers, development actors and the Government of Kenya.
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Participation as a concept in rural development has been inherent since the 1950s. Authors and development agencies have advanced that genuine people’s participation can help increase efficiency, effectiveness, self-reliance, ownership, replication, as well as sustainability of development projects. Participation is defined as a process which enables people become masters of their own destiny within the framework of their cultural and socio-economic realities. Hence community participation is about freedom of choice, freedom of action and freedom to make mistakes and take responsibility over the consequences of their mistakes.

Participation indicators vary according to the project and its objectives. Bhatnagar and Williams (1992) propose three broad categories of indicators:

1) Empowerment indicators, e.g., how many new initiatives were launched? How proactive is the group, as measured against a specially devised index?

2) Indicators of continuity and participation.

3) Autonomy indicators.

With the coming of development partners to help address poverty in developing countries, which has been a complex phenomenon as from early as 1950s and 1960s, the concept of participation, requiring the involvement of the poor in the process has been key. (Mulwa, 2008). There is now a growing acceptance that participation is an objective of development programs and that it is important when evaluating participation to bring on board qualitative, quantitative and time dimensions of participation. (DFID, 1995). This is solely for the account that participation as a qualitative process cannot only be measured by use of quantifiable indicators.

Government and development actors have largely embraced participatory methodologies to help influence policy and program outcome and this has been manifested in majority of countries across the globe, especially in Europe (Eastern and Central) and now Kenya, has embraced the spirit of devolution as a way of enhancing participation. Devolution is a form of decentralization involving the transfer of responsibility. Devolution aims at giving powers of self governance to the people and enhances the participation of the people in the exercise of
In Kenya devolution has been a widely discussed concept since independence in 1963. Chitere and Ireri (2004) advance that at independence; the government of Kenya opted for devolution which gave responsibility to the regions, where local authorities collected taxes that were later used for purposes of development. This system was later outlived in December 1964, where a centralized form of government was adopted at a time when Kenya became a republic, and functions of the state were to be coordinated and executed at the national level.

In 1965, Special Rural Development Program (SRDP) was adopted by the government of Kenya to help coordinate development programs which were mounted in a number of selected ecologically representative areas with the aim of experimenting with various strategies for raising the standards of living in the rural areas of Kenya. (Oyugi, 1981). The programs were special in a way that they involved deliberate attempts by government to have the locals participate in planning, the aim being to address disparities of rural development, illiteracy, unemployment, benefits of which could be replicated in other areas.

Another comprehensive rural development strategy towards decentralization was the District Focus Rural Development (DFRD) launched in 1983. It was later realized that DFRD did not enhance people's participation in projects as it had been envisioned. Other decentralization development strategies were adopted by government to help tame poverty and enhance participatory development, none of which were sustained until the inception of the CDF.

The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) is part of the devolved fund set up by the government of Kenya under the CDF Act 2003 to help mitigate poverty, as well as harmonize development throughout the country. The fund which was established by the Government of Kenya seeks to ensure that part of the annual government revenue (2.5% of ordinary revenue, later increased to 7.5%) is set aside for the implementation of development projects at the grassroots level. CDF aims at ensuring increased community participation in decision making on local development needs; hence increased efficiency in service delivery as well as democratization and good governance measures (KIPPPRA 2006).
The provisions of the constitution of Kenya 2010 and the widespread agitation on the need to devolve power, resources and development to the regions or countries gives the impetus for gender equality in development matters. The great milestones realized during the Beijing declaration and Platform for Action 1995, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) 1979, Forward looking strategies developed during the Nairobi conference in 1985, Millennium Development Goals and the protocol to the African charter on Human and peoples' rights on the rights of women in Africa July 2003, inform the baseline of policy instruments to enhance women participation in development processes. The government of Kenya has made great strides in ensuring that womenfolk are part of the development agenda. The gains realized so far comprise of the establishment of the Women bureau in 1976 to spearhead the women agenda and the subsequent establishment of the National Gender and Development Policy in 2000, whose agenda is mainly to push for the realization of a coherent framework towards guiding various sectors in development for effective resource use. This later translated into a Sessional paper on Gender and Equality Development 2006. (Abdi, S. 2007).

Other proposals by government to enhance the development of women include the formation of the Ministry of Gender and the National Commission on Gender and Development in 2004, to mainstream performance of all government institutions and providing them with a benchmark; to have their potential realized in policy formulation and general development concerns. These gains have however been marred with some sort of disparities that have
some of which include: social inequalities, Violence against women, early marriage, retrogressive cultural practices, child trafficking and illiteracy. The management of devolved funds (CDF and LATF) set aside for development projects in Kanduyi constituency and largely in the Bungoma County have been often compelled with incidents misappropriations, inconsistencies and misuse. A Citizen’s Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Report Card for Kanduyi Constituency for the financial year 2007/08 released in 2011 found out that out of a total of Kshs. 128,652,185 which had been allocated to the constituency since the onset of the CDF in the year 2003/04, Kshs. 30,588,859 had been misappropriated due to poorly implemented projects and Kshs. 22,079,051 remains unaccounted for.

Subsequently, an audit report for the financial year 2009/10 released in 2012 by the National Taxpayers Association for Bungoma County Council on the performance of the Citizen’s Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF) found out that Kshs. 11,466,000 of taxpayers’ money has been wasted due to badly implemented projects, Kshs. 1,850,000 of taxpayers’ money has been wasted on abandoned projects, and a total of Kshs. 10,675,000 remained unaccounted for. Such developments give cue of an underlying management shortcomings which needs redress.

1.2.1 Research Problem

Women more than any other interest group have come out strongly demanding that their voices be heard; their gender interests be included and mainstreamed in the new democratic agenda and that they participate on an equal footing with men in the democratization process. According to Manguyu (1993; 39), we cannot speak of economic development without human development, and human development cannot be achieved without women involvement.

A clear understanding of participation at the outset of a project or program facilitates monitoring and evaluation of participation. On the other hand, participation is still sometimes introduced into a project or program without a clear understanding of what it entails. This lack of clarity makes it difficult to monitor and evaluate participation. The CDF was created to help mitigate poverty and ensure the development agenda is rallied at the grassroots level. It seeks to enhance full community participation in ensuring that the devolved revenue from the national budget navigates its way to the constituency for purposes of development and
The Act however, fails to give directions on the gender composition of the governing committee to the funds at the national, and constituency level, leaving room for uncoordinated gender composition in the management of the fund as well as the implementation of key community projects. This notwithstanding the two-third gender requirement spelt out in article 81 (b) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 which states that "not more than two-thirds of the members of elective public bodies shall be of the same gender." This has been completely overlooked in most instances.

A past study conducted by Abdi (2007) on the participation of women in CDF projects, singles out the homogenous nature of CDF committees characterized by male dominance on as an element that hinders women participation. The handpicking criterion of committee members is largely based on personal interaction with the fund patrons and not merit. This has locked out qualified yet vulnerable groups from being included in the CDF committees.

In a study on women in the colonial economy of Bungoma, Nasimiyu, (1985) postulates that women in the modern economic conditions have had to assume more responsibility in agriculture and other domestic roles to be able to fend for their families, rather than engage in more official duties. CDCs have therefore been formed unilaterally, their composition giving precedence to men, thus participation by women in CDF projects has always been minimalist owing to the biased decision making process and overall patronage of the fund which has over the time sidelined them.

Leadership is male-dominated, gender biasness in distribution and control of resources will remain and women will continue to be more vulnerable to the economic, poverty and social marginalization, (Palmer, 1985). It was against this backdrop that the participation of grassroots women in the matters regarding devolved projects needed to be re-assessed. The under representation of the female gender witnessed in CDF committees, less involvement of women in the entire project cycle, constraining factors and total lack of interest by women in participating in such development projects in Kanduyi constituency informed the grounds for the probe, thus gave impetus to the study: Women’s Participation in Devolved Funds: A case study of Kanduyi CDF. The aim of this study was to explore the role of women both in
The purpose of this study was to ascertain women's participation in CDF decision making and general involvement in the project cycle process in Kanduyi constituency using a cross-sectional survey design, with the aim to increase participation of women in devolved funds projects. Participation was to be characterized by the composition of heterogeneous CDF committees, project identification and ownership, propose amendments to the CDF Act on gender provision regarding committee members, creation of awareness on the importance of women's participation in projects, highlight the roles and responsibilities of women, demystify retrogressive cultural beliefs such of patriarchy and improve quality of projects funded by CDF. This would in turn influence women participation in projects, gender composition of CDCs, salient features of culture/patriarchy, spell out the responsibilities of women, and increase awareness on devolved funds, the knowledge of which would lead to increased women's participation in the execution of key community projects.

1.2.2 Key Research Questions
1. How do ongoing or completed CDF projects address women's needs?
2. To what extent do women participate in CDF projects?
3. What are the constraints to women's participation in CDF projects?
4. How do the legal provisions enshrined in the CDF Act affect women's participation in devolved funds?

1.3 Objectives of the Study
General Objective
The aim of this study was to explore the role of women both in the governance and ownership of projects, with respect to CDF funded projects in Kanduyi constituency.

1.4 Specific Objectives
1. To establish if ongoing CDF projects address women's plights.
2. To establish the governance roles of women in CDF projects.
3. To investigate constraints to women participation in CDF projects.
4. To find out how legislation on devolved funds (CDF Act) affects women's participation in CDF projects.
1.5 Significance of the Study

The study sought to improve the levels of women’s participation in the running and management of key projects in the wake of the devolved system of governance, adopted by Kenyans in the 2010 referendum on the constitution of Kenya; under whose operationalization, resources and power were diverted to county governments. More resources will therefore be devolved, hence the need for women’s involvement in the entire project cycle either as financers, beneficiaries or implementers.

This study would be of importance to grassroots women, in informing them on their gender roles and eventually lead to their increased participation in community projects funded using devolved funds.

The findings of the study will be of added value to the policy makers, drafters of legislation on the management of the Commission on Revenue Allocations as required by law, who will, in fulfilling the mandate of the formation of the fund committee incorporate the study recommendations, which will be acquired through valid scientific research data.

The study will also inform government policy with regard to designing amends to streamline the CDF management, to enhance multifaceted participation.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international development agencies who seek to engage in community projects will find the study useful, with regard to the need to engender more women as stakeholders to their projects or programs, for a balanced approach towards the success of the projects as well as the achievement of a comprehensive policy framework.
The Scope and Limitations of the Study

A case study of Kanduyi CDF was conducted in Bungoma district between January and May 2013 through cross-sectional survey design. Information acquired from the Bungoma District Development office indicated that at that moment, there were a total of 116 active CDF funded projects distributed in the entire Kanduyi constituency. The study focused on a sample of 40 out of the total 116 CDF funded projects; Four respondents (male and female) were drawn per project, bringing the total number of respondents to 160. Data was collected by the researcher and research assistants using questionnaires, interviews, discussions and review of secondary data.

A representatives from the national CDF board was interviewed to enable the researcher have a national outlook of gender composition of the fund, subsequently, at least two representative from the Constituency CDF board were interviewed and provided to the researcher insights on the procedures followed in the award of funds and implementation of CDF projects, as well as levels of community participation. the input of the District Development Officer and the Fund Patron was also sought to help the researcher have an informed point of the Kanduyi constituency CDF.

Key sectors funded by CDF which were subjected to the study included the education sector, water, roads/infrastructure, security, agriculture, health facilities and administrative projects. The study sought to ascertain women’s participation in projects funded by devolved funds. The key focus therefore being on CDF funded projects in Kanduyi constituency, hence probed the levels of participation, cultural setbacks, levels and responsibilities of women and constraints to women participation.

The major limitations for this study are: the expansive nature of the study area. Kanduyi constituency measures 318.5 square Km, therefore CDF projects are far apart, hence this inconvenienced the researcher in terms of access. The remote location of the projects also hampered on the access. This was however overcome by the researcher using motorized means including motorcycles as well as hired bicycle transport. The hesitation by the CDF project manager and/ or fund managers to willingly and freely share information with the researcher for fear of the sensitive nature and political implications involved limited the access to crucial information required for the study. The researcher overcame this by stating
The researcher emphasized the importance of upfront communication and even producing an introduction letter from the University to set grounds and gain confidence of the respondents. The researcher also sought to assure the researchers that the information given will be treated with utmost confidentiality and stated that the findings are purely for academic purposes.
Participation: The process which enables people to become masters of their own destiny within the framework of their cultural and socio-economic realities. Hence, community participation is about freedom of choice, freedom of action and freedom to make mistakes and take responsibility for the consequences of those mistakes.

Decentralization: The transfer of authority and responsibility for public functions from the central government to subordinate or quasi-independent government organizations and/or the private sector. Different types of decentralization should be distinguished because they have different characteristics, policy implications, and conditions for success.

Devolution: Is a statutory granting powers form the central government of a sovereign state to government at a sub national level, such as a regional, local or state level.

Development: As a process, development is procedure which must be accumulative and must bring not just an improvement in physical and social conditions, but also durable gains in people’s ability to control and sustain conditions.

Rural development: An overall improvement in welfare of rural residents and in the contribution which the rural resource base makes more generally to the welfare of the population as a whole.

Patriarchy: Is a social system in which the male acts as the primary authority figure central to social organization, and where fathers holds authority over women, children and property. It implies the institutions of male rule and privilege and entails female subordination.

Gender: Refers to the socially constructed roles, behavior, activities, and attributes that a particular society considers appropriate and confers on men and women.

Project cycle: The various stages from project conception to project completion and evaluation.

Women empowerment: Self-decision regarding education, participation, mobility, economic independency, public speaking, awareness and exercise of rights, political participation and many more factors ensure women empowerment. In short women empowerment is the breaking of personal limitation.

Gender equity: Gender equity is a set of actions, attitudes, and assumptions that provide opportunities and create expectations about individuals. In the definition of gender equity, gender is never separate from race, ethnicity, language, disability, income, or other diversities that define us as human beings. It offers a framework for educational reform in which all females and males.
Gender equality: The goal of the equality of the genders, stemming from a belief in the injustice of myriad forms of gender inequality. This goal includes making women's rights equal to men's and also making men's rights equal.
2.1 Introduction

This chapter brings into perspective past studies related to women’s participation in community projects. It is organized into the general literature on women and development, literature review according to study variables that is, the historical perspective; devolution as form of decentralization, participation and CDF as a form of devolved funds; which are the main issues in this study.

2.1.1 Decentralization

Decentralization is the transfer of authority and responsibility for public functions from the central government to intermediate and local governments. Different types of decentralization have different characteristics, policy implications, and state of affairs.

Decentralisation / Devolution is a situation where the central government cedes powers to sub national units such as regional or local governments which have some geographical jurisdiction (Katsiaouni, 2003). In Kenya, the Government has had a unitary system and structure of government where the bulk of planning and administration is done at the national level. The coming of the new constitution has decentralized some of these functions and has enabled easy access of government services, administration through the creation of County governments to oversee the role initially played by local authorities.

Local Authorities and regional development authorities are just but examples of the past decentralized system of governance and administration. After the March 2013 general elections, Kenya has embraced a decentralized governance system through the establishment of a National and County level governments as provided for by article 1(3) and (4) of the constitution. A decentralized form of government allows for self-governance by the people and thus enhances people’s participation in the exercise of powers of the state and in reaching decisions affecting them.

Decentralization is one way of enhancing participation in decision making for governance and development, therefore decentralization and participation are conjoined concepts, of which, none cannot survive in isolation. Manor (1995: 81) identifies three main types of decentralisation:
Administrative decentralisation or deconcentration: the re-location of branches of the central state to local areas, entailing a transfer of powers to locally-based officials who remain part of, and upwardly accountable to, central government ministries and agencies.

Political decentralization or democratic decentralization: the transfer of powers and resources to sub-national authorities which are (a) largely or wholly independent of the central government and (b) democratically elected.

Fiscal decentralization: the transfer of fiscal resources and revenue-generating powers, inclusive of authority over budgets and financial decisions, to either de-concentrated officials and/or central government appointees or to elected politicians.

Steiner (2005) discusses the various forms of decentralization. The table below best illustrates the interaction between the types and dimensions of decentralization.

Table 2.1: Interaction between the types and dimensions of decentralization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Deconcentration</th>
<th>Delegation</th>
<th>devolution</th>
<th>privatization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic/Market</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Steiner, 2005

A decentralized system further upholds social and economic development and ensures equitable sharing of national and local resources, and is a recipe for poverty alleviation and creation of employment. Another tool that the Government of Kenya has decentralized to enhance participation is the fiscal decentralization scheme- CDF, though, it is a one-sided fiscal decentralization scheme, where expenditure is not linked to the local accrued revenue and wholly depends on the national fiscal share. Kimenyi (2005) such partial decentralization can associate with fiscal illusion which minimizes the extent to which beneficiaries monitor use of funds.
Ghana is a nation, whose endeavor to have a decentralized form of government has been deemed successful and is viewed as a panacea for increased citizen participation in the process of democracy as well as decision making. More equitable development of the country and more visible efforts to redress the development imbalance between urban and rural areas, between regions and between districts through development activities funded with the District Assemblies common Fund is another achievement of decentralization in Ghana. Most importantly, decentralization in Ghana has led to qualitative improvement in living standards at the local level (Goel, 2010).

Until August 2010 when the new constitution was promulgated, Kenya has had a centralized system of government since December 1964, prior to which the country was fully devolved into regions/ majimbo (Misati and Ontita, 2011:113). The current constitution has offered a lee way to the concept of devolution by allowing the creation of county governments which will be charged with the mandate to execute state's public services. However, this is without its limitations, the decentralized arrangement does not provide for the de-concentration of political power and disbursement of resources hence stands in the way of participatory democracy (Oloo, 2008).

Effective decentralization requires more than just accomplishment of institutional decentralization. Decentralization in its broad sense should, therefore, be likened to the traditional three-legged stool whose key pillars are; De-concentration, Devolution and participation...the failure by the government to adopt a holistic decentralization strategy has significantly impacted negatively on social development in Kenya. (Misati and Ontita 2011:115)

2.1.2 Women and Development
The inclusion of women in development matters, to work together and share the common goal of development projects is a major concern that needs to be addressed aptly, since women; just like men have the potential to participate on an equal footing in this era. During the year 1992, women challenged and sought to change their marginalized status in public decision making or policy making and national development planning and implementation. For any democratized system, gender interest need to be mainstreamed and the participation of women, just like men be brought at par to enhance both economic and human development. (Nzomo, 1993)
Palmer (1985) argues that policymakers in Northern governments, International Development agencies and International financial institutions are gradually coming to the realization that just and sustainable economic development depends on women being free to make decisions, on par with men at all levels of society. In particular, if leadership is male dominated, gender biases in distribution and control of resources will remain and women will continue to be more vulnerable to economic poverty and social marginalization.

The Beijing Platform for action acknowledged that women’s full citizenship and right to lead need to be pursued. The platform took lead from the international women’s movement in settling an agenda for equality, peace and prosperity. An all round understanding of numerous challenges faced by women in development therefore demands for the awareness of women’s roles in African societies. Among the women’s contributions regarded to be crucial, and which need to be explored are mothering, nurturing and healthcare, agriculture and rural development, trade, industry and professions, craft and wage labor, home management, leadership, politics, and public life, religion, education, scholarships and arts, nationalism and national liberation movements; urbanization and the struggle against urban poverty and decision making processes. The contention is that in order to analyze various aspects of women studies and their relevance for development. (Were 1985).

Were portends that the role of women in African societies is so crucial that it warrants a comprehensive and critical analysis. This is further justified by the fact that women account for about fifty percent of the continent’s human population. Therefore Africa’s rapid development must depend upon the effective participation of its women in development processes, through access to appropriate technology, skills, education, resources and opportunities. And it is the development of the entire human complex which must be the primary concern of policymakers.

2.1.2 Women’s Participation

People’s level of commitment to a cause that calls for collective intervention is directly symmetrical to the level at which people themselves are involved in the initial decision making and planning stages of that intervention. The more involved or consulted people are, the greater will be their commitment in the implementation and sustenance of the project involved. (Mulwa, 2008).
Involvement in social and political affairs results from a number of factors, but evident from the sexual composition of the leadership of accepted institutions, the conditions of women’s access to them and the existence of alternative ways in which women can express their interests (Palmer 1985). The conventional focus on women in development, unfortunately suggests that women are merely objects and agents in the development process, rather than beneficiaries and active participants as well. As a result, African women have been treated as variable in the development process and projects. (Manguyu, 1993).

Oakley (1995) cites that an analysis of a Danish funded rural water supply project in Tanzania, where he observes that participation had ranged from non-participation and manipulation over information and consultation to some degree of partnership and delegation of power. A study of Malawi Social Action Fund Project by Dulani (2003) concluded that the level of participation was limited to being informed on what had already been decided by other key players which implied passive participating by consultation. This implies some ill motive towards the realization of full women’s participation and empowerment where their presence is mostly passive and in most cases virtual, hence their input is often overlooked. Hancock (2001) suggests that the acknowledgement of women’s contribution has led to young women participating actively in important decision making exercise in Asian factories.

The table 2.2 below illustrates the level of participation of Bungoma District residents in economic activities. From the table, one can easily interpret that while women form the largest share of the population, their presence in economic activities has been overshadowed by men. Fewer men compared to women are economically dormant. The study sought to find out what is the underlying cause to such a disparity. This quantifies Nasimiyu (1985) study on Women in the colonial economy of Bungoma whom she found out to have assumed responsibility in domestic chores and agriculture so as to fend for their families, rather than engaging in economy generating activities and more official roles at par with men.
Table 2.2 Economic activities of Bungoma district residents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total population</th>
<th>Employed</th>
<th>Seeking employment</th>
<th>Economically inactive</th>
<th>Unclassified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bungoma South</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male- 161,058</td>
<td>93,684</td>
<td>6,651</td>
<td>49,565</td>
<td>11,158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female- 173,250</td>
<td>98,780</td>
<td>7,141</td>
<td>55,714</td>
<td>11,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bungoma North</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male- 126,488</td>
<td>52,121</td>
<td>3,608</td>
<td>68,394</td>
<td>2,365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female- 135,330</td>
<td>54,864</td>
<td>3,293</td>
<td>74,744</td>
<td>2,429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bungoma East</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male- 91,219</td>
<td>51,052</td>
<td>3,192</td>
<td>32,645</td>
<td>4,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female- 97,169</td>
<td>52,896</td>
<td>3,195</td>
<td>36,772</td>
<td>4,306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bungoma West</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male- 96,315</td>
<td>60,438</td>
<td>2,953</td>
<td>27,520</td>
<td>5,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female- 102,758</td>
<td>66,046</td>
<td>2,992</td>
<td>28,287</td>
<td>5,433</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census report, 2009

2.1.3 Challenges to Women’s Participation

Participation is the process by which stakeholders exert influence and share control over priority setting, policy making, resource allocation, and/or program implementation. (World Bank, 2002). In Kenya, this concept was embraced following the launch of the 1983 District Focus for Rural Development (DFRD) giving the then District Development Committees the mandate to plan and effect specific projects and encourage local participation in order to improve problem identification, resource mobilization, project design and implementation.

Chitere and Mutiso (1991) argue that most people in the community were found not to identify with the concept and that they were nonetheless aware of its existence owing to the complex mechanisms therein whereby the strategy was managed by the government and not the community. This arrangement stood in the way of the concept of participatory approach in which people from the local community are tasked with the initiative to identify and find reachable solutions for their problems, with a development worker only playing the facilitation role.
Such an arrangement plays out as a catalyst to high handedness from the authorities, and in turn discourages communities from owning development initiatives, and further limits community participation, thus a setback to development and democracy. This denies local community members a chance to have their input factored in development projects, which end up imposing ideas and needs to the community members and in turn addressing needs not familiar to those of the affected community.

Misati and Ontita, (2011) argue that citizens who have been denied the right to participate in decision making rarely gain confidence to reassert their right for local leadership to start playing their rightful role within participatory and accountable governance. The various phases of participation according to Moynihan (2003) include pseudo participation which entails a token of effort in fostering public involvement, partial participation which seeks citizen consultation, but rarely have a say as concerns public policy and full participation whereby the public is fully involved in the project including their views.

Socio-economic dynamics and cultural practices have a bearing on participation. A key factor herein is the obnoxious cultural belief on patriarchy. Women have been formally assigned a single economic role rather than a choice from the multiple alternatives open to men. While women have the main responsibility of taking care of children, food preparation and domestic work, their economic contribution outside home have been denied or belittled and under rewarded relative to that of men. Sexual discrimination is built right into the natal family and may therefore be the most provocative or most powerful restriction. Even if carefully socialized, women may not be automatically prepared to accept the major domestic role, minimum external economic and political participation; implying inferiority (Ardener 1975)

Bergdad (1992) argues that it is important to integrate women into the planning process, but because traditional culture has often subordinated female participation, the insights of rural women tend to become overshadowed by the dominating presence of men. Chambers (1983), while undertaking a study on rural development observed that most local level government staff, researchers and rural visitors were majorly men. Female farmers are neglected by male agricultural extension workers. In most societies, he asserted, women have inferior status and are subordinated to men. Poor rural women are a deprived class within a class. Rural single women, female heads of households and widows include many of the most wretched and unseen people in the world.
2.1.4 Women’s Literacy Levels

According to Hlupekile (2000), many reasons for the small portion of women in government are offered by the press, politicians and development organizations. Typical reasons given are that women have lower levels of literacy and education.

Ideally, education should contribute to economic development, equalize opportunities between social classes, reduce disparities in the distribution of income and prepare the labour force for a modern economy (Kriefer, 1985). International Organizations such as the United Nations, UNESCO, the World Bank and the Third World Countries are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of women in national development, and the fact that education can contribute to their playing a much more meaningful role in development (Kelly, 1987a; Browne and Barrett, 1991).

The average level of education of an individual is expected to influence the involvement of the community and the extent to which individuals are able to be incorporated in the project cycle as well as in the monitoring of the utilization of funds. In areas making up Kanduyi constituency, that is, Bungoma North, Bungoma South, Bungoma East and Bungoma West Districts, the findings of the 2009 census report have confirmed this disparity with school enrolment of females taking a record low, compared to males, and these statistics correspond with the dropout rate of females as well.

Table 2.3 School enrolment data for Bungoma district residents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>At school</th>
<th>Left school</th>
<th>Never attended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bungoma South</td>
<td>Male- 85,143</td>
<td>68,490</td>
<td>17,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female- 82,716</td>
<td>77,139</td>
<td>23,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bungoma North</td>
<td>Male- 72,516</td>
<td>52,588</td>
<td>11,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female- 68,984</td>
<td>62,041</td>
<td>14,581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bungoma East</td>
<td>Male- 50,215</td>
<td>39,612</td>
<td>8,363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female- 48,414</td>
<td>45,328</td>
<td>10,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bungoma West</td>
<td>Male- 52,252</td>
<td>41,290</td>
<td>9,781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female- 49,636</td>
<td>47,717</td>
<td>12,390</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census report, 2009

Table 2.3 above confirms the issue of high illiteracy levels amongst the womenfolk. Despite their large population, their literacy levels are inversely proportional to the school enrolment and drop out levels compared the situation of males, who despite their low population levels,
have a relatively lower school dropout rates. Confirming amongst the womenfolk need to be checked due to the abnormalities registered.

2.2 Constituency Development Fund- (CDF)

The constituency Development Fund is a concept that was conceived by the government of Kenya, where development funds are channeled to the grassroots level to aid the execution of key community projects at the constituency level. The constituency Development fund was established following an Act of Parliament No 11 of 2003. The Act was amended through the CDF (Amendment) Act, 2007 in the Kenya Gazette Supplement No. 112 (Act No. 16) of 22nd October 2007. The fund largely aims to address imbalances in the regional development brought about by partisan politics. The fund is earmarked for development of various sectors targeting all constituency level development projects, particularly those aiming to combat poverty. (Kimenyi, 2005).

The fund comprises of annual budgetary allocation equivalent to 7.5 percent of government revenue (initially 2.5) amongst all the 210 current constituencies. CDF is managed by four committees two of which are at the national level and the remaining two at the grassroots level. (http://www.kippra.org/constituency). The initiative to channel financial resources to constituencies and local authorities was subsequent to the Economic Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation (2003), in which strategies to tame poverty levels as well as enhancing access to economic growth benefits by the destitute members of society. The fund has however suffered a setback with regards to the management system and project implementation. According to Mapesa and Kibua (2006) the program was initiated and implemented without adequate preparedness in terms of sensitization and creation of organizational structures and capacities, and development of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

2.2.1 Political Aspect of CDF

Kimenyi (2005) notes that it is important to investigate the monitoring aspects associated with CDF and the degree to which constituency characteristics may influence fiscal illusion and therefore inefficiencies. However, presence of elite groups could capture the program so that the project serves narrower interests. CDF has more direct political implications.
The Constituency Development Fund intended to uplift the living standards of Kenyans at the grassroots level, has left grassroots leaders and local communities playing no significant role in decision making and implementation of development projects. This has attracted negative public comments especially with regard to the criteria used in the formation of CDF committees, project choice and procurement procedures. Similarly, the CDF program does not provide suitable mechanisms for popular participation through elective representation. (Mapesa and Kibua, 2006).

The Institute of Economic Affairs (2011) observed that members of the CDF Committee hold office for a term of three years renewable once. Once a new MP convenes a new Committee, the term of the previous committee members in office is automatically terminated. This rule applies in case a by-election is held ushering a new MP. Whenever a vacancy occurs in the Committee the MP has power to fill that position with another person from that sector.

Abdi, (2007) recommends for the repealing of the CDF ACT, to depoliticize the CDF process and create a credible, independent and people driven CDF management system, enhance participation in decision making and discourage arm-twisting of the electorate by politicians in order to win favors from the Kitty which is funded by the taxpayers money. The CDF Act faces a myriad of implications, key amongst them being that it does not respect constitutional ideals relating to devolution, it has no specific development agenda, faces accusations of poor management and accountability and that it lacks transparency due to a mix up of implementation and supervisory roles.

Up until 2006- four years into the fund since its setting up, no clear structures on how to run the fund were in place. The operations surrounding CDF operations were haphazardly executed. Poor planning of projects, no laid down procedures nor clear direction and vision, high handed attitude from patrons over the projects allocations, this in turn led to massive wastage of funds, unequal and uncoordinated allocations of projects and embezzlement; leading to poorly executed or uncompleted projects.
Finally when the Government of Kenya in 2006 through the respective ministry appointed CDF fund managers whose mandate included: advising the CDF boards on proper fund usage, preparing the CDF budget, Preparing monthly financial reports as a measure to bring sanity into the fund operations.

Mapesa and Kibua (2006) outlined that whereas it was pertinent to address political concerns as well as policies surrounding the fund. Hence, they sampled out five constituencies of Kangundo, Limuru, Machakos, Kajiado and Makadara for study. Following the study variables of awareness and participation, institutional capacity, coordination and legal framework, it was realized that the communities’ perception of the fund is that the fund is a grant from the MPs, hence they are not aware of their rights and/or roles, how they are expected to participate and monitor implementation.

Another study conducted in Mombasa by CLARION in 2007 on Gender Dimensions in Management of Decentralized Funds observed that women have been included in the committees as provided by law, but they rarely participate effectively. And that the identification to various committees depended entirely on levels of interaction with the sitting MP and not on meritocracy. Section 81 (b) of the constitution of Kenya 2010 roots for gender equality by directing that not more than two-thirds of members of elective public bodies shall be of the same gender. This has led to the improvement of policies, most of which touch on the position of women in society.

The CDF Act should be amended to come up with democratic procedures of operating the kitty; if it has to be retained in the new dispensation. It is inconsistent to retain CDF encapsulated in whatever form of legislation in a territorial unit where the MP is head and hence their role in management of CDF straddling executive (project implementation) and legislative (representative and watchdog) (Misati and Ontita, 2011).

2.3 Theoretical Framework
This study was be pegged on the Social constructivism, a paradigm which grew out of the philosophy of Edmund Husserl’s phenomenology and white Dilthey study of interpretive understanding called hermeneutics (Eichelberger, 1989). The basic assumptions of this paradigm is that knowledge is socially constructed by people and that individuals and groups create their perceived reality. Social constructivism suggests that reality is socially
Socially constructed reality is seen as an on-going dynamic process; reality is re-produced by people acting on their interpretations of what they perceive to be the world external to them. The theory was preferred over the sequential Theory of Decentralization, the Globalization theory and the Role theory, on grounds that Gender as a socially constructed role, could only be best theorized using the former theory to help capture the terrestrial interests of the bargaining actors in development concerns, and the societal constructed disparities which seek to sideline the females.

In this study, the participation of women is largely dependent on socially constructed barriers of culture, education levels, ability, gender constructions, legal concerns and interest in participation. An undoing perception is that males are better placed to run key institutions in society, and that women’s dominance is purely domesticated. This in reality is true given that Social constructivism as a component explores the ways which individuals and groups create their perceived reality and in this case, the created illusion is on the superiority complex that seeks to define males in society and the utter subordination of females.

Thus, if the participation of women in devolved funds is enhanced through breaking the norm and reservation barring them from wedging their interest in development matters, then there will be conspicuous changes in the way CDF projects are managed and the outcome will hold momentous impact in society. This will lead to a case scenario where all stakeholders develop interest in the way the projects and funds are allocated, implemented and managed hence sustenance of community projects. The rationale is that communities will be equipped with the personal and administrative authority if the same is stripped off political patrons, and this would positively impact in policy making and expenditure logic.

However, this theory is without deficient of shortcomings. Social constructions do not wholly influence the participation of women in community projects, the theory does not take into account the system operations of society, the structural complexities of the CDF fund as well as the legal dynamics involved. There is also the issue of the lackadaisical attitude embraced by most women, and has largely hindered their active participation. Participation, as earlier
choice, freedom of action and freedom to make mistakes.

This research involves investigations into women's participation in CDF activities. CDF as a tenet of devolution was conceived by the government of Kenya in 2003 to aid grassroots development. One of the main characteristics of the Fiscal Federalism theory of Decentralization by Musgrave (1958) is maximizing social welfare, which is portrayed as a combination of economic stability, allocative efficiency and distributive equity. From the theory, we derive that participation in CDF activities calls for the tenets of both economic development and equity in distribution of resources and roles of both genders of male and female. Musgrave argues that the precise challenge of decentralization is essentially to locate resources at the level of government that optimizes social welfare. Involvement of women, just like that of men at the various stages of development in CDF Projects must therefore be taken into account for purposes of advancing social equity and justice.

**Figure 2.1 Conceptual Framework**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent variables</th>
<th>Intervening variables</th>
<th>Dependent variables</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literacy level of women</td>
<td>Legal provisions</td>
<td>Women's participation in CDF projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beliefs</td>
<td>Affects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature of projects</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance roles of women in CDF funded projects</td>
<td></td>
<td>Women's interest in participating in CDF funded projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author 2012
3.1 Introduction

This third chapter describes the methods and techniques which were used in conducting the study. Focus will be on the description of the research design, the target and accessible population, sample size and sampling techniques, data collection instruments and data analysis procedures and techniques.

3.1.1 Research Design

This study was conducted through a cross sectional survey design. Oso and Owen (2005) describe survey as a study which employs present oriented methodologies to investigate populations by selecting samples to analyze and discover occurrences. Questionnaires were administered to the study population, as well as the use of interviews that helped obtain information which made possible the understanding of women’s participation in the execution of projects under the devolved funds: A case of Kanduyi constituency development fund. The researcher also used available secondary data to help fill in the gaps that could not have been addressed by the primary data.

3.2 Population and Sampling

3.2.1 Target Population

Being a large area covering 318.5 square Km that Kanduyi constituency is, the study population included Kanduyi constituents drawn from the larger Bungoma District (Census report 2009). Representatives from the ongoing and completed CDF funded projects including CDC members were targeted. A representative from the national CDF committee was interviewed to help anchor the researcher's nationwide understanding of the composition of the fund and gender dimensions involved.

The proportionate inclusion of all gender in the progress of community projects was crucial for the success of the project, and brought with it the sense of ownership. The benefits to which leads to projects’ sustenance as well as replication. It was on this dwelling that the researcher drew insights regarding the level and involvement of women in a typical CDF project cycle. The report obtained from the Bungoma DDO's office for Kanduyi constituency CDF projects for the financial year 2011/2012 established that there were 116 active CDF projects.
A sample of 40 projects/sites were purposively/ randomly selected by the researcher and subjected to a proportionate sampling criterion across the identified strata of Township and Musikoma, Kibabii, Bukembe and East Bukusu- being the locations/ wards within Kanduyi constituency. This aided the researcher to arrive at a solid sample which was selected to represent the entire population. The total number of projects which were being supported by the CDF at that moment in Kanduyi constituency stood at 116, thus forming the universe. The identified strata of Township, Kibabii, Bukembe and East Bukusu which were identified had 17, 23, 27 and 49 active CDF projects respectively; thus the formula:

\[ n = \frac{(f) \text{ Total/cluster} \times \text{intended sample}}{\text{Universe}} \]

Where the total number of projects per cluster \((f)\) = 17, 23, 27 and 49 respectively

Intended sample = 40

Universe = 116

\[
\text{Hence: } \frac{17 \times 40}{116} = 5.862 \approx 6 \\
\frac{23 \times 40}{116} = 7.931 \approx 8 \\
\frac{27 \times 40}{116} = 9.310 \approx 9 \\
\frac{49 \times 40}{116} = 16.896 \approx 17
\]

Four respondents (both male and female) from the sample 40 projects were randomly selected for interviewing, bringing the total number of respondents to 160. The sample consisted of committee members, local representatives for each of the projects identified, project managers and project beneficiaries from Kanduyi constituency. A sample of 160 respondents were uniformly distributed in the identified projects under the four selected strata. The units of analysis were the respondents of both sexes (male and female) which helped the researcher understand the dynamics of women participation or lack thereof in CDF projects; subsequently, the units of observation comprised of government institutions, public organizations, community projects, persons, groups and events. For document review, recently completed projects were analyzed.
This formula assumed a 95% confidence level and $p = 0.5$ (being the estimated variability or distribution) and the margin of error $e$ of $\pm 5\%$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strata(locations)</th>
<th>Frequency/number of active sites</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
<th>Proportionate Sample size $n = f*40/116$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Township and Musikoma</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14.65</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kibabii</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>19.82</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bukembe</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>23.27</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Bukusu</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>42.24</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author.

3.2.3 Sampling Techniques

This study employed a stratified random sampling design to reach the desired sample size. The population of study was organized into four strata namely, Township Municipality, Kibabii, Bukembe and East Bukusu. Thereafter projects which fell in the selected strata were subjected to random sampling, arriving at the sample for study. Kombo, D.K and Tromp, D.L.A define stratified random sampling as a technique which involves dividing the population into homogeneous subgroups, then taking a simple random sample in each subgroup. Therefore, to underscore on homogeneity of the selected sample, stratified sampling was handy in ensuring that samples were drawn from each region encompassed in the target population.

3.3 Data Collection

3.3.1 Instrumentation

Questionnaires, in-depth interviews, and focus group discussions were majorly employed in collecting primary data. The interviews involved CDF committee members, project members, local community members and relevant authorities. The selection of the tools was largely informed by the nature of the study as well as the fact finding objectives behind the study.
as a tool for data collection, a set of written questions which called for responses on the part of respondent (mainly CDF project beneficiaries) which were both self and group administered Mugenda and Mugenda, (1999). It is a common place instrument for collecting data beyond the physical reach of the researcher, that is, from a large or diverse sample of people. It contained clear question, worded as simply as possible to avoid ambiguity since the researcher could not be present at all times to explain what she meant by any closed ended or open ended questions that are asked of every respondent in the study. Through the use of questionnaires, views, perceptions and opinions which could not be directly observed, were noted.

Questionnaires are appropriate for studies involving large sizes of sample population (160 in this case) hence convenient for the study on women’s participation in Kanduyi CDF. After collecting the questionnaires from the research assistants the researcher checked each questionnaire to ensure that each item was filled correctly.

b) In- depth interviews
The researcher participated in in- depth interviews, to seek the outlook of various CDF projects and how they engage women in project activities, either at the managerial level or at the different stages of the entire project, what women’s roles are and why they are assigned to such roles.

Information was gathered from in- depth interviews conducted in a group of about 5- 10 individuals living in Kanduyi, who demonstrated they had participated in the various projects in the Constituency. These are individuals who told of their experiences regarding the participation of women in CDF funded projects. Those who were considered for the interviews included individuals who had demonstrated knowledge of the situation at hand (women’s participation in CDF projects), the most outspoken, most accessible and those who had interacted with various CDF funded projects in the area.

c) Focus group discussions
Small groups of about six women per stratum were approached for an extensive discussion over the subject matter; women’s participation in devolved funds and their understanding of the concept participation in a project cycle. This technique gave the researcher and the
direct interaction, where reactions were captured. (Bober, 2004) cites that such a method helps orient the researcher to the study and to the situation. The method helped the researcher have a better understanding of the information gathered using other methods, as well as complement other interview tools that were employed.

This technique had an advantage where the researcher could modify a question misinterpreted by the respondents; the method also served to improve the relationship between the researcher and the respondents.

d) Key informant interviews
These are interviews which were directed to informant considered to be knowledgeable about a particular issue, hence accessible and willing to provide information. They included institutional representatives, Ministry officials as well as CDF board Officials. Actors perceived to have adequate knowledge on the operation of the fund were approached, for interviewing. They included a representative from the national CDF board who was interviewed to enable the researcher have a national outlook of gender composition of the fund, the District Social welfare officer, CDF Fund Patron, District Development Officer two representative from the constituency CDF board were considered as well. This enabled the researcher collect balanced and accurate information as regards the subject under study.

3.3.2 Research Procedure
For this study, the researcher developed a proposal within a period of three weeks under the guidance of the supervisor. Once the proposal was ready, the researcher proceeded to seek for an introduction letter from the University and request for permission from relevant authorities from the Bungoma District administration, Kanduyi CDF officers as well as area administrative authority and respondents to proceed with the study. Once permission was granted, the researcher then proceeded to collect both qualitative and quantitative data from the 160 respondents from the selected 40 projects using questionnaires, interviews and group discussions. The field data was collected by the researcher with the help of three research assistants owing to the expansive nature of the research area and limited time. The assistants were trained by the researcher for a day on interviewing skills and approach techniques to apply to respondents so as to reduce any scorer/ interviewer biases and to enhance rapport with respondents. The data collected was analyzed through tallying, coding, tabulation and
3.4 Quality Control

Pilot studies were conducted involving two respondents from each stratum to establish the reliability and validity of research instruments. Adjustments were done using the result of the pilot study to enhance validity and reliability of the tools.

Further, there was comparison of results and scores obtained using different data collection tools. Once this was proved tenable, the researcher visited the respondents on the site, introduced herself and revealed the purpose of the research then requested the respondents to fill the questionnaires, some of which were collected the following day. Most of the questionnaires were administered on a drop and pick method. However, for those respondents who could read or write, and/or understand English, the researcher had to administer the questionnaire, translated the content therein into Kiswahili or the local dialect. The data collection exercise lasted a month.

3.5 Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics, which include measures of central tendency (mean, mode, median), measures of dispersion (range, Standard Deviation and Variance) and distribution were used to analyze data. The findings then presented/distributed in summary using percentages, frequency distribution tables and graphs for quantitative data using graphs, bar and pie charts. Qualitative data gathered from the in-depth interviews and discussions was analyzed and presented in prose, whereas repetitive answers were grouped into themes and used to complement the quantitative responses.

3.6 Ethical Considerations

The main ethical considerations in this study were be privacy and confidentiality of the respondents. Given the political dimensions involved in the running of the CDF fund, free will to share information on the topic of research was compromised, hence the researcher had to ensure anonymity of the respondents and also treat the information shared with privacy and confidentiality.
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the study findings. Descriptive statistics is used to facilitate meaningful analysis. In this study, respondents were drawn from active CDF projects in 40 randomly selected CDF project sites in Kanduyi Constituency. The following characteristics were considered: age, sex and knowledge on the operations of CDF activities. The results show that out of the 160 anticipated sample size, 122 respondents were analyzed forming a 76.25% response rate. According to Babbie, (2002), any response rate of 50% and above is adequate for analysis.

4.2 Demographic Factors

4.2.1 Age of the Respondents

The study inquires into the age of the respondents in order to classify responses by age.

Table 4.1 Age of the Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (years)</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-30</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>34.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-45</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>37.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-55</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>22.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56 and over</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data in the table 4.1 indicate that majority of the respondents were between ages 18 and 55. Most of the responses were collected from the CDF projects sites where the respondents were either employed to work or benefitted from the services rendered from the facility. Hence this is proof that the study obtained responses from very experienced and knowledgeable people in the operations of society, more so, conversant with the operations of CDF projects. The mature respondents also had their input factored in, since they are the most consulted and possess a cache of information on the topic under scrutiny their input could not be easily ignored.
The study inquired into the sex of the respondents, in order to categorize responses by sex.

**Figure 4.1 Sex of the respondent**

![Pie chart showing sex distribution]

Data in figure 4.1 indicate an almost equal representation of either gender of the respondents, though male representation is slightly higher at 53% while female representation in the survey is at 47%. This meant that the study observed gender balance in selection of respondents, hence both gender voices were taken into account.

The willingness of the female respondents to come out and provide information on a topic that highlights their welfare is proof that women have taken a step out of the cocoon that once depicted them as shy and introverts, unwilling to share information for fear of ridicule. It is also an indication that women are ready to have a stake in issues which affect them and want to be heard on the same level as men. Men on the other hand overwhelmingly came out and willingly provided information and gave their voices on how to promote gender balance in community projects. Those who the researcher spoke to were willing to slay the retrogressive beliefs and were keen on the issue of both the girl child and boy child empowerment.

### 4.2.3 Respondent Occupation

The study further inquired into the respondents occupation in order to classify responses by occupation.
Findings in figure 4.2 indicate that a majority of the respondents partake in formal employment at 53%, those who indicated that they relied on farming as a source of income came second at 20%, while 13.9% were business people, 12.3 % indicated that they are in informal employment as 4.1% indicated that they were members of CDF committees. This indicates that the respondents are economically empowered.

It was apparent that formal employment was a source of livelihood for the bulk of Kanduyi constituency residents. In a set up where women are battling it out with men through enrolling for courses in various institutions to be able to secure a chance in formal employment. Almost the same number of female respondents who were in formal employment was catching up in that of males. In most projects visited (mostly schools) the number of teachers, both male and female were at par. This situation was replicated in the other forms of income generating activities in Kanduyi constituency such as agriculture, business and informal employment.

4.2.4 Respondent Monthly Income
The study inquired into the monthly income of the respondents in order to classify responses by earnings.
Data in figure 4.3 indicate that 20% of the respondents, who are the majority earn between 20,001- 30,000 and another 20% earn between 10,001- 20,000. 15% earn between 5,001-10,000. Those earning 30,001- 50,000 account for 14%. In addition, those in the category of 0- 2,500 account for 13%, while those in the range of 2,551- 5,000 account for 10%. only 5% of the respondents make earnings of above 50,000.

13% of the respondents earn more than a dollar a day translating into 2,550 shillings a month. In a set up where majority of the respondents work hard to earn a living through participating in various forms of income generating activities, it was noted that the 13% were individuals who ran small business ventures such as boda boda bicycle operators. Those who made up to 50,000 shillings or more a month engaged in either formal employment or ran businesses. The fact that majority of the respondents took home 5,000- 50,000 shillings indicates that the residents of Kanduyi constituency are vibrant individuals who look for every opportunity they get to generate income that will help sustain their families among other endeavors.

4.2.5 Number of Years in Education
The study inquired into the number of years spent by respondents at various levels of education in order to classify responses in by the levels stated.
Table 4.2 Number of Years in Education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Mean (no. of Years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>259</strong></td>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.2 above indicates the respective average number of years the respondents have been in education. 103 respondents had spent an average of 7 years in primary level of education. 86 respondents indicated that they had spent an average of 4 years in the secondary level of education. 65 respondents have undertaken tertiary level education for an average of 3 years. The findings point to high levels of literacy amongst the respondents.

The respondents attributed to the yearning for success, ability to get income, secure good employment as some of the factors that push them to enroll in school. The evidence that most respondents have pursued education up to beyond secondary school level serves to amplify their longing for a better life and accrue benefits that accompany having a good education.

4.2.6 Highest Level of Education Attained

The study inquired into the highest level of education attained by the respondents post secondary education to classify the responses by the various levels of certificate, diploma, graduate, masters degree and others.
The findings in figure 4.4 indicate that majority of the respondents have a college certificate as the highest level of education 38.90%, diploma holders at 29.80%, graduates at 24.20% and masters degree holders at 4.10%. The implication being that majority of the respondents in the sampled area are educationally empowered.

Most of the respondents have pursued various courses at various tertiary level institutions. They indicated to be driven by the desire to keep up with the market demands and for purposes of securing a better chance in employment, as well as mastering the community's destiny, to bring to harmony the development process and empower the future generation.

**4.2.7: Respondent Relation to the Project**

The study inquired into the respondents relation to the CDF projects in order to classify responses by the type of the relationship the respondents share with the projects.
The findings in figure 4.5 indicate that 54.90% of the respondents are part of the community that uses the project, while 33.90% of the respondents live near the project. Only 9.80% are employed to work on the project.

From the data, the large number (54%) of community members who benefit from CDF projects explains that majority of community members have come to find CDF as a source of community empowerment. CDF has improved livelihoods through bringing closer services in the various sectors such as health, education, security, better roads among other benefits, which were unheard of, or could take villagers to cover long distanced to have access to them.

A good number of Kanduyi constituents have been employed to work on CDF projects, in this case, 9% of the respondents indicate that they work on the project, hence a source of income. The benefits accrued from CDF projects are obvious, and have impacted positively on both the social and economic status of the residents.

4.3 CDF Projects and Women's Needs

To assess the impact of CDF projects, particularly with the aim of understanding women's needs, the study inquired about CDF projects operations, that is, the fund management, and activities therein as well as the impact of CDF projects on women's plights, and the benefits accrued from the same.
The study probed the knowledge of the existence of a Project Management Committee to understand the extent to which the respondents had interacted with the project.

**Figure 4.6: knowledge of the existence of a Project Management Committee**

The findings as shown in figure 4.6 indicated that majority of the respondents 70% were aware of the existence of a project management committee for the CDF projects while 24% did not know whether such a committee exist, while 6% admits that the committee does not exist. However, it was hard for most respondents who admitted that a PMC existed to point out the number of its members. The common reason given was that the activities of PMCs were not conducted openly, hence they could not ascertain the exact numbers. Those who made these assertions included very knowledgeable people in society such as teachers; who admitted to have been kept in the dark by the project committee members, despite them showing interest. For others, they simply never bother with the operations of CDF activities, as long as it does not interface with their roles. A senior teacher in one of the institutions visited revealed the following.

"The operations of CDF are carried out in secret. We are only informed when the headmistress has received a check from the CDF offices for funding a specific project, and that is it. We are not involved in the project selection and are always kept out of the details. We know we cannot question the highest authority, we just conform as we watch a flurry of activities taking place."
39

With such an occurrence, it remains a challenge to ascertain the levels of transparency or otherwise amongst project committees in the development process. The habit of not publishing the committee members for project beneficiaries too carries consequences, some of which could be of ill motive.

4.3.2: Knowledge of Who Funds the Projects
The study inquired about respondents knowledge on who funds CDF activities to understand the knowledge of CDF projects in Kanduyi constituency.

Figure 4.7 Do you Know Who Funds the Projects?

About 86% of the respondents could identify who funds the projects visited and could point out CDF as the sponsor, while 11% had no knowledge on who funds the projects. This demonstrated that the respondents were well versed with CDF projects. This overwhelming knowledge of CDF projects was amplified by the presence of clearly marked posters on project sites showing that CDF is the project sponsors. The widespread knowledge could also be as a result of the benefits drawn from the CDF funded projects and the ability of the people to relate with it. The inclusion of the people at all stages of the project could explain the situation, or the significance that the projects had brought along with them informed the urge by the residents to find out who brought the projects to them.

4.3.3 Participation in CDF Projects Selection Process
The study inquired about respondents knowledge of who was involved in the CDF projects selection to understand their knowledge of CDF projects in Kanduyi constituency.
Figure 4.8 Did you or people you know in the Community participate in CDF projects selection process?

About 78% of the respondents indicated that community members participate in selection of CDF projects, while 18% admitted that community members do not participate in the selection of CDF project, moreover 4% did not know whether community members participate in selection of CDF projects. Those cited to have been involved in the selection process and/or identification of CDF projects are: Local politicians, Village elders, Area Chief, Residents, Opinion makers i.e. pastors, teachers and parents, various Ministry representatives (DDO, education, health, roads officials) and the location Project Management Committee. The idea to let the project beneficiaries participate in the selection process underscores on the urge to empower the community and promote democracy as well as the project ownership, which results in replication and sustenance. Decision making as a tenet of participation is the success to empowerment, and if locals are given the chance to demonstrate their prowess, left to participate in custom making of solutions are suitable for their needs, then the process of participation is successful.

4.3.4 Rating of impact of CDF Projects

The study inquired into the ratings of CDF projects in terms of benefits to three different groups namely: Men, Women and Community in general in order to understand how women fare in terms of benefiting from the projects.
Table 4.3 Rating of CDF projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Low</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>41.8</td>
<td>35.2</td>
<td>20.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community in General</td>
<td>75.4</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The findings in table 4.3 indicate that 41.8% of the respondents rated the impact of CDF projects on women as high, 35.2% rated the impact of CDF projects to women as medium and 20% rated the impact of CDF projects on women as low. The findings also indicate that 72% rated the impact of CDF projects on men as high, 22% of the respondents rated the impact of CDF projects on men as medium, whereas 4% rated low impact. Whereas 75.4% of the responses indicate high impact of CDF projects on the community, 18% rated medium impact, 4.1% rated low impact.

Data from Focus Group discussions and Key Informant Interviews indicate that as much as the community is better placed in realizing the benefits of CDF projects, Males had an upper hand in terms of accruing the benefits brought about by CDF projects; right from securing posh positions in CDF committees, managing crucial decisions, implementation of projects and securing tenders for various projects' facilitation.

Nonetheless, women and their families benefit from CDF projects mostly in the utilization of the end product that comes from the various projects, that is, services rendered by CDF funded projects. Such include securing education for their children, water, roads, security and healthcare. The full benefits are yet to be realized owing to the women's laid back attitude, who have to be constantly reminded to claim their rightful positions and benefits from CDF activities. The study found out that CDF projects address women's needs, but on a minimal scale.
4.4: Women's Participation in CDF Projects

4.4.1: Women's Active Participation

The study sought to interpret women's involvement in CDF project activities. Their presence at the various levels of the CDF project cycle and the affects to their participation, their perceived roles in CDF project activities, the nature of projects that attracts women's participation and women's interest in participating as well.

Figure 4.9 Are women active Participants in CDF project activities?

The findings in figure 4.9 above indicate that 57.4% of the respondent thought that women are active participants in the CDF project activities, 25.4% thought that women are not active participants, while 17.2% did not know. Those who agree that women are active participants indicated that most women are aggressive, great decision makers, wise, good managers, self driven, active, great caretakers and mobilizers in CDF project activities.

The respondents argued that women were active participants in all stages of the CDF project cycle from Identification, planning, implementation to Monitoring and Evaluation. Women were also singled out to be active during the selection of CDF committee members and worked around the clock to ensure that proper facilitation on CDF projects is realized. This includes providing labor and other support roles when called upon.

The growing acceptance that women can do just as much as men can, the widespread campaigns on media about women empowerment, the efforts by government to enhance the
Enhanced women's participation in development process has enhanced women's participation in development process towards the development agenda. The huge interest to participate in development activities as being exhibited scores on the gains made so far and the power that better policies can have towards attitude.

4.4.2: CDF Committee Membership

Local CDF Project Management Committees were scrutinized to enable the researcher understand the commitment of women in securing top positions at the committee level and the benefits of having their inclusion in CDF committees and its impact on CDF projects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 4.4 Members in the committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimum</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members in the CDF Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>women who sit in the CDF committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The findings in table 4.4 above indicate that a PMC existed in every project that was visited. From the data, there were a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 20 members in every CDF Committee for the projects visited. It was noted that women were totally misrepresented in some of the committees, while in some instances a maximum of 10 women sat in such committees. This suggests that majority of those who sit in the CDF project committees are men, whose membership is more than half of the entire committees, indicating that the two-third gender rule is not widely observed.

Data from Focus Group Discussions indicated that such unfortunate occurrence is seen to be a key deterrent to Women's participation in CDF projects activities due to the male dominance in committees, making it hard for women to present their input, since they do not relate to such projects and the activities therein. Further, in a male dominated CDF PMC, less emphasis tend to be placed on women's issues. However, it was noted that depending on the nature of the project, the composition of a PMC had less influence on women's participation, given that, if the CDF project is closer to women's need such as water projects, more women participate. Most CDF PMCs delegate the Treasurer's position to women since they are
4.4.3 Women's Interest in Participating in CDF project activities

The willingness or unwillingness of women to have their input in CDF project was looked into so as to understand the thriving forces that warrant such a situation.

Figure 4.10 Do women have interest in participating in CDF projects?

The findings in figure 4.13 indicate that majority of the respondents 83% thought that women have interest in participating in CDF projects while 17 % thought women have no interest in participating in CDF projects. The findings go a long way in affirming women's interest to have their input in CDF activities. however the dominant factors contributing to women's resigned attitude in participating in the CDF activities include female subordination; women conforming to the home making roles and view activities such as CDF to be a preserve of men and under representation in PMCs.

The respondents argued that the homogeneous nature of CDF PMCs also counted as a contributing factor as to why women shy away from CDF activities, since they felt the committees did not represent their needs. the quote below from a respondent (Sifuma) during a Focus Group Discussion session best describes the situation:

"Homogeneous committees present a sense of inferiority to women, thus curtailing their participation interest. Women tend to distance themselves from the activities of the project since they associate it to a male initiative. In some instances, women show interest in CDF activities, but are rarely given an opportunity to manifest their ability. Inferiority complex and illiteracy is a preserve of most women and thus deters their interest to participate."
Despite the growing acceptance that women can participate at par with men, there is still need for more input from women. The easiest approach could be through empowering more women who in turn should be encouraged to take upon themselves the role to promote the growth of other women in society, through sharing experiences and encouraging them to come forth and having their potential realized.

4.4.4 Women's Roles in CDF Activities

The study delved into the various tasks involving CDF projects in order to find out the predominant roles given to women.

**Figure 4.11 Roles mostly assigned to women**

![Roles mostly assigned to women](image)

The findings in figure 4.11 indicate that 46% of the respondents agree that women are assigned supervisory roles 45% indicated that women assigned manual roles and 8% opine that women are assigned support roles. This confirms that CDF has upheld the role of women in its activities and therefore entrusts them with high cadre roles as a show of their value. The constant argument as to why women are involved at the supervision level is that women are great decision makers, wise and responsible caretakers. They perform exemplarily on the roles assigned to them.

To increase their potential, more women need to be entrusted with respectable roles, ones which they have demonstrated to be highly qualified to handle and have shown keen interest in foreseeing their success. If women are perceived as great decision makers, wise and responsible caretakers, then everything entrusted to them is in safe hands and that they could
4.4.5: Nature of Projects and Women's Participation in CDF Projects

The study set out to find out if the nature of various CDF funded projects had an effect on women's participation in its activities. CDF funds public owned development projects, and in the area of study, various projects including roads, schools, agriculture, health facilities, water and administrative projects are beneficiaries to the fund.

Figure 4.12 Does nature of project determine women's participation in CDF projects?

The findings as shown in figure 4.15 above indicate that 46.2% of the respondents agree that the nature of project determine women's participation in CDF projects while 24.9% indicate that the nature of the project did not determine women's participation in CDF projects, whereas 28.9% did not know whether the nature of the project determines women's participation in the CDF projects.

The most common argument that respondents put across is that most CDF funded projects involve construction activities hence give room for laborious tasks which are conducted by men, thinning the chances of women involvement. Those who did not agree with the dogma that nature of projects is a deterrent to women's participation argued that with the changing times, gender roles have been redefined and that it is no longer an exception to spot women engaging in menial chores at CDF project sites; and that those relying on the premise of nature of projects limiting participation were not justified in their arguments. Due to the liberalization of gender roles, women have been exposed to more freedom, which in turn
attracts more women to take part in development activities including CDF projects. Therefore, women need to come out from hiding behind the mask of nature of projects as an excuse to their minimalist participation in development projects and face the task head on and compete with men at the same level if the intend to get ahead of the gender disparities and gender inequality debacle, where they are perceived victims.

4.4.6 Ways to Improve Participation

From the discussions held with various groups, and responses collected, the following findings as suggested could improve women's Participation in CDF projects. Priority should be given to women in the CDF projects to ensure that there is gender balance in Project Management Committees. This objective could be attained through assigning women roles in CDF projects and in turn enhance project ownership. There is also need to give thorough gender education, civic education on the role and importance of CDF as well as the benefits of participation in such activities.

 Authorities concerned with operations of CDF need to ensure they install more qualified, visionary and outgoing leaders, this could be attained through outlining criterion for membership selection for the various positions. Such should be done in a manner that will oversee that women are included in management roles to foster effective decision making and to encourage women's participation. There is need to enhance girl child education at all levels so as to inculcate literacy amongst womenfolk. With proper education, women become aggressive in pursuing their rights in enhancing the development agenda and also change their perception about gender beliefs, which subsequently translates into spirited participation in development projects, with CDF being a priority area.

4.5 Constraints to Women's participation

A number of factors have been listed as impediments to women's participation which the study set out to analyze. They include cultural factors, women's education levels, legal aspects, project nature, training and PMC membership.
and participation in CDF projects, proper training need to be carried out. The study analyzed CDF projects in terms of offering training to those involved in their activities.

**Figure 4.13 Have you ever received any training on the project?**

About 85% of the respondents indicate that they did not receive any training on the CDF projects whereas only 15% indicated that they were trained on the site on handling CDF projects. The fact that majority were not imparted with necessary skills on how to work on the project sites could have locked out a big number of interested women in participating in CDF project activities, owing to lack of proper know how. Given that only 57% of the respondents indicated that women are active participants in CDF projects activities, the lapse to more women's participation could be attributed to lack of proper and adequate training.

**4.5.2: Cultural beliefs that Influence Women's Participation in CDF projects**

Aspects of culture have been listed to have a negative impact on women's participation in CDF project activities.
Figure 4.14 indicates that 82% of the respondents did not perceive cultural beliefs as impediments to women's participation, while 18% thought that there are cultural beliefs that influence women's participation in CDF projects. Some of the cultural beliefs that curtail women's participation, which the respondents listed during the various focus group discussion sessions held during the study include: Patriarchy/ women subordination, Gender roles of women in society including low emphasis on the girl child education and early marriages; economic factors such as poverty which drives women to find a means to enable them earn a living and in turn shun development activities including CDF and religious beliefs. During the study, a respondent who was a school head narrated of a situation how religion has stood in the way of many young girls who are deprived a chance to complete their studies.

"In this community, religion underrates the significance of the girl child. Girls, and women in general are often perceived as submissive beings whose place is in the kitchen. They have no economic role to play but rather to stay home and give birth, as men work hard to fend for their families. parents do not view education of the girl child as important, girls are seen as quick schemes to amass wealth through dowry demands. Girls as young as those attending class five are married off to suitors just for the sake of the material benefits that the parents reap. Recently, a class seven girl was taken off from school to get married off and the parents had the audacity to send us teachers the wedding invites. I stood my grounds and dared any teacher to attend the wedding and face my full wrath. There is nothing as painful as losing such a young woman to retrogressive religious practices, one who is so close to tasting the fruits of their hard labor. As a parent and the school head, It pains me to witness these incidents often.”

The respondents argued that majority of the women who have conformed to cultural beliefs are left out of development activities due to the hard line stance that they have taken on issues
Despite the odds, communities are now shunning the beliefs and now been liberated and the successful ones are admired rather than ridiculed. Most girls look up to their role models for encouragement and women empowerment has overshadowed retrogressive cultural practices. Backward culture is now losing significance fast and modernity is setting the pace of development.

4.5.3 Education Levels and its Influence on Participation

The study analyzes the impact of the different levels of education including illiteracy, low education and proper education on women's participation in CDF projects activities, to understand the impact of education on women's participation.

![Figure 4.15 Does one's level of education influence their participation in CDF projects?](image)

While 82% of the respondents indicate that one's level of education influences their participation in CDF projects. 18% did not agree that one's level of education influences their participation in CDF projects. Those respondents who asserted that one's level education is completely autonomous to the extent of participation argue that wisdom prevails in most instances in the manner in which the uneducated have their input in CDF projects. Further, the respondents opine that education has its advantages to those participating in CDF projects, of which include: Education breeds exposure, enhances necessary skills, ensures effective communication, fosters sobriety in decision making, enhances participation through keen interest on the CDF events, commands respect. Other benefits of education which the respondents listed are that education is a recipe for effective planning and organization hence minimal error, ensures required qualifications and necessary skills are attained, mirrors on the quality of work as well as ensuring effective management and accountability.
Majority of the respondents were unaware of the legal components of the CDF Act and could not point out any legal factors that hinder women’s participation in CDF project. Only three of the respondents could identify with the legal provisions guiding the CDF, of whom were CDF officials and one member of a project management committee. None of the residents could identify the legal guiding factors outlined in the CDF Act. This wanton lack of information on the legal structures behind the operations of CDF makes it impossible for any meaningful engagement by women in CDF projects due to lack of knowledge on the fund’s guiding principles. This lack of crucial information provides loopholes for phony activities in CDF operations, such as shortchanging of disadvantaged groups, women included, and thus depriving them of the privilege to demonstrate their prowess in running CDF activities.

4.7 Conclusion
In the course of the study Women's Participation in CDF projects in Kanduyi constituency, the researcher analyzed the CDF project management and the connection that the respondents had with the fund projects operations to have a proper assessment of CDF. It was evident that CDF projects' have raised living standards of Kanduyi constituents. The respondents detailed how crucial CDF projects; in sectors of education, health and other social services have transformed livelihoods in the community and enhanced networkability and thus enhancing access to services. The constituents contend that CDF projects are a great idea for community empowerment and has improved the social status of the community and thus a great tool in the emancipation of grassroots development.

However, the respondents cited the need for efficient Monitoring and Evaluation as well as thorough auditing to check on irregularities such as fund wastage, in order to enhance transparent management. Wastage of funds, they said had led to poorly done and incomplete projects. This they say could be corrected through employing of skilled manpower to ensure professionalism and Proper management for projects' sustainability.

The respondents also revealed that women are aggressive, great decision makers, wise, good managers, self driven, active, hence, great caretakers and mobilizers in the operations of CDF. There is however need to enlighten locals on the CDF Act to acquaint them with the underpinnings of CDF procedures, since the lack of such vital information was a setback towards their urge to participate in CDF activities.
5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the discussion of findings, drawn conclusions and recommendations made there to. The conclusions and recommendations drawn are focused on addressing the objectives of this study which were to explore the role of women and their participation in decision making and general involvement in the project cycle process in the Kanduyi constituency Development Fund. To explore the extent to which CDF projects addresses their needs, the constraints holding them back in their bid to participate, and the legislative framework that guides the fund and its impact on the participation of women in the activities of CDF funded projects in Kanduyi constituency.

5.2 Summary of Findings

This section summarizes the findings as per the study objectives. The first objective of the study was to establish if the ongoing or completed CDF projects in Kanduyi constituency address women’s plights. The respondents gave an indication that the CDF projects poorly impacted on women’s plights. Only 41.8% of the respondents agree that the CDF projects had a high impact on women and women's needs. Majority of the respondents (75.4%) indicated that the projects fully addressed the community’s plights and 72% were in agreement that the projects addressed men’s plights.

The respondents indicated that though the ongoing and completed CDF projects address women plights, it was at a very low level. However, studies discussed in the literature review did indicate that there was need to mainstream gender interests and encouragement of women participation to enhance both economic and human development in any democratized system (Nzomo, 1993). Respondents argued that most projects address the community’s plights rather than a specialized group’s interests. The benefits of the Kanduyi CDF projects are felt more at the community level rather than at an individual level, to a greater extend positively impacting on the lives of both men and women who are its financiers and beneficiaries.

The second objective was to establish women's participation and the governance roles of women in CDF projects. Findings indicate low uptake of governance roles by women in CDF projects. However, this has been espoused owing to the requirement in the CDF Act 2003 which calls on every CDF committee to have at least two women representatives and the
The amendments on the CDF Act 2013, rooting for at least a CDF committee of 11, which previously comprised of 17 members, are embraced. In the Kanduyi CDF Board, three out of the 15 board members are women. Further, findings into the roles assigned to women in the CDF projects indicated that women are favored in terms of holding key positions; the data indicate that the majority of women are assigned governance roles at the management level of the CDF projects including supervisory roles, compared to manual and support roles.

According to the CDF Act, every CDF Project Management Committee is required to have at least two women represented in its formation, a requirement that has been fulfilled pronto in Kanduyi CDF. This resonates with Palmer’s, 1985 ideal that for a just and sustainable economic development, women should be free to make decisions, on par with men at all levels of society. In Kanduyi constituency, respondents perceived women who were actively involved in the undertakings of CDF to be great decision makers, aggressive, great managers of both CDF fund and projects and resource mobilizers, with an unmatched potential. The study therefore confirms the findings on literature review. That the roles of women at any level of CDF projects is crucial for development and calls for comprehensive and critical analysis (Were, 1985).

The third objective was to determine the constraints to women’s participation in CDF projects. Data from the findings indicate a myriad of factors which stand in the way for full women’s participation in CDF projects including: low levels of education amongst the womenfolk, retrogressive cultural beliefs, lack of proper training on the projects, lack of a clear cut definition on gender roles, little or no interest in participating in participating in CDF project activities, the nature of the project and lack of enforcement of legal provision as outlined in the CDF Act to be major contributes to discreet women’s participation.

In the literature review, Ardener, (1975) observes that women have been formally assigned a single economic role rather than a choice from the multiple alternatives open to men. Ardener adds that while women have the main responsibility of taking care of children, food preparation and domestic work, their economic contribution outside home has been denied or belittled and under rewarded, relative to that of men. In this study, the findings on the undoing to women’s participation in CDF projects as stated above include the retrogressive cultural belief of patriarchy, little emphasis on the girl child education, inferiority complex
The fourth objective was to find out how legislation on devolved funds (CDF Act) affects women’s participation in CDF projects. The study has shown that there is a weak relationship between legislation and women’s participation. In as much as majority of the respondents demonstrated dismal or total lack of awareness of the components of the CDF Act, those in the know indicate that the legal provisions have fostered women’s inclusion in the decision making process and further in ensuring full participation in CDF project activities.

This is echoed in the fact that the CDF program was initiated without adequate preparedness in terms of sensitization and creation of organizational structures and capacities, and development of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms as outlined by Mapesa and Kibua (2006). Hence, most legal provisions have been overlooked, until recently (2006). This has not discouraged women from participating in CDF projects. Some of these factors according to the study findings largely include homogeneous CDF committees which lock out women and thus hindering their participation; the imperial powers vested upon the fund patron (in this case the area Member of Parliament) who could unilaterally pick committee members in the guise of rewarding loyalties rather than on the conventional meritocracy basis; overconcentration of projects in the patron’s backyard, most of which never propel women’s plights, poorly identified projects leading to wastage of funds, partial decision making resulting into lack of accountability, which is also contributed by a poor legislative framework. The implication is that in CDF funded projects in Kanduyi constituency, proper legislation on CDF and apt observation of these regulations enhances women’s participation in CDF projects.

5.3 Conclusion
The main aim of this study was to explore the role of women both in governance and ownership of projects, with respect to CDF funded projects in Kanduyi constituency. Four factors were investigated namely: Impact of CDF projects on women’s plights, governance roles of women in CDF projects, constraints to women’s participation in CDF projects and effects of legislation on women’s participation. The author has compared the findings against the context of literature review where the findings have either concurred strongly or mildly.
That roles of women in CDF funded projects and the extent of their participation can be enhanced through proper outlining of legal provisions in terms of a practical approach in the representation of women in CDF committees, by entrenching laws that will foresee increase in women's numbers to match up with those of their male counterparts. To completely eliminate the constraints to women's participation in CDF projects, retrogressive beliefs should be written off and gender roles realigned to enhance women's empowerment and aggravate women's participation, the issue of girl child education needs to be fostered to help curb illiteracy levels amongst womenfolk, enlighten women and the public in general about the provisions in the CDF Act through a thorough civic education exercise as well as liberating the womenfolk from the notion of subordination as well as the documentation of success stories involving able women managers which can be copied amongst generations to help liberate mindsets on women's participation.

To ensure that legislation advances women's participation, thorough sensitization and civic education should be introduced, Authorities should root for more heterogeneous committees and strip off imperial powers from the fund patron as well as install visionary and qualified CDF board members to enhance proper identification of projects. Further, authorities should facilitate citizen exchange forums to share experiences and further establish a hub or resource centre that would be accessible to the public, where information with regards to the CDF regulations can be acquired and shared. That to improve the impact of CDF projects to address women's plights, there is need to involve women at all levels of the project cycle to enhance project ownership, sensitize women on the need for their active participation in CDF projects and outline their rights as citizens in the participation in CDF activities.

5.4 Recommendations
In order to realize active women's participation in CDF funded projects in Kanduyi constituency and to an extend in other devolved funds' projects in the new County government's structures; emphasis should be laid on governance roles assigned to women, constraints to women's participation, effects of legislation on women's participation and the impact of CDF funds on women's plights.

The concerned authorities under the Ministry of National Treasury and the National CDF Board should ensure that constituency and location CDF Project Management Committees are regularly checked to ensure that they comply with the legal provisions in the CDF Act.
The newly elected CDF Board officials should be regularly checked to ensure that they are willing to address the issue of gender disparity, which is seen to be a major contributor to limited women’s participation. To address the constraints to women’s participation, a deeper insight need to be unveiled, one which will fast track the correction of the stated factors therein including the cultivation of attitudes and approaches. More projects should be designed to cater for women’s needs, of which will impact positively on their expectations thus fostering involvement at all levels. Overall, women need to work on their lackadaissal attitude to inculcate participation from their part, as well as appreciate the basics of public participation.

5.5 Recommendation for Future Research

Due to limited resources and time, the study concentrated on CDF funded projects in Kanduyi constituency only. Further research that encompasses a wider scope, and which captures projects across all sectors funded by the various forms of devolved funds, especially with the new structures of devolved governance is recommended in order to generalize the entire concept of devolved funds. Future studies should also include other contributors to limited participation, not just by women, but by the entire community in CDF funded projects.
REFERENCES


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http://www.cdf.go.ke
http://www.clarionkenya.org/index.php/programmes/political-awareness/68-women-empowerment-for-local-governance
http://www.kippra.org/accountability.asp.

www.knbs.or.ke/census-2009-kenya-population.html


APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

March 28, 2013
To whom it may concern
Dear Sir/ Madam

RE: LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

Academic Research Titled: Women’s Participation in Devolved Funds: A case Study of Kanduyi Constituency.
I am a Masters of Arts- Rural Sociology and Community Development student at the University of Nairobi conducting an academic research on the above subject. CDF board members, project officials, project managers, skilled and non skilled project workers have been identified as respondents for the study.
I am therefore requesting for your support and cooperation in answering questions honestly and completely. Please note that the information given will be treated with confidentiality and under no circumstance will the information be used to fulfill selfish ends, including divulging it to fund authorities without prior consent.
Carolyn A. Wamalwa

C50/63007/2010
APPENDIX II A

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Questionnaire No ..........................

Name of Research Assistant ..........................

1) Explain who you are, state the purpose of the visit. Clearly state that the information obtained from the interview is confidential.

2) Ask the person if they know about the project before starting the interview. If they have no knowledge, do not interview them.

3) If a person agrees to be interviewed, ask how long they have been resident in the community or working for the project. Do not interview if they have been involved for not more than one month.

4) Research assistants must interview both men and women in all project locations.

5) The minimum requirement is four interviews per project.

6) For questions with written answers, be very clear and concise.
APPENDIX II

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE STUDY

A study of Women’s Participation in Devolved Funds: a Case Study of Kanduyi CDF

(Please tick response as appropriate, where explanation is requested, be concise.)

Section A: Demographic Factors.

1. Name of the respondent.

2. What is your age?

3. Sex. Male □ Female □

4. What is your occupation?

5. What is your monthly income?

6. Number of years in education.

7. What is the highest level of education which you have attained?

Section B: CDF Projects.

8. Name of the location?

9. Name of the nearest CDF project.

10. How do you relate to the project?

Lives near the project □

Part of the community that uses the project □

Employed to work in the project □

Other (state) □

11. Have you ever received any training on the project?

Yes □ No □

12. If yes, explain

13. Do you know who funds the project? Yes □ No □
14. Did you or people you know from the community participate in the selection of this project?
Yes [ ] No [ ]
If yes, who exactly participated in the selection process? (state their sex)
..................................................................................................................................................
..................................................................................................................................................
..................................................................................................................................................
..................................................................................................................................................

15. Are women active participants as men in the activities of this project?
Yes [ ] No [ ] do not know [ ]

16. If yes in what ways ..............................................................

17. Is there a project management committee for this specific project?
Yes [ ] No [ ] do not know [ ]

18. If yes, how many members sit in the committee? 

19. How many are women ..............................................................

20. How does the gender composition of a CDF project committee affect the participation of women in CDF projects?

Section C: Project Management

21. Are there cultural beliefs that influence women’s participation in CDF projects?
Yes [ ] No [ ]

22. If yes, which ones? 

23. How do the respective beliefs influence women’s participation?

24. Does one’s level of education influence their participation in CDF projects?
Yes [ ] No [ ]
Explain

Section D: Socio-Cultural Factors.

25. Does one’s level of education influence their participation in CDF projects?
Yes [ ] No [ ]
Explain

64
25. Do women in this community have interest in participating in CDF projects? 
Yes [ ] No [ ]
Explain…………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………………………………………………………………

26. What roles are women mostly assigned in the projects?
Manual roles [ ] supervision roles [ ] Support roles [ ]

27. Does the nature of a project determine women’s participation in CDF projects?
Yes [ ] No [ ] do not know [ ]
Explain…………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………………………………………………………………

29. What would you suggest as ways to improve women’s participation in CDF projects?
..........................................................................................................................
..........................................................................................
..........................................

Section E: Legal Factors

28. What are the Legal provisions in the CDF Act that hinder women’s participation in CDF projects? 
..........................................................................................................................
..........................................................................................................................
29. How can they overcome these constraints? .......................................................................
..........................................................................................................................
..........................................................................................................................
..........................................................................................................................
30. How would you rate the impact of the CDF projects on:

a) Men [ ] High impact- Many benefit from the project.
[ ] Medium impact- some benefit from the project.
[ ] Low impact- None/ few benefit from the project.

b) Women [ ] High impact- Many benefit from the project.
[ ] Medium impact- some benefit from the project.
[ ] Low impact- None/ few benefit from the project

c) Community [ ] High impact- Many benefit from the project.
[ ] Medium impact- some benefit from the project.
[ ] Low impact- None/ few benefit from the project
APPENDIX III: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS GUIDE

This form will be used to record the proceedings of the focus group discussion. Notes should be extensive and reflect accurately on the content of the discussion, as well as any notable observations of nonverbal behavior, such as facial expressions, hand movements, group dynamics, etc.

Date and Location of Focus Group: _________________________

Name of Note Taker: __________________________

What is the name of the project?

When was this project started?

Are there other existing projects similar to this one in this area? If yes, how many?

Do you know who manages this project?

Do you know who funds this project?

**Question 1.** How did the level of education affect the participation of womenfolk in projects funded by the CDF?

**Question 2.** How was the CDF committee constituted?

**Question 3.** How did the CDF committee influence the participation of women in its projects?

**Question 4.** At what stage of the CDF project cycle did we have increased participation especially by women? Why?

**Question 5.** Between men and women who participated more in CDF funded projects. Why?

**Question 6.** How did women fair if assigned a role in the CDF committees?

**Question 7.** Did women show interest in CDF projects activities? Did they have specifically assigned roles in CDF projects execution?

**Question 8.** Were there specific CDF projects which attracted higher women participation? Why?

**Question 9.** What could have been done to increase women's participation in CDF projects?

**Question 10.** What aspects of the local culture influenced the manner in which women participated in CDF projects activities?

**Question 11.** Who between men and women benefitted from the ongoing and/ or completed CDF projects? Are there specific examples of such projects?

**Question 12.** What were the Legal provisions in the CDF Act that hindered women's participation in CDF projects? How were they overcome?
APPENDIX III (B) CHECKLIST QUESTIONS FOR KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

This form will be used to collect proceedings of the Key informant interview whereby CDF technocrats will mostly feature. Such will include key personalities in the management level of CDF committees both at the national and local level. Notes should be extensive and reflect accurately on the content of the discussion, as well as any notable observations of nonverbal behavior, such as facial expressions, hand movements etc.

1. What efforts does the CDF management board undertake to foster women's participation in CDF projects?
2. (a) Was there a criterion which was followed in assigning various roles to individuals with regard to management of CDF projects?
   (b) If yes, what are some of these specifications?
   (c) Were these qualifications similar for both men and women?
3. Who between men and women demonstrated more interest in such roles? Why?
4. (a) Are there scenarios where women completely shunned participating in CDF projects?
   (b) If yes, what was been noted to be the underlying cause?
   (c) What steps were taken to correct this situation?
5. Who between men and women were CDF projects tailored to benefit more in the community?
6. (a) How do women fair in the terms of efficiency in CDF management?
   (b) What are the examples?
7. Does one's level of education affect their participation in the activities of CDF projects?
8. Does one's interaction with culture affect their perception and participation in CDF projects?
9. What are some of the governance structures that widely influence both men and women participation in CDF projects?
10. What legal provisions guiding the CDF Act have been implemented to provide a conducive environment which enhances both men and women participation in CDF projects?
11. What is the interface between the roles assigned to men and women in CDF projects?
# APPENDIX IV: THE BUDGET

## Table 5: The Budget

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<td>Transport and meals</td>
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<td>Overhead and Incidental expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>40,000</strong></td>
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APPENDIX V: TIME FRAMEWORK

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<td>December 2012-</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>January 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Development and piloting of Instruments</td>
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<td>C Data Collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data organization, analysis and interpretation</td>
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<td>D Report writing, editing and submission</td>
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Appendix V: Authorization Letter to Visit CDF Projects in Kanduyi Constituency

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: WAMALWA AKIRAPA CAROLYNE – C50/63007/2010

This is to confirm that the above named is a student at the University of Nairobi pursuing Master of Arts – Rural Sociology and Community Development in the Department of Sociology and Social Work.

We have provided her with a list of Kanduyi CDF projects which will aid in her research work entitled “Women participation in devolved funds: A Case Study of Kanduyi CDF”

Kindly accord her the necessary assistance.

Thank you.

[Signature]

Mathews C. Tusa
BUNGOMA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLANNING OFFICER/DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

BUNGOMA SOUTH