



CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS INFLUENCING MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN WAJIR COUNTY, KENYA

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ABSTRACT

The goal of this study was to identify the key success variables that have influence the monitoring and evaluation of community-based development initiatives in Wajir County, Kenya. The study evaluated how community interests and influence of politics affect community-based development initiatives in Wajir County, Kenya. With the target population of Public Benefits Organizations in Wajir County, which includes NGOs, CBOs, and self-help Groups, the study used descriptive research methodologies. 133 Public Benefits Organizations made up the study's target group. The Yamane formula was used in the study to come up with 100 respondents. The researcher prepared a set of questions to collect data. Pilot study was conducted to evaluate the validity of the questionnaire. Pilot test was conducted with 10 respondents, or 10% of the study's sample size. The Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) version 28 was used to evaluate the collected data. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to examine the association between this study's variables. The findings were presented in tables. Findings show that; there is a moderate significant relationship between community interests and monitoring and evaluation of community-based development projects, a weak insignificant relationship between political influence and project monitoring and evaluation ($r = 0.085$, $p\text{-value}=0.660$). The study recommends that; community should be sensitized on the importance of their participation in projects that are to be implemented in their locality, the government should come up with a policy to tame political influence on a project, organizations involved in community projects should allocate adequate funding for motoring and evaluation.

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Introduction

Development projects are often fundamentally community-driven in nature, intend to redistribute resources from the nation to the community to initiate infrastructure and services in the grassroots level to lower poverty, generate jobs, and eventually increase people's standards of living by building better schools, healthcare facilities, and the like (Atkinson, 2019). A community-based project, according to Allen (2018), is any endeavor that a community engages in to advance its well-being. Oxford (2018) defines the phrase "community-based" as an activity that is planned and conducted in communities. Thus, community-based development activities are spearheaded to stimulate progress at the grassroots level that are typically led by local groups and supported by non-governmental organizations, self-help, community-based organizations, and local government funds. Additionally, they reflect the community's long-term goals for social and economic growth, cultural values, and community-based (Pandey & Okazaki, 2017).

According to Sasu (2017), community-based initiatives try to bridge the social gap between the wealthy and the poor. However, the majority of initiatives have fallen short of expectations, either because Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Systems were not there or because of problems with adoption. The adoption of Monitoring and Evaluation in organizations' initiatives was emphasized in the UNDP's Handbook titled "*Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation for Development Results*" published in 2009. Monitoring and evaluation helps organizations in collecting crucial material from completed and ongoing projects. Planning ahead, avoiding pitfalls, maintaining the project's direction, and reducing delays throughout project implementation are all made easier with the use of this knowledge. Project monitoring involves gathering, processing, analyzing, and reporting data on a regular basis to the management team handling the project (Viedor, 2017). In order to assist a critical decision and initiate the required action regarding the findings, the project management goes ahead to analyze and interpret the results submitted. It is a crucial step in the project management process. A project team may decide to monitor something or nothing, at random intervals, equally spaced intervals, more regularly at the beginning and less frequently at the end of a project, among other monitoring practices (GoK, 2018).

Monitoring and evaluation tasks are directly tied to project management for development, (Khan, 2020). The two components (monitoring and evaluation) ensure that plans are implemented and, if not, that remedial steps are made beforehand by the managers. This improves resource accountability and openness to

all parties involved in the implementation process, including donors, project beneficiaries, and the general public. Through evaluation, which links the project's results to its initially suggested objectives, the success of the project in meeting its goals is evaluated, as well as its relevance and sustainability of a continuing project (Ravhura, 2019). The main objective of this study is to investigate the success elements that affect monitoring and evaluation of community development initiatives in Wajir County.

Statement of the Problem

According to statistics from past research on the topic over \$100 billion is spent each year by international development partners, with huge sums of money spent on community-based development initiatives intended to change the lives of the people (Oino et al, 2017; Easterly & Williamson, 2019; Gebrehiwot, 2020). In 2005, Kenya received \$770 million in development funding, an increase since 2002 (Ababa, 2019). Esaterly and Williamson (2019), state that although some financed programs have been claimed to be effective, there is little to no information available about how useful the projects are to the people who are meant to benefit from them. Furthermore, once the organizations and individuals funding the projects leave, the projects are abandoned (Oina et al, 2017; Plan Kenya, 2018; Onganga et al, 2017).

Every project benefit from the adoption of monitoring and evaluation systems because it encourages accountability to all project stakeholders. The management receives the required information sooner and can take remedial action if necessary thanks to proper project documentation. Future projects won't make the same mistakes of having inadequate adoption systems. The project's deliverables will also take the targeted beneficiaries' needs into consideration. According to Cashin (2018), project monitoring and evaluation facilitate efficacy and efficiency of projects. It is based on goals and tasks established during the planning stages. It assists in maintaining a schedule and anticipating problems.

Most researchers concur that project sustainability is positively impacted by community support, project monitoring, and project evaluation (Gachui, 2017; Okiah & Moronge 2017; Chappel, 2015). According to Mwaura and Ngugi (2018) good governance, proper financial management methods, coupled with project management methods contribute to successful community-based projects. Mwaniki and Were (2017) established that there hasn't been much research done on the relationship between community-based development initiatives' monitoring and evaluation and key success elements.

Specific Objectives

The research focused on specific objectives as mentioned below.

- i. To investigate the work of community interest, in monitoring and evaluating local grassroots development initiatives in Wajir County, Kenya.
- ii. To establish the contribution of politics to the successful monitoring and evaluation of community-based development programs in Wajir County, Kenya.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical Review

Stakeholder's Theory

The phrase "stakeholder" was conceptualised in 1984 by Freeman to describe how companies, initiatives, and institutions should operate and be conceptualized. Friedman (2016) contends that groups of stakeholders with a variety of interests should make up organizations, institutes, or initiatives. These groups should also be able to manage the interests of the stakeholders.

Project managers should control the project's thinking and make sure that the stakeholders' rights and involvement in decision-making is are respected. Friedman (2006) made the argument that project managers should be in charge of managing stakeholders. He added that by serving as the stakeholders' agent, the project or organization's management can guarantee their continued existence. This assists in preserving each group's long-term interests and enables it to function better.

As a result, since they are stakeholders from the beginning, it is crucial to include the community in projects. According to the stakeholders' theory (Freeman, 1984). Every individual or group participating in an organization's or company's activities seeks to profit from doing so, and their interests are given top priority. Rather, the theory accords equal weight to both internal and external stakeholders with shared interests. According to Freidman(2006) the community makes up the group of stakeholders, and their main goals are to manage their interests, requirements, and viewpoints. The manager's work should be focused on securing the rights and advantages of the stakeholders in significant decision-making, as this will ensure the success of the main projects and protect long-term stakes for each group (Freidman, 2006).

The community's involvement ensures the value of cooperating with one another in an organization. In addition to the economic benefits brought about by the enlistment of volunteer efforts, Donaldson (2017) notes that community members should build

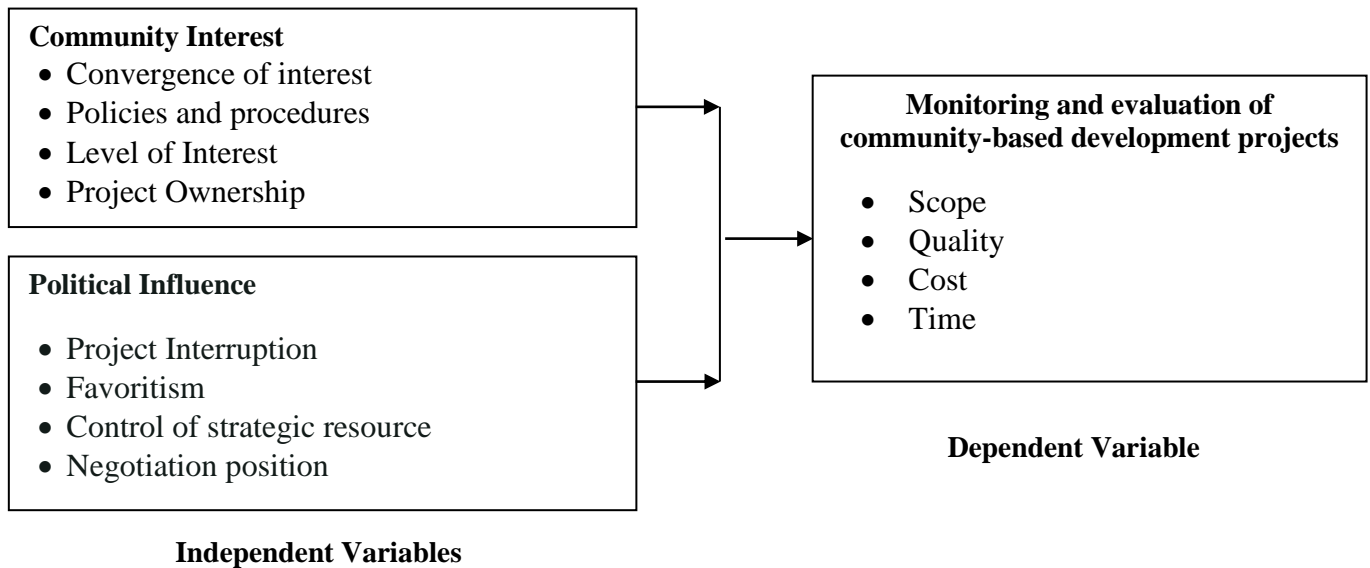
skills that lead to employment opportunities and increase the wealth of the local area by giving the people the opportunity to eliminate social exclusion. Therefore, this theory provides the significance and improved comprehension of community interests through their participation for the accomplishment of initiatives in the community. The theory describes the variable affecting how community interest is influenced.

Political Theory

Political theory owes its origin to Almond and Verba's study of the political cultures of five democratic nations namely the United States, Italy, Germany, Mexico and the United Kingdom published in 1963. They noted that all nations follow democracy, there are differences in the political cultures of those nations. According to the body of literature on political theories, state public sector management and party politics are clearly related (Bob-Milliar 2012; Asunka 2016; Luna 2015; Fiorina 2002). But the level of democratic development and the type of governance system is being used to establish political influence on the management of governments' public sectors (Fiorina 2016). Muirhead (2016, 714) defines partisan as the political attitude of people who defend a particular party. When "the citizens identify with a party and behavioral in that they typically vote for it, and perhaps give it time and money," it is psychological (Efthymiou 2017). Partisanship in multiparty systems defines the behavior of politicians that support the policies of their party and rarely make concessions to those of their political rivals (Efthymiou 2017; Mair 2019).

According to Luna's (2015) research, party members conspire with contractors and government employees to steal money from the government by winning building contracts, and they later reimburse the government by giving kickbacks. Contractors can leave such initiatives with no worry of persecution since contracts have been basely awarded to people with family and political ties (Lebamoff, 2019). This conclusion shows that being a member of the government's political party contribute to unaccountable political stewardship, that aligns with partisanship and political theories (Putnam 1971). The theory covers the broad variables that cause abandonment in connection to unmanaged government programs and projects (Clausen & Attaran 2011; Kumar & Best 2006). The theory provides a cutting-edge framework for understanding how partisan politics and political patronage affect public initiatives. It will be used to understand how political influence affects the tracking and assessment of community-based development initiatives in Wajir County, the theory will be applied.

Conceptual Framework



Community Interest

Communities may have either indirect or direct interests (Kolk & Pinkse, 2016; McElroy & Mills, 2017). Florea and Florea (2017) show how diverse and numerous community interests can be. The interests of communities are influenced by economic factors, social change, employment, security and safety concerns, environmental concerns, education, and awareness. Promoters, defenders, latent supporters, and apathetic community members can all be categorized based on their own interests. According to Johnson et al. (2018), effective management strategies can be categorized on a scale from 1 to 4, where 1 represents community members who require little management work and 4 represents key participants whose interests must be constantly monitored. This is also demonstrated by suggestions made by other researchers (Berardi, 2019; Bourne & Weaver, 2019).

Projects must adapt to the evolving agendas and demands of users, volunteers, and professionals in order to maintain interest and support. This entails making sure that all project participants, including professionals and volunteers, are equipped with the necessary skills and that the activities offered address local requirements (Oina et al, 2017). According to Robichaud (2017), risk considerations include community members' interests and worries because they have an impact on how a project is started. As a result, the project may stall or never begin due to major difficulties like protests against the project and petitions for its cancellation. Therefore, limiting such events and hazards to stakeholders can be greatly aided by community interest management.

Political Influence

Political decisions regarding the scope of a project have significant ramifications for the choice of acceptable methodology, the types of knowledge and conclusions produced, and their usage and follow-up (Proudlock, 2019). Politicians can impose restrictions on a project's monitoring and evaluation, including what stakeholders should and should not observe and where community-based projects would not be considered (Patton, 2018). Then, rather than the broader social advantages, community-based projects will be evaluated and graded based on their political benefits. The voters will suffer from believing that the initiatives are a result of the leaders' generosity. Due to the rejection of projects that would benefit regions other than the host constituency and the lack of a strong institutional structure, many programs do not support monitoring and evaluation (Sandison, 2016).

Community-based projects especially CDF is often manipulated by members of parliament who identify and approve projects in parliament without looking at the checks and balances. They go ahead to approve yearly budgetary estimates, use the money and maliciously ask for accountability of the money used (Musumba, Kerongo, Mutua, & Kilika, 2017). Politicians' role cannot be ignored especially in the success of community-based projects as their decision making is often inspired by their political survival (Mwangi, 2017). The local people do not recognize that funds have been embezzled. Those who know about it, lack the necessary channels to file a complaint Musomba et al. (2017), states that most of the choices made on the purpose of

monitoring and evaluations are politically instigated.

Empirical Review

Mutua (2018) investigated how community participation played a role in community-based water initiative's sustainability in Kiabaibate in Meru County, Kenya. The goal of the study was to determine how community involvement impacted community-based water projects in the Kiabaibate Water Project. The major goal was to examine the management methods and strategies as well as the membership characteristics to determine how they may best support the sustainability of the project. Finding out whether community involvement helps community-based water projects last was the key concern in this situation. The researcher wanted to utilize a descriptive survey design and selected respondents from the management team and members of the water project to try to solve this problem. The Kiabaibate Water Project committee and 30% of its members were randomly selected for the sampling. The researcher administered the questionnaire directly as instructed as the means of gathering data. Tables were used to present the survey's findings after data had been processed. Communities will be able to comprehend the nature of CBWPs thanks to the information obtained, which will also help management committees, the government, and funders improve how they interact with CBWPs. The study gives equal weight to numerous other scholarly viewpoints that project execution is a learning process.

In their 2019 study, Hussein and Kisimbii looked at the impact of community involvement on project execution in dry and semi-arid environments, using the example of road construction projects in Kenya's Garissa County. Both the null and alternative hypotheses were investigated in the study. The Logical Framework Model and Community Development Theory served as the foundation for this investigation. This investigation used a descriptive research approach. 3242 people in the target population responded to the survey. 'Using 1970's Krejcie and Morgan table as a basis and obtained 369 respondents as a sample size. A questionnaire was utilized to assemble data. Since Marsabit County had a comparable context, contractors from that county were used to test the research instruments in a pilot study. The responses' frequency counts were then calculated to

produce descriptive data on the sample size and to show the findings trend on the many factors under inquiry. According to Mugenda & Mugenda (2003), percentages and frequency tables can be used to summarize a lot of data while still making the report easy to read. The hypothesis was examined using the Chi-square. Many of the respondents agreed that if community involvement is used to resolve disputes, the result is positive leading to the success of local road development projects. Many respondents indicated that the community played a big role in supplying of natural resources needed to do communal projects.

De Jong, Ma, and Mu (2021) investigated the effect of political features on the joint production of public projects in China. In order to close this gap, the study examined an example of co-production that took place in China. They identified three key political features in this case: performance monitoring, political mobility, and central-local interactions. The effect and variations of political elements impacting governmental projects in diverse stages of co-production are also evaluated. They discovered that political characteristics are essential to the co-production of man public projects in China and can influence co-production both singly and collectively. Measurement of government performance has an impact on co-design and -implementation of the project. The project's co-implementation continuity is also impacted by changes in local government, performance monitoring, and political mobility. Project co-design is affected by political focus. In the co-implementation stage, central-local interactions have an impact on the support from government.

Hussein, Mustafa, and Abbas (2022) examined the primary contributors to hazards in engineering procurement construction projects in Ghana. In order to promote the welfare of their inhabitants, the government in Ghana has spent sums of money on socioeconomic development initiatives over the years. However, many of the projects have failed during execution. Many researchers have failed to evaluate how politics and culture shape the unsuccessful implementations of projects. Partisan politics offers a framework to establish how politics plays in ineffective implementation of projects. This study evaluates how partisan politics contributes to the failure of government projects in Ghana. The investigation discovered political corruption, partisan politics

and inadequate planning and implementation affects the success of projects.

As a determining component of sustainable development, Razvan and Marius (2016) investigated how the social, political, and economic role on human resources. The study highlighted the capacity of organizations to adapt to the changes by analyzing interviews. The HR sector is aware of the challenges posed by the external environment, which is seen as both a source of opportunity and a threat by changing economic conditions, legislation, social and technological policies. To effectively manage their resources, HR departments must create flexible adaption methods centered on seizing opportunities and averting dangers. HR structures also need to analyze how the personnel will react to the repercussions of these changes. The adoption of policies aimed at professionalizing public services, to evaluate sound public policy and governance. Human resources play a significant role in achieving this, and the main problem was to balance this area's power in governmental institutions with the vibrant environment to which it belongs.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study utilized a descriptive survey design, which documents how things are in the researcher's opinion (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). This study was conducted in Wajir County. Public Benefits Organizations (PBOs), which include NGOs, CBOs, and self-help Groups, were the focus of the study. Several NGOs operating in the county include World Vision International, Wajir South Development Association (WASDA), Oxfam GB, Veterinary Sans Frontiers (VSF), Save the Children UK, RACIDA, Kenya Red Cross Society among others. Programs for nutrition and subsistence are run by Islamic Relief and Save the Children. The target population was made up of the county's 70 self-help groups, 13 NGOs and 50 community-based organizations (CBOs). Yamane (1957) established the sample size for this particular research. The sample size was 100 respondents.

Stratified random sampling was used to attain the sample required for the research. The population in this study was divided into three strata: NGOs, CBOs, and Self-Help organizations. The study chose a sample from each stratum using simple random sampling. The researcher gathered

relevant data using a questionnaire. Data analysis was analyzed using The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 28). The analysis was conducted using descriptive statistics. Regression analysis and Pearson correlation coefficient analysis were used to undertake inferential data analysis

DATA ANALYSIS

Questionnaires were administered to 90 respondents and 64 successfully answered them. This presents a 71.1% response rate which was considered adequate for analysis as recommended by Fincham (2008) that a response rate of 60% should be the target of every social science researcher.

Community Interests

The first objective aimed at assessing the influence of community interests on successful monitoring and evaluating of community-based development initiatives in Wajir County, Kenya. respondents were requested to rank their agreement level on statement related to community interests.

Table 1: Community Interests

Statements	M
This project has a significant impact on the community as a stakeholder	3.92
Community members are responsible for the decisions made concerning this project	3.84
As a stakeholder community feel proud to be associated with this project	4.13
Community's support is very significant for the success of this project	3.68
Community members are always up to date with progress of this project	2.53

Findings show that the majority of the respondents agreed that; the community feel proud to be associated with this project (m=4.13), the s project has a significant impact on the community as a stakeholder (m=3.92), community members are responsible for the decisions made concerning this project (m=3.84), and community's support is very significant for the success of this project (m=3.68). The respondents disagreed that community members are always up to date with progress of this project (m=2.53). The findings imply that community interest influences project success. There is need to evaluate community needs to enhance project sustainability and smooth monitoring and evaluation process. The project organizers do not always inform the community progress which may make the community members feel sidelined and only called upon in

some are occasions to give their opinion. Findings are in agreement with Mbae (2016) that projects are impacted by the community's participation in various project stages.

Political Influence

The second objective aimed at determining the influence of politics on successful monitoring and evaluating of community-based development initiatives in Wajir County, Kenya. Respondents were requested to rank their agreement level on statement related to political factors.

Table 2: Political Influence

Statements	M
Politicians have authority and can challenge implementation of this project	4.17
The politicians have no control over the strategic resource required by the project (i.e. land, forest etc.)	2.53
Political climate affects success rates of our projects	3.38
Politicians and the government have reasonable negotiation power when it comes to making decisions about this project	2.38
Politicians possess influence to control the direction of this project	3.34

Results in Table 2 show that majority of the respondents agreed that politicians have authority and can challenge implementation of this project (m=4.17), political climate affects success rates of our projects (m=3.38), and politicians possess influence to control the direction of this project (m=3.34). Respondents disagreed with the statements that the politicians have no control over the strategic resource required by the project (m=2.53), and politicians and the government have reasonable negotiation power when it comes to making decisions about this project (m=2.38).

The findings imply that political environment influences project monitoring and evaluation.. Politicians may also shape the opinions of a community towards a project since they are influential and have faithful followers in the community. The respondents however feel that some of the negotiations by the politicians are not reasonable and some may just negotiate on a project to gain public support. This is particularly if the politicians are interested in particular projects which they use as a tool to promote their brand. Findings concur with Patton (2018) that politicians can impose restrictions on a project's

monitoring and evaluation, including what stakeholders should and should not observe and where community-based projects would not be considered.

Project Monitoring and Evaluation

The first objective aimed at assessing the influence of community interests on successful monitoring and evaluating of community-based development initiatives in Wajir County, Kenya. respondents were requested to rank their agreement level on statement related to community interests.

Table 3: Project Monitoring and Evaluation

Statements	M
Monitoring and evaluation activities meet their intended objectives	3.43
Monitoring and evaluation activities are conducted within expected timeframe	2.30
There is proper utilization of resources during monitoring and evaluation activities	2.52
Deviations identified during monitoring and evaluation are corrected in good time	1.50
Monitoring and evaluation reports reflect objectives of the project	3.69

N=64

Findings show that the respondents agreed that monitoring and evaluation reports reflect objectives of the project (m=3.69), and monitoring and evaluation activities meet their intended objectives (m=3.43). The respondents also disagreed that there is proper utilization of resources during monitoring and evaluation activities (m=2.52), monitoring and evaluation activities are conducted within expected timeframe (m=2.30), and the respondents strongly disagreed that deviations identified during monitoring and evaluation are corrected in good time (m=1.50). Findings indicate that there are delays in Monitoring and evaluation activities which may result to project delay. The projects however meet their intended objectives. The resources are also misused meaning that some project staff may be diverting resources for Monitoring and evaluation activities for other functions or other projects.

Correlation Analysis

In order to measure the strength and the relationship between the crucial success factors and successful monitoring and evaluating of community-based development initiatives in Wajir

County, Kenya, the study used Pearson Correlation. A correlation value of ± 0.5 shows a strong correlation, ± 0.30 to ± 0.49 moderate correlation while ± 0.29 is a small correlation. Significance is less than α=0.05. Correlation findings are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Correlation Coefficients

Variables		Project M&E	Community interests	Political influence
Project monitoring and evaluation	Pearson Correlation	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)			
Community interests	Pearson Correlation	.417**	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.024		
Political influence	Pearson Correlation	.085	.094	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.660	.627	

According to the results in Table 4 there is a moderate significant relationship between community interests and monitoring and evaluation of community-based development projects especially in Wajir County, Kenya (r = 0.417, p-value=0.024), a weak insignificant relationship between political influence and project monitoring and evaluation (r = 0.085, p-value=0.660). This implies that community dynamics have the strongest influence on community projects monitoring and evaluation while political influence had the least influence on project monitoring and evaluation. Findings support Ngigi (2020) that M&E activities had a significant impact on project implementation and Nicholas (2020) state that institutional and group opinions have a considerable impact on project activities.

Regression Analysis

A regression analysis was conducted to establish how a unit change in crucial success factors predict changes in successful monitoring and evaluating of community-based development initiatives in Wajir County, Kenya. Table 5-7 presents the regression output.

Table 5: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R ²	Std. Error of the
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				Estimate
1	0.784	0.635	0.606	2.344

a Predicators: (constant) community interests, political influence, M&E strategies, community interests

The results show that the value of R² is 0.635. This shows that critical factors studied accounts for 63.5% monitoring and evaluating of community-based development initiatives. Therefore, other factors excluded from this study account for 36.5% changes in monitoring and evaluating of community-based development initiatives.

Table 6: Analysis of Variance

ANOVA ^b						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	29.091	4	7.273	8.279	.000 ^b
	Residual	94.873	108	.878		
	Total	123.965	112			

a Predicators: (constant) community interests, political influence, M&E strategies, community interests
b Dependent variable: project monitoring and evaluation

Findings showed that the regression model was significant (p-value = 0.000) at 0.05 hence there was a linear relationship between the critical factors studied and project monitoring and evaluation. The F is 8.279 which shows that the model is suitable in testing the relationship between independent and dependent variable.

Table 7: Regression Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error			
Constant/Y Intercept	1.775	.555		3.201	.002
Community interests	.255	.121	.230	2.110	.037
Political influence	.224	.138	.216	1.606	.007

Based on the results in Table 7, the equation

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \mu$$

Changes to;

$$\text{Project monitoring and evaluation} = 1.775 + 0.255 (\text{community interests}) + 0.224 (\text{political influence})$$

Therefore, holding all variables at a constant zero, monitoring and evaluating of community-based development initiatives in Wajir County, Kenya would be at 1.775. A unit increase in community interests would cause a 0.255 and increase in monitoring and evaluating of community-based development initiatives, a unit increase in political influence would cause a 0.224 increase in monitoring and evaluating of community-based development initiatives. In addition, community dynamics, M&E strategies, and community interests (2.110) causes a significant change on monitoring and evaluating of community-based development initiatives while politics cause and insignificant change on monitoring and evaluating of community-based development initiatives

Conclusion

Community interest affects project monitoring and evaluation. Projects initiated based on the community interest are effective since they feel that they own the project. They willingly participate in all the project activities without hesitation. The community input on the monitoring and evaluation process is very essential as they are more conversant with the needs of the locality and may suggest changes that may enhance project sustainability. Politicians have a great influence on community projects. As opinion shapers, politicians shape the outcome of a project. In case of leadership change in community, some of the project activities like monitoring and evaluation may be overlooked and funds for the activity suspended. Projects are also abandoned due to political wrangles and the projects do not get to the phase of monitoring and evaluation.

Recommendations

Based on the study findings, the study recommends that;

The community should be sensitized on the importance of their participation in projects that are to be implemented in their locality. This may be achieved through chief Barazas or community sensitization programs initiated by the non-governmental organizations. The CDF board should also set aside funds for communication to alert the community of the planned projects as well as the day for social hall meetings to collect information on community needs. This will ensure that the projects are not imposed to the community but the projects would help to solve some of the

social needs. If the community interest are considered in development projects, they would willingly participate in the monitoring and evaluation activities.

The government should come up with a policy to tame political influence on a project. Project activities such as monitoring and evaluation are influenced by political factors though not to a great extent. The policy would ensure continuous funding of the monitoring and evaluation practices regardless of the leadership change in the constituency. Politicians should also be enlighten on the need to uphold ethics and put community interest first rather than their personal interest. This would enhances sustainability of projects and smooth monitoring and evaluation practices

Areas for Further Study

A similar study in another county in the North Easter Kenya.

A study incorporating community members to get their views on their involvement in project activities

A mixed study on projects funded by the government and projects funded by the non-governmental organization to establish if there is a significant difference in implementation.

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