

# Journal of Human Resource and Leadership (JHRL)

## **INFLUENCE OF PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC DEBATES ON RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE IN NAIROBI CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT, KENYA**

Ndei Sammy Maina, Iravo Mike A, Ombui Kepha



## **INFLUENCE OF PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC DEBATES ON RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE IN NAIROBI CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT, KENYA**

<sup>1</sup>Ndei Sammy Maina

PhD Student, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

<sup>2</sup> Iravo Mike A.,

Professor, College of Human Resource Development

<sup>3</sup> Ombui Kepha

Human Resource Officer, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization

### **ABSTRACT**

**Purpose-** This study focused on establishing the influence of participation in public debates on responsive governance in Kenya. Its main objective was to establish the influence of participation in public debates on responsive governance in Kenya.

**Methodology-** Descriptive research design and positivism research philosophy were adopted. The study focused on a target population of 680 respondents from Eighty-five wards within Nairobi County, and data was collected from the following groups of respondents; Civil society representative, religious representative, ward administration representative, youth representative, women representative, the special interest group representative, a representative of the citizens' anticipating county services and a representative of the old aged residents were targeted. A sample size of 139 respondents was determined through purposive sampling technique. Primary data was collected through questionnaires and secondary data through published materials. Data was analysed through SPSS and presented in tables. Hypothesis testing was done through the use of t-test. F test (ANOVA) was also conducted to ascertain the difference between groups on study variable.

**Findings-** The study found that participation in public debates had a positive and significant relationship with responsive governance. The study concluded that through participation in public debates citizens are able to support the incumbent leader to facilitate achievement of county goals. The results from participation in public debates indicated that an increased Participation in Public Debates resulted to responsive governance. Correlation results revealed that Participation in Public Debates and responsive governance were positively and significantly related. Regression further showed that participation in public debates have a positive and significant relationship with responsive governance in Nairobi city county government in Kenya.

**Unique contribution to theory, policy and practice -** The study recommended that there is need to establish forums to in order to enable citizens to engage directly in planning, policy making and monitoring service delivery. Based on the study findings, the study recommends that there is need to establish, County, Sub-County and Ward Citizens Forums to enhance participation of residents in local governance. **Originality/value** – This paper fulfils an identified need understand how Participation in Public Debates can influence responsive governance.

**Key Words:** Responsive Governance, Public Debates, Citizen Awareness

## **BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

Public participation is the process of participation in governance, in which "people participate together in consultations and collective actions in a range of interests, institutions and networks that develop civic identity and involve people in governance processes" (Strokosch & Osborne, 2020). The importance of public participation should not be overestimated. Their contribution to the anchoring of democracy is important because it ensures inclusion and transparency in the governance process, with citizens and government agencies sharing power among themselves (Arnstein, 1969). It ensures that the government responds to the needs of citizens and increases the legitimacy of government decisions and institutions. In addition, public participation at the individual level increases patriotism and trust in public institutions. This, in turn, increases social inclusion and capital (Raimond, 2001), making public participation a process, not a single autonomous event.

Article 1(1) of the 2010 Constitution (Government of Kenya, 2010) confers all sovereign power on the Kenyan people. This power must be exercised directly by citizens through public participation or indirectly through their democratically elected representatives. In addition, the Constitution created a decentralized system of government with the primary objective of returning resources, power and representation at the local level. This led to the creation of 47 political and administrative municipalities in which citizens would have the opportunity to participate in the governance process; therefore, the participation of citizens of national value and a principle of public service was made in Articles 10, 20 and 232.

In the government's decentralized system, the County Government Act (Government of Kenya, 2012a), the Public Finance Management Act (Government of Kenya, 2012b) and the Urban Areas and Cities Act (Government of Kenya, 2011) requested public participation in the drafting of new legislation, definition of budgetary priorities, the review of public sector results and expenditure and the submission of complaints. In addition, the task of district governments was to ensure that the public received information for public participation, establish structures, mechanisms and guidelines for public participation, as well as prepare an annual report on citizens' participation in the city council.

Public participation in Kenya's decentralized system of government has its fair share of challenges, such as limited political support and low levels of civic education (Kenya School of Government, 2015). However, there was a success story in Makueni County, whose model of public participation was praised by the World Bank (2016). In its model, the municipality has managed to get citizens to identify their development priorities at the grassroots level, with citizens committed to prioritizing, planning and spending on identified projects. In addition, the municipality allows citizens to participate in the full implementation of these projects.

The main objectives of public participation are to inform, involve, consult, cooperate and empower citizens in various ways, such as elections or civil society activities, in which public contributions are sought at all stages of policy making. However, the culture of public bureaucracy does not support public involvement, but is based on standard channels of information exchange, such as public hearings (Morgan, 2019), which are often one-sided and do not solve problems (Edelenbos & van Meerkerk, 2016). It is therefore necessary to transform this

culture and ensure that citizens are partners and not just customers in the governance process through meaningful public participation.

Mugambi and Theuri (2014) examined the challenges Kenyan district governments face in preparing for the budget. Using Kilifi County as a case study and using descriptive analysis, they found that while budgetary procedures were in place, public participation in the process was not available. Elsewhere, Muriu (2014) used transnational data to assess the impact of citizen participation in the provision of services in Kenya. It noted that there was a lack of public participation and that its influence on the decentralised system of government was negligible.

Ngugi and Oduor (2015) examined the state of public participation and the participation and information frameworks available in Kenyan counties through a qualitative study of Kisumu, Turkana, Makueni and Isiolo counties. Based on interviews with leading whistleblowers and secondary sources such as Kenya's constitutional review of the legal framework, the study concluded that Kisumu County had decentralized structures for public participation in the base. The public meetings were held quarterly and were organized by members of the County Assembly (MCAs) and the Governor. According to the study, it was established that the MCAs were not responsive to citizens' needs. The study also concluded that there is no policy of public participation or civic educational structure or policy, the absence of which has led to low participation in meetings.

For Turkana County, the study found that public meetings were held quarterly. Citizens were allowed to choose projects that they thought would benefit them. However, such selection was not binding on the district council. Therefore, the contribution of the citizens had no impact on the County. In Isiolo County, due to lack of public participation and decision-making process, the public received information about the projects which had been predetermined to start, and therefore there was no possibility for citizens to engage with leaders in projects that they considered important. In addition, the county has not initiated any civic education mechanisms. In its Manual of Public Education, Makueni County implemented its procedures for civic education and public engagement. In addition, a public relations office has been set up to ensure coordination and the public has been well informed so that they can participate effectively. In addition, the county had trained 990 trainers for the public participation of community members, mainly religious organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the education sector (in particular the teachers' union).

Following the promulgation of the constitution on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2010, Kenya adopted a new system of governance which provided for two levels of government i.e Central government and Devolved County Governments. The reason behind this system of governance was to enhance governance and also make leaders accountable to the public. The devolved system of governance finally took off after the 2013 general elections which paved way for devolution of resources. The Central Government has continuously disbursed funds to county governments in order to boost service delivery to the public. During the financial year 2016/2017, the Central Government disbursed a total of Kshs. 356.3 billion to County Governments. However, there have been challenges on providing effective service delivery due to misappropriation of funds.

Several studies for instance a survey done by transparency international in 2013 reported that 41% of Kenyans were not satisfied with the performance of their county governments in service delivery. This is because most of the County Bosses failed to conduct public participation in order to be responsive to their electorates. They fail to meet the needs of their people as per their

priority, thus misappropriation of funds. The study focused at finding out the level to which the Kenyan county management engage the public in participating in administration issues, after which it would recommend guidelines on how the same should be done in order to ensure devolved governments that offer satisfactory services to their public, which is referred to as responsive governance.

Lubale (2012) Observes that, county governments and their agencies have the responsibility of delivering services within their designated area of jurisdiction, while observing the principles of equity, efficiency, accessibility, non-discrimination, transparency, accountability, sharing of data and information, and subsidiarity. So far, county governments in Kenya are still grappling with challenges of service delivery on the decentralized functions. A report by Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) in 2013 highlights key sectors like health, water and sanitation, education among others which have faced challenges in service delivery. Survey done by Transparency international (TI) (2013) reported that 41% of Kenyans were not satisfied with the performance of their county governments in service delivery. Various studies on decentralization and performance of county governments have been conducted locally. (Muriu, 2012) Did a study on the nature and influence of citizen participation on decentralized service delivery in Kenya? He found that the citizen participation through has had minimal influence on the decentralized service delivery in local authorities. He also found that the decision space had been limited to a few resources and hence the overall influence even where fully exerted could only make a little difference. Wambua and Kiruthu (2014) studied challenges encountered by devolved governments in Kenya in budget-preparations. The study found that the planning process was not adequately done and needed to be improved so as to issue a valid platform for preparing the budget. It also found that public participation was not done as per the stipulated guidelines, and also that politicians' involvement in the budget process was very high and this affected the budget preparation process by increasing the time spent and prioritization of projects within the budget.

Governors have presided over the likely loss of billions of shillings in unsupported expenditure, ghost projects, irregular payments and faulty procurement (Auditor General's report 2014/2015 Financial year). Specifically, this report reveals massive misappropriation of funds in some counties. Among the counties that have been put on the spotlight include: Kilifi County, where the Auditor General questioned why the county paid a total of Sh133.2 million through the recurrent account without using the IFMIS Financial Management platform as required by law, Mombasa County which operated four parallel revenue collection accounts: two accounts in KCB, one in National Bank of Kenya and another in the Cooperative Bank. The county is also accused of running 22 bank accounts, including those for defunct local authorities, with balances totaling Sh193.7 million. "In the circumstances, the validity, accuracy and completeness of the balances amounting to Sh299 million as at June 30, 2015, could not be ascertained," reads the report and in Nakuru County, five County Service Board members and the secretary have gobbled more than Sh3 million in overpaid salaries neither earned nor merited. "Besides drawing overpaid salaries, the gratuity payable at the expiry of the contract period is likely to be overstated," the report states. This study therefore sought to establish the influence of participation in public debates on responsive governance in Nairobi city county government in Kenya.

### **Objective of the study**

The objective of the study was to establish the influence of participation in public debates on responsive governance in Nairobi City County Government in Kenya.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY**

### **Theory of Corporatism**

Corporatism theory has its roots in the works of Michael Derrick's book *The Portugal of Salazar*, arguing as of 1939 that Dr. António de Oliveira Salazar (effectively dictator of Portugal from 1928 to 1968) was working to realize an ideal form of corporatism. Whatever Salazar's merits, Derrick's book did sketch out corporatism as a concept. According to corporatist theory, workers and employers would be organized into industrial and professional corporations serving as organs of political representation and controlling to a large extent the persons and activities within their jurisdiction. Its earliest theoretical expression did not appear until after the French Revolution (1789) and was strongest in eastern Germany and Austria.

Much has been done in recent years to reassess this relationship, especially after a decade of neoliberal policies and the apparent erosion of corporate structures (Therborn, 1998). This literature suggests that neo-corporatist theory was unwilling to explain the new economic developments of the 1990s. By analyzing eight small countries, Woldendorp (1997) showed that countries ranked higher on neo-corporative standards generally do not function better than countries below the ranking. Flanagan (1999, p. 1171) noted that the indicators of corporatism established in the 1980s were hardly able to explain macroeconomic performance in the 1990s. He argues that neo-corporatist theory needs to develop more closely the relationship between changes in the macroeconomic context and the adaptability of corporate institutions. Hemerijck (1995) was one of the first to present a detailed study (of the Dutch case) on how positive corporatist stability could degenerate into negative immobility, which requires a critical change in institutional rules if the responsiveness and innovation potential in the system are restored.

In as much as there are debates on public participation in democratic discourses, one school of thought opines that, participation should be limited to political participation. Therefore, once public have elected their leaders, the rest of governing is the leaders' decision and not public; hence leaders should act and public react (Michels, 2011). It is important to note that massive participation of people could lead to political activity at the local level and as a result, it is better to minimize the role of public in a democracy (Lombard, 2013). Another school of thought built on Sen's capability approach, emphasizes the importance of substantive freedoms which requires removal of restrictions on participation but rather promotion of freedoms that help to build capacity of people to effectively participate in decisions that are collective, binding and affecting individual livelihoods. In this view, public participation is regarded as an essential feature of democracy and good governance (Michels, 2011). However, in the case of Sub Saharan African countries, elections remain the only form of participation, thus participation in social and economic discourse is somewhat minimal (Rogowski, 2014).

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **Research design**

Research design as the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy procedure. Kothari further argues that the research design must make enough provision for protection against bias

and must maximize reliability, with due concern with the economical completion of the research study. By using the descriptive survey method, questions in questionnaires were posed to respondents thus facilitating investigations that will answer the stated research questions (Kothari, 2017).

### Target population

Population refers to the larger group from which a sample is taken (Orodho, 2003). Target population includes the individuals to be studied (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2019). The unit of analysis which was the study population consisted of the residents of Nairobi City County. According to the current census statistics carried out in 2009, Nairobi City County has a population of approximately 3,138,369. The unit of observation which was the target population consisted of the 85 wards within Nairobi City County. The target respondents in each ward consisted of the civil society representative, religious representative, ward administrator, youth representative, women representative, and the special interest group representative, a representative of the citizens' receiving county services and a representative of the old aged residents. The target population therefore was 680 as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: Target population**

Category of respondents	Number of respondents
Civil Society representatives	85
Religious representatives	85
Ward Administrators	85
Youth representatives	85
Women representatives	85
Special interest groups representatives	85
Citizens representatives	85
Old aged residents representatives	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>680</b>

**Source: IEBC, 2017**

### Sampling Frame

According to (Kothari, 2017) a sampling frame is a complete list of all members of the population that is to be studied. The sampling frame of the study consisted of 680 respondents from all the 85 wards of Nairobi City County.

### Sampling Techniques

According to (Oso, & Onen, 2009) a sample is part of the target population that has been procedurally selected to represent it. Purposive sampling was used to determine the specific sample size of the study. According to (Neetij & Bikash, 2017) purposive sample is a non-probability sample that is selected based on characteristics of a population and the objective of the study. Purposive sampling is also known as judgmental, selective, or subjective sampling. The sample size of the study was determined using the following formulae.

$$nf = \frac{n \propto / 2pq}{e^2}$$

$$nf = \frac{196(0.5)(0.5)}{0.05^2} = 384$$

Where;

n = The desired sample size.

z = The standard normal deviate at the required confidence level.

P = The proportion in the target population estimated to have the characteristics being measured.

q = 1 - P

$$n = \frac{nf}{1+nf/N} = \frac{384}{1+680/384} = \frac{384}{2.771} = 139 \text{ Respondents.}$$

**Table 2: Sample Size**

Number of Wards in Nairobi City County	Target population	Sample size
85 Wards	680	139

### Data Collection Instruments

Data collection instruments are the tools that are used to collect data. The study utilized both primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected through the use of questionnaires whereas secondary data was collected through published and audited reports. According to (Saunders & Thornhill, 2012) they prefer the use of questionnaires as research instruments because of their wide application in descriptive survey design. This study adopted closed ended questionnaires because it is a descriptive survey design. The open ended questionnaires were also be used since the study requires clear enumeration.

### Data collection procedures

The researcher obtained permission to commence data collection for the study from Nairobi City County administration. This was after getting approval from the university authority to commence on data collection. The questionnaires was distributed to the target respondents and given time to complete them. The researcher explained to the respondents the main purpose of the study and assured them of the confidentiality of the information provided. Specifically, the researcher clarified to the respondents the level of confidentiality the information provided and in particular limited to academic purposes.

### Pilot Testing

Empirical studies require pre-testing of the research instruments to ascertain the ability to collect the expected information from the respondents. The purpose of pre-testing the instruments is to ensure the items in the instruments are stated clearly and exemplify the same meaning to all the respondents (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2013). The population that was used in pilot study was 14 respondents which is 10% of the sample size. According to (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003) a pilot study needs to be between 1 to 10%.

Mugenda & Mugenda (2019) argued that the final step toward improving survey results is pre-testing, the assessment of questions and instruments before the start of a study. They said that



there are abundant reasons for pre-testing individual questions, questionnaires, and interview schedules: discovering ways to increase participant interest, increasing the likelihood that participants would remain engaged to the completion of the survey discovering question content, wording, and sequencing problems discovering target question groups where researcher training is needed and exploring ways to improve the overall quality of survey data.

### **Reliability of Research Instruments**

Reliability analysis was done to evaluate survey construct using Cronbach's alpha. The table 1 below shows the reliability results for the pilot study. Sekaran and Bougie (2013) stated that coefficient greater than or equal to 0.7 is acceptable for basic research. Bagozzi (1994) explains that reliability can be seen from two sides: reliability (the extent of accuracy) and unreliability (the extent of inaccuracy). The most common reliability coefficient is Cronbach's alpha which estimates internal consistency by determining how all items on a test relate to all other items and to the total test- internal coherence of data. The reliability is expressed as a coefficient between 0 and 1.00. The higher the coefficient, the more reliable is the test.

### **Validity of research Instruments**

Stated that validity of an instrument refers to asking the right question formed in the least ambiguous way. Validity is concerned with whether the results appear to be what they are. Content validity was ensured through piloting. Validation strategies include: content-related: evidence that the items of the population and domains of an instrument are appropriate and comprehensive relative to its intended measurement concept(s), population and use; construct-related: evidence that relationships among the population items, domains, and concepts conform to a priori hypotheses concerning logical relationships that should exist with other measures or characteristics of patients and patient groups; and external validity which is about generalization of the findings in accordance with populations, settings, treatment variables, and measurement variables. Content validity was achieved through the review of the relevant literature to find out the relevant concepts. Construct validity was achieved through the review of the theories that formed the major themes of the study and established the existence of the constructs and finally external validity was achieved through generalization of the findings of the studies (Best and Kahn, 2016).

### **Data analysis and presentation**

This study generated both qualitative and quantitative data. Data generated from the study in general was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Specifically, quantitative data was analyzed through inferential statistics while qualitative data was analyzed through descriptive statistics. According to (Saunders et. al., 2009), descriptive statistics is the term given to the analysis of data that helps describe, show or summarize data in a meaningful way such that, for example, patterns might emerge from the data. Descriptive statistics do not, however, allow us to make conclusions beyond the data we have analyzed or reach conclusions regarding any hypotheses we might have made. Inferential statistics are techniques that allow us to use samples to make generalizations about the populations from which the samples were drawn. It is, therefore, important that the sample accurately represents the population. Inferential statistics arise out of the fact that sampling naturally incurs sampling error and thus a sample is not expected to perfectly represent the population.

In this study, measures of central tendency were analyzed descriptively using the mean and the standard deviation. Relationships between the variables was analyzed inferentially using Regression Analysis. The data collected was first edited to correct the errors, coded and then analyzed using the Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20 computer software which enabled the manipulation and transformation of variables into desired forms for the purpose of analysis. Finally, quantitative data was presented using statistical techniques such as tables, pie charts and graphs. Qualitative data on the other hand was presented descriptively.

### Regression Analysis

Multiple linear regression analysis was conducted to determine the influence of public participation on responsive governance in selected county governments in Kenya. Regression analysis was conducted to determine the weight of each variable against the dependent variable. Responsive governance was regressed against the independent variables such as voting, participation in public debates, freedom of association petitioning and lobbying for special interest groups. The equation was expressed as follows;

$$Y_p = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5 + \beta_6 X_6 + \epsilon \dots \dots \dots \text{equation (1)}$$

Where:

- Y<sub>p</sub> = Responsive governance in county governments in Kenya.
- β<sub>0</sub> = constant (co efficient of intercept)
- X<sub>1</sub> = Voting in elections
- X<sub>2</sub> = participation in public debates
- X<sub>3</sub> = freedom of association
- X<sub>4</sub> = signing a petition
- X<sub>5</sub> = lobbying for laws of special interest.
- β<sub>1</sub>.....β<sub>5</sub> = regression coefficient of six variables
- ε = error term

### Testing for Moderation

An addition model was used to test for moderation in line with Baron and Kenny (1986) approach

$$Y_p = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \bar{X} + \beta_2 M + \beta_3 \bar{X} * M + \epsilon \dots \dots \dots \text{equation (2)}$$

Where:

- Y<sub>p</sub> = Responsive governance in county governments in Kenya.
- β<sub>0</sub> = constant (co efficient of intercept)
- $\bar{X}$  = Participation Composite
- M = Moderator (Civic Education)
- $\bar{X} * M$  = Moderating/Interaction Term
- β<sub>1</sub> = Regression coefficient of  $\bar{X}$  on Y
- β<sub>2</sub> = Regression coefficient of M on Y
- β<sub>3</sub> = Moderating/Interaction coefficient of  $\bar{X} * M$  on Y
- ε = error term

### Hypotheses testing

Multiple regression analysis of the form:  $Y_p = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5 + \epsilon$  was applied to test the null hypotheses. (Cooper and Schindler, 2008) observe that multiple

regression analysis indicates whether the individual hypothesis is statistically supported or not. The study relied on t-test to test the hypotheses. (Kothari, 2009) defines a t-test as an analysis of two population means through the use of statistical examination t-test was used to test the significance of Y on the influence of independent variables  $X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5$  at 5% level of significance.; a t-test with two samples is commonly used to test the differences between the samples when the variances of two normal distributions are not known. A t-test looks at the t-statistic, the t-distribution and degrees of freedom to determine the probability of difference between populations; the test statistic in the test is known as the t-statistic. An important property of the t-test is its robustness against assumptions of population normality. In other words, t-tests are often valid even when the assumption of normality is violated, but only if the distribution is not highly skewed. This property makes them one of the most useful procedures for making inferences about population means.

Calculation of t:

$$t = \frac{\text{mean-comparison value}}{\text{Standard Error}}$$

This estimate may be more or less accurate.

The following test will be applied in conducting t-test:

$$H_0: \beta_j = 0$$

$$H_0 \beta_j < 0 \text{ Where } j = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$$

For the hypotheses to be accepted or rejected, comparison was done between the critical t values and the calculated t values. If the calculated t was greater than the critical t, then the alternative hypothesis was accepted (Shenoy, 2004). F test (ANOVA) was be conducted to ascertain the difference between groups on study variables.

If we have a large number of observations and all of these observations are close to the sample mean (large N, small SD), we can be confident that our estimate of the population mean (i.e., that it equals the sample mean) is fairly accurate => small SE. If we have a small number of observations and they vary a lot (small N, large SD), our estimate of the population is likely to be quite inaccurate => large SE.

Where:

**N**=Sample size

**SD**= Standard deviation

**SE**= Standard Error

If;

$t \leq 0.05$  reject the null hypothesis and if,

$t \geq 0.05$  fail to reject the null hypothesis.

## **RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

This section comprises of data analysis, findings and interpretation. Results are presented in tables and diagrams. The analysed data was arranged under themes that reflect the research objectives.

### **Response Rate**

**Table 3: Response Rate**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Returned	102	73.38%
Unreturned	37	26.61%
<b>Total</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>100%</b>

The number of questionnaires that were administered to civil society representative, religious representative, ward administrator, youth representative, women representative, the special interest group representative, a representative of the citizens' receiving county services and a representative of the old aged residents were 139. A total of 102 were properly filled and returned. This represented an overall successful response rate of 73.38% as shown on Table 3. This agrees with Babbie (2014) who asserted that return rates of 50% are acceptable to analyse and publish, 60% is good and 70% is very good. Based on these assertion 73.38% response rate is adequate for the study.

### Descriptive Results

The descriptive results of participation in public debates is presented in Table 4

**Table 4: Participation in Public Debates**

	SD	D	N	A	SA	Mean	std dev
The citizens of this ward are educated and this may have influenced their ability and decision to vote	7.84 %	4.90 %	15.69 %	66.67 %	4.90%	3.56	0.96
The citizens of this ward come from a certain economic status and this may have influenced their ability and decision to vote	6.86 %	6.86 %	8.82%	46.08 %	31.37 %	3.88	1.14
The citizens of this ward are of a certain age group and this may have influenced their ability and decision to vote	3.92 %	2.84 %	12.85 %	76.47 %	3.92%	3.74	0.76
The (incumbent) MCA previous performance on waste disposal may influenced citizens decision to vote	0.98 %	20.59 %	15.69 %	48.04 %	14.71 %	3.55	1.01
The (incumbent) MCA previous performance on road infrastructure development may have influenced citizens decision to vote	2.94 %	13.73 %	17.65 %	56.86 %	8.82%	3.55	0.94
The (incumbent) MCA previous performance on addressing the needs of citizens may have influenced citizens decision to vote	0.00 %	0.91 %	4.90%	45.10 %	49.02 %	4.42	0.64
The candidates manifesto was centred on the needs of the citizens and this may have influenced the decision of citizens to vote	3.92 %	1.96 %	8.82%	52.94 %	32.35 %	4.08	0.92
The candidates manifesto took into account the various stakeholders and this may have influenced the decision of citizens to vote	1.96 %	1.86 %	5.98%	51.96 %	38.24 %	4.23	0.81
Overall Mean						3.88	

The results revealed that majority of the respondents agreed that the ward leaders have encouraged public debates through barazas as supported by a mean of 3.64 and a standard

deviation of 1.19. This finding agrees with that of Din (2012) who found that public participation in policy making is a prerequisite for effective service delivery. The results also revealed that majority of the respondents agreed that the ward leaders have introduced public debates through social media platforms as supported by a mean of 3.9 and a standard deviation of 0.75. This finding agrees with that of Rucho and Budhab (2015) who found that social media communication enhances sharing of opinions that enhance effective service delivery. In addition, majority of the respondents agreed that the ward leaders have introduced public debates through other informal platforms such as “Bunge la wananchi” as supported by a mean of 4.05 and a standard deviation of 1.19. This findings agrees with that Oloo and Mosei (2015) whose study found that public debates have a significant influence on citizen satisfaction.

The findings also revealed that most of the respondents agreed that the public debates are held regularly as supported by a mean of 4.11 and a standard deviation of 1.11. This findings disagrees with that of Maina and Kariuki (2012) who found that public debates were not a regular occurrence in Wards in Muranga County. In addition, majority of the respondents agreed that the provision of internet has empowered citizens to participate in debates as supported by a mean of 3.73 and a standard deviation of 1.05. This finding agrees with that of Musalia (2014) who established that accessibility to social media platforms enhances public participation in national debates. Furthermore, most of the respondents agreed that the provision of a physical location for debating has empowered citizens to participate as supported by a mean of 3.49 and a standard deviation of 0.96.

This finding agrees with that of Ojo and Obi (2015) whose study found that presence of physical location for public debates has a significant relationship with service delivery in Kajiado County. It was also revealed that majority of the respondents agreed that all members of the public are encouraged to participate in the debates as supported by a mean of 4.06 and a standard deviation of 0.99. This finding disagrees with that of Maina and Kariuki (2012) who found that public debates were not a regular occurrence in Wards in Muranga County.

Additionally, most of the respondents agreed that all members of the public are protected from harassment when debating as supported by a mean of 4.73 and a standard deviation of 0.71. This finding agrees with that of Muna and Oloo (2011) who found that location security had a significant influence citizen’s attendance to public barazas in Kakamega County, Kenya. On a five point scale, the average mean of the responses was 3.96. This implies that participation in public debates existed and they could have influenced the level of responsive governance.

### **Correlation Analysis**

According to Artusi, et al., (2012), Pearson correlation coefficient is good in measuring the association between couples of continuous data that is collected on the same experimental unit following a bivariate normal distribution. Correlation coefficients of 0.10 are small, 0.30 are medium and of 0.50 are large in terms of magnitude of their effect sizes (Cohen, 1988). The study used Pearson Correlation Coefficients because it was deemed to be the best as supported by Jan et al., (2011). It the standard method of calculation and showed it to be the best one possible.

### Relationship between Participation in Public Debates and Responsive Governance

Correlation analysis was done to determine the relationship between participation in public debates and responsive governance in Nairobi city county government in Kenya.

**Table 5: Correlation Analysis between Participation in Public Debates and Responsive Governance**

		Responsive governance	Participation in public debates
Responsive governance	Pearson Correlation		1
	Sig. (2-tailed)		
participation in public debates	Pearson Correlation	.663**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000	

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2 tailed).

The results in table 5 revealed that there was a positive and significant association between Participation in Public Debates and Responsive Governance ( $r = 0.663$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ). This implies that an increased participation in public debates results in responsive governance. The findings disagreed with that of McKinney and Chattopadhyay (2007) who found that although political efficacy increased somewhat between pre- and post-debate viewing, this shift was not significant.

### Regression Analysis

To understand the relationship between the independent and dependent variables regression analysis was performed. Further the study tested the moderating effect of civic education on relationship between participation and responsive governance in Nairobi city county government in Kenya. In the end, the extent of the relationship between independent and dependent variable was quantified. The T-test statistic and the  $R^2$  Test statistic were computed to determine the strength of the relationship between participation in public debates and responsive governance.

### Influence of participation in Public Debates on Responsive Governance

Regression analysis was done to determine the influence of participation in public debates on responsive governance. Results were presented in table 13.

**Table 6: Model fitness**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.663 <sup>a</sup>	.439	.434	.36908

The results in table 6 presented the fitness of model of regression model used in explaining the study phenomena. Participation in public debates was found to be satisfactory in explaining

responsive governance. This was supported by coefficient of determination i.e. the R square of 43.9%. This shows that participation in public debates explain 43.9 % of responsive governance. The results meant that the model applied to link the relationship. This also implies that 56.1% of the variation in the dependent variable is attributed to other variables not captured in the model.

**Table 7: ANOVA for Participation in Public Debates**

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	10.681	1	10.681	78.408	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	13.622	100	.136		
	Total	24.303	101			

Table 7 provided the results on the analysis of the variance (ANOVA). The results indicated that the model was statistically significant. This was supported by an F statistic of 78.408 and the reported p value (0.000) which was less than the conventional probability of 0.05 significance level. The results implied that Participation in Public Debates is a good predictor of responsive governance. The findings disagreed with that of McKinney and Chattopadhyay (2007) who found that although political efficacy increased somewhat between pre- and post-debate viewing, this shift was not significant.

**Table 8: Regression of Coefficients for Participation in Public Debates**

	B	Std. Error	t	Sig.
(Constant)	0.547	0.353	1.549	0.124
Participation in public debates	0.785	0.089	8.855	0.000

Regression of coefficients results in table 8 revealed that Voting in Elections and responsive governance are positively and significantly related ( $\beta = 0.785$ ,  $p=0.000$ ). This implies that a unit increase in participation in public debates would lead to increase in responsive governance by 0.785. The findings disagreed with that of McKinney and Chattopadhyay (2007) who found that although political efficacy increased somewhat between pre- and post-debate viewing, this shift was not significant.

### Hypothesis Testing for Participation in Public Debates and Responsive Governance

The hypothesis was tested by using multiple linear regression (table 8, above). The acceptance/rejection criteria was that, if the p value is greater than 0.05, the  $H_{01}$  is not rejected but if it's less than 0.05, the  $H_{01}$  fails to be accepted. The null hypothesis was that Participation in public debates does not significantly influence responsive governance Nairobi city county government in Kenya. Results in Table 15 above show that the p-value was  $0.000 < 0.05$ . The results in table 4.21 further revealed that  $t_{cal} (8.855) > t_{critical} (1.96)$  and thus the null hypothesis was rejected. This indicated that the null hypothesis was rejected hence there is a significant relationship between Participation in public debates and responsive governance in Nairobi city county government. Therefore the study concluded that Participation in public debates influence responsive governance.

*H<sub>1</sub>: Participation in public debates significantly influence responsive governance in Nairobi city county government in Kenya.*

## **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The results from participation in public debates indicated that an increased Participation in Public Debates resulted to responsive governance. Correlation results revealed that Participation in Public Debates and responsive governance were positively and significantly related. Regression further showed that participation in public debates have a positive and significant relationship with responsive governance in Nairobi city county government in Kenya.

The study concluded that public inclusiveness in policy making influences citizen satisfaction in Nairobi County. The study also concluded that collective intelligence derived from public participation leads to achievement of county goals as well as citizen satisfaction. Additionally, it was concluded that citizen empowerment through participation in public debates. It was also concluded that use of social media in public debates enhances achievement of county goals and efficient service delivery.

The results from participation in public debates indicated that an increased Participation in Public Debates resulted to responsive governance. Based on the study findings, the study recommends that there is need to establish, County, Sub-County and Ward Citizens Forums to enhance participation of residents in local governance. The forums will specifically enable citizens to engage directly in the planning, policy making and monitoring of service delivery accorded to them. There should be recognition of individuals for exceptional community service to encourage participation in the citizen forums.

### **Suggestion for Further Studies**

Future areas of study should focus on other aspects of public participation since the overall model fitness indicated an adjusted  $R^2$  of 61.8%. This therefore, implies that further studies should be conducted on the remaining 38.2%. There is also need to conduct studies in other county governments in Kenya.

## **REFERENCES**

- Arnstein, S. R. (1969). A ladder of citizen participation. *Journal of the American Institute of planners*, 35(4), 216-224.
- Aulich, C. (2009). From citizen participation to participatory governance. *Commonwealth Journal of Local Governance*, 44--60.
- Callahan, K. (2007). Citizen participation: Models and methods. *International Journal of Public Administration*, 1179--1196.
- Cornwall, A., & Coelho, V. S. (2007). *Spaces for change?: the politics of citizen participation in new democratic arenas*. Zed Books.
- Dabholkar, P. A. (2015). How to improve perceived service quality by increasing customer participation. In *Proceedings of the 1990 academy of marketing science (AMS) annual conference* (pp. 483--487). Springer.



- Edelenbos, J., & van Meerkerk, I. (Eds.). (2016). *Critical reflections on interactive governance: Self-organization and participation in public governance*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Evans, A. M., & Campos, A. (2013). Open government initiatives: Challenges of citizen participation. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 172--185.
- Galston, W. A. (2004). Civic education and political participation. *PS: Political science and politics*, 263--266.
- Gaventa, J. (2004). Towards participatory governance: assessing the transformative possibilities. *Participation: From tyranny to transformation*, 25--41.
- GRADIF-Kenya. (2014). *Citizen participation and governance*. Retrieved from GRADIF-Kenya :<http://www.gradifkenya.org/index.php/thematic-areas-of-focus/citizens-participation-governance>
- Heater, D. (2009). A History of Citizenship in Britain. *Learning to Teach Citizenship in the Secondary School: A Companion to School Experience*, 107.
- Irvin , R. A., & Stansbury, J. (2004). Citizen participation in decision making: is it worth the effort? *Public administration review*, 55--65.
- Knops, A. (2007). Debate: Agonism as deliberation--on Mouffe's theory of democracy. *Journal of Political Philosophy*, 115--126.
- Kothari, C. R. (2011). *Research methodology: methods and techniques*. New Delhi: New age International (P) Ltd.
- Kothari, C. R. (2009). Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques. *New Age International*, 401 p.
- Lombard, M. (2013). Citizen Participation in Urban Governance in the Context of Democratization: Evidence from Low-Income Neighbourhoods in Mexico. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 135--150.
- Macintosh, A. (2004). Characterizing e-participation in policy-making. *System Sciences, 2004. Proceedings of the 37th Annual Hawaii International Conference on* (pp. 10--pp). IEEE.
- Michels, A. (2011). Innovations in democratic governance: how does citizen participation contribute to a better democracy? *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, 275--293.
- Molina, O., & Rhodes, M. (2002). Corporatism: The past, present, and future of a concept. *Annual review of political science*, 305--331.
- Morgan, D. F. (2019). The public interest. In *Handbook of administrative ethics* (pp. 177-204). Routledge.
- Mugenda, O., & Mugenda, A. (2003). *Research methods, quantitative and qualitative approaches*. Nairobi: ACCTS.
- Muriu, A. B. (2012). Decentralization, citizen participation and local public service delivery. *Unpublished Msc project, Potsdam: Universit{"a}tsverlag Potsdam*.

- Ngugi, R. W., & Oduor, C. (2015). Review of status of public participation, and county information dissemination frameworks: a case study of Isiolo Kisumu Makueni and Turkana Counties.
- Orodho, A. O. (2003). *Research methodology, descriptive research design*. Nairobi: Acts Press.
- Patton, M. Q. (2005). *Qualitative research*. Wiley Online Library.
- Quandt, T. (2018). Dark participation. *Media and Communication*, 6(4), 36-48.
- Roberts, N. (2004). Public deliberation in an age of direct citizen participation. *The American review of public administration*, 315--353.
- Rogowski, J. C. (2014). Electoral choice, ideological conflict, and political participation. *American Journal of Political Science*, 58(2), 479-494.
- Saunders, L. M., & Lewis, P. (2009). *Research methods for business students*, 4.
- Saunders, M. N. K., Lewis, P., & Thornhill, A. (2019). *Research Methods for Business Students* (8th edn.) Harlow.
- Saunders, M., & Thornhill, P. (2012). *Research methods for business students*.
- Schugurensky, D. (2009). Citizenship participation and participatory democracy: Limits and possibilities. *Learning democracy by doing: Alternative practices in citizenship education and participatory democracy*, 50--63.
- Shenoy, K. (2004). Techniques for optimizing time-stepped simulations.
- Strokosch, K., & Osborne, S. P. (2020). Debate: If citizen participation is so important, why has it not been achieved?. *Public Money & Management*, 40(1), 8-10.
- Stumbrait, Edita, & Stumbrait, E. (2005). Citizen Participation in the Local Public Service Provision and Quality Improvement.
- Therborn, G. (1998). The limits of social democratic admirableness. *New Left Review*, 116-124.
- Wambua, K. C., & Kiruthu, Z. (2014). Decentralization of government operations and service delivery performance by county governments in Kenya. *Master's Thesis, University of Nairobi, School of Business, Nairobi, Kenya*.
- Webster, M. (2006). *Global shadows: Africa in the neoliberal world order*. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press.
- World Bank. (2013). *Poor people's energy outlook 2013: energy for community services*.
- Yetano et. al. (2010). What is driving the increasing presence of citizen participation initiatives? *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy*, 783--802.