

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN MARGINALIZED REGIONS IN KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF TANA RIVER COUNTY

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Abstract: Studies have shown that despite the fact that women empowerment is directly proportional to their participation in community development and the general performance of community development projects, little is still being done to empower these women in the society. In countries where women are empowered, they have been said to be very instrumental in implementing a number of development projects. It is in this realization that this study was carried. The study sought to examine the influence women empowerment on the implementation of community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya. This study was guided by the following four objectives that included: to examine the extent to which labour providence capacity by women influences the implementation community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya; to determine the extent to which decision making capacity by women influence the implementation community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya; to examine the extent to which asset creation capacity by women influences the implementation community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya; and to examine the extent to which peace building capacity by women influences the implementation community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya. This study adopted a descriptive case study design. The total target population of the study comprised of 47,425 respondents. The total sample population was 392 respondents. The main tool of primary data collection was the use of a questionnaire. The received questionnaires were sorted to check for completeness and relevance in the study. Quantitative analysis was employed both descriptive and inferential statistics. The data was then presented by use of frequency tables representing the means, standard deviations, and percentages. The relationship between the variables (hypothesis) was tested by use of the chi-square formula. From the results: over 95% of the respondents who made the majority supported the idea that labour providence capacity by women influences the implementation of community development projects. Over 80% of the respondents who made the majority supported the idea that decision making capacity by women influences the implementation of community development projects. Over 70% of the respondents who made the majority supported the idea that asset creation capacity by women influences the implementation of community development projects. Over 95% of the respondents who made the majority supported the idea that peace building capacity by women influences the implementation of community development projects. The researcher recommended that: Women should be considered as either skilled or non-skilled employees at all the steps of the project cycle; should also be involved in all the levels of projects decision making irrespective of their education background or any other socio-cultural classification factor; women also should be allowed to have rights and access to both communal and individual properties: Finally, women should be involved in all the strategies that are aimed at creating peace, resolving conflicts and ensuring reconciliation.

Keywords: labour providence, decision making, assets creation, peace building capacity.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study:

Participation in development projects implementation across the globe has gained popularity as the sure way of ensuring that development projects success and sustainability is achieved (UN, 2017). According to World Bank (2014), as the world moved to conclusion of the Millennium development Goals that were access their achievements by 2015, the world development strategists found it that in countries where the communities were actively involved in development projects implementation, the millennium development goals had been achieved to greater percentage as compared to countries where passive participation was employed in development projects implementation. UN (2017) has also indicated that involving all the community members in development projects design, plans, resources mobilization and prioritization influences the rates at which economic development is achieved since the development projects implemented in countries are directly tied to community needs and perceptions. However, despite the fact that studies in developed countries like the USA, China, Europe and Parts of Russia (Endalcachew, 2016) have shown that women empowerment has been accepted and women are involved actively in development projects implementation, a number of countries in the developing continents like parts of Asia, Africa and south America have shown that women are left out due to a number of reasons. In Philippines for example, the participation of women in community development projects implementation in Manila has been and is still pegged at 32% for over 15 years now (UNDP, 2015). A number of factors for poor participation of women in community development projects implementation have been listed to include: poor gender roles and classifications, poor levels of income of the women, poor cultural and traditional subscriptions that deny women rights to own properties, poor levels of education, poor religious subscriptions and classifications that discriminate women over some opportunities in the community among other factors not listed. Although a close study by the UN Women (2017) has shown that women who have been involved in community development in the capital city (manila) have been posting impressive results in various perspectives; a need for empowering women in the community. For example, much of the home-based poverty mitigation projects are implemented by women, the decisions on which type of project can be implemented or the models to be used are done by women and the results are better by 30% as compared to cases where men perform these duties. In Africa, women are very much disadvantaged in all spheres. For example, women are not allowed to own property like land, women never inherit their parents' properties as compared to men, women have not been given chances to sit in major community development committee and never make major decisions (Laboso, 2014). African Development Bank (2017) has indicated it worse that in instances where women are allowed to sit in development seating, their ideas are normally brushed off and sometimes they are reminded on their roles in cooking and serving the men in these special gatherings. Women have not been given a chance in Africa as compared to men despite the fact that they contribute much than the men in terms of community resources mobilization, community labor providence etc (UN Women, 2016). However, in countries like South Africa and Liberia where women have been given some special recognition through various women empowerment programmes, their efforts in community development are eminent (Murunga, 2017). In Soweto, during the transformation of the slum into a modern peri-urban settlement, women were credited for their roles in: providing cheap labour, solving conflicts on resettlement among various communities, proving of other production materials like land (those who owned land), providing the government with the best housing models that addressed the needs of the city slum dwellers etc (Un, Women, 2017).

The research indicated that women in Tanzania are undermined in various ways that include: being denied equal rights to education as men, being denied equal rights to land inheritance, being denied rights to land ownership, being denied equal rights towards property ownership, being denied access to bank credit for development, being back benches in development decision making and many other forms. OECD (2018) has asserted that the wide gap in regional imbalance development in Tanzania can be blamed on poor levels of women empowerment. Poor trends in women empowerment keep them away in participating in development projects implementation even though they are the majority in the society.

1.2 Statement of the problem:

Studies have shown that despite the fact that women empowerment is directly proportional to their participation in community development and the general performance of community development projects, little is still being done to empower these women in the society (Chagaka and Rutatora, 2016). In fact, some studies carried out in developed countries like the USA, Netherlands, Sweden and China by the World Bank (2014) and scholars like Chagaka and Rutatora (2016) have shown that development in these countries has been achieved due to the power of empowering their women. In China for example, the women have equal access to education, information and technology; enabling them to

acquire skills equally as men to participate in development projects implementation. Besides, these women have been found to understand the basic problems facing the citizens at the household levels thus they have been credited for coming up with decisions that guide the projects designers and implementers to come up with the best local models of implementing the development projects successfully. However, Africa has been said to lag behind due to its poor traditional ideals and roles that discriminate the women and youth in the society (African Development Bank, 2017); leaving a gap for such a study. Across Africa, despite the fact that governments and other women right activist bodies have partnered and poured very big monies towards women empowerment, the levels of women empowerment and their participation in development projects is very low (Omweri, 2015). Wema (2015) for example has shown that the cultural and religious subscriptions have denied women and girls the access to education, property ownership, access to credit and many more; leading to their poor participation in decisions making in community development projects implementation. However, she has shown the need of empowering the women by indicating that in regions where women have been empowered like Arusha, their participation in community projects implementation has been significant. The women are said to be providing relatively cheap and effective labour, these women have been said to reconcile and unite communities on the process of projects implementation conflicts, they are said to voluntarily participate in giving other capital success assets like land and even financial resources. Omweri (2015) similarly found out that women play a very important role in community development projects implementation once empowered. However, she realized that most women did not have proper education, these women lacked better knowledge on technology and information, and the women did not have ownership to property and rights to decisions making; negatively influencing their influence on projects implementation. Arthur (2014) argued that there is a need of the government and other agencies to come up with mechanisms of empowering women; thus a need for such a study. This study therefore was carried out with the aim of examining the influence women empowerment on the implementation of community development projects in marginalized regions; a case of Tana River County, Kenya.

1.3 Purpose of the study:

The purpose of the study was to examine the influence women empowerment on the implementation of community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya; a case of Tana River County.

1.4 Objectives of the Study:

This study was guided by the following four objectives:

- i. To examine the extent to which labour providence capacity by women influences the implementation community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya.
- ii. To determine the extent to which decision-making capacity by women influence the implementation community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya.
- iii. To examine the extent to which asset creation capacity by women influences the implementation community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya.
- iv. To examine the extent to which peace building capacity by women influences the implementation community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya.

1.5 Research questions:

The following four research questions were answered by the study:

- i. What is the extent to which labour providence capacity by women influences the implementation community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya?
- ii. What is the extent to which decision-making capacity by women influences the implementation community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya?
- iii. What is the extent to which asset creation capacity by women influences the implementation community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya?
- iv. What is the extent to which peace building capacity by women influences the implementation community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya?

1.6 Research Hypothesis:

The study shall be guided by the following hypothesis stated in null (Ho) and alternative (Ha). All the hypotheses were tested at 95% significance level:

- i. Ho: Labour providence capacity by women doesn't influence the implementation of community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya.
Ha: Labour providence capacity by women influences the implementation of community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya significantly.
- ii. Ho: Decision making capacity by women doesn't influence the implementation of community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya.
Ha: Decision making capacity by women significantly influence the implementation of community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya.
- iii. Ho: Asset creation capacity by women doesn't influence the implementation of community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya.
Ha: Asset creation capacity by women significantly influences the implementation of community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya.
- iv. Ho: Peace building capacity by women doesn't influence the implementation of community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya.
Ha: Peace building capacity by women significantly influences the implementation community of development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Women Empowerment and the Implementation of Development Projects:

Women empowerment is a versatile word that has no one accepted definition. Women can be empowered politically, economically, socially, culturally and many more (SIDA, 2016). Empowerment has been defined by the UNDP (2015) as the ability of allowing an individual or a group of people the authority to make independent decisions in relation to a given situations legally without curtailed freedom. OECD (2018) has shown that the empowerment of women can be defined as an ability by women to access what they have been denied for long due to cultural and social classification from one society to another. According to Mamah (2015), if women for example are allowed to make decisions on the type of project to be implemented in their locality, they freely give the paid or unpaid labour, their give their support either financially or by allocating enabling assets and many more, it is said that such women are empowered if there is no interference that takes place. According to USAID (2018), empowering women to participate fully in economic life across all sectors is essential to build stronger economies, achieve internationally agreed goals for development and sustainability, and improve the quality of life for women, men, families and communities. Therefore, an empowered woman can easily participate in development projects implementation either as any other community member or as a unique community member who has unique deliverables. ILO (2016) indicated that economically empowered women are able to mobilize resources for development, source for resources, provide and allocate resources for development as well as bring peace and stability in the immediate community.

2.1.1 The Influence of Labour Providence Capacity by Women on the Implementation Community Development Projects:

According to the International Projects Management Body (2013), for development projects in any given community to be implemented successfully, there must be three components of resources i.e. time resource, financial resource and human resource. Time is the duration taken for a project to achieve its objectives while financial resources are the monies spent to ensure the other capital resources are achieved for general success of the projects (UN, 2017). For projects to be successfully implemented, the human resource plays a vital role. Human resources encompass the skilled and non-skilled labour, the permanent and contractual employees, and the managers and lower cadre workers, the expertise and the

subordinate staff that make the whole project objectives reality (PMP, 2013). Women are more available than men when it comes to development implementations that immediately have a positive influence to the community (UNESCO, 2017). Women are not only available for their support but at times they offer free labour that can't be quantified or paid for. In India for example, majority of the employees or free laborers in the cottage industry are women, youth and girls. These women provide free labour in the industry, provide timely designs and trends in the consumption trends for free, budget for the homes for free, marry and pay dowry besides implementing development projects in the rurals and even towns (AsDB, 2017). Wema (2015) in her study in Tanzania noted 181 out of 189 of her respondents in the study supported the idea that women provide cheap labour in community projects implementation once given a chance, they provide effective and timely expertise, women provide the best insight on right community development projects that should be implemented, they give much time to complete their tasks and can be relatively trusted with multimillion projects than men. According to Arthur (2014) In Narok, women are disadvantaged in many ways.

2.1.2 The Influence of Decision Making Capacity by Women on the Implementation Community Development Projects

UN Women (2017) has indicated that one major component of women empowerment is the ability to make independent decisions in relation to education, politics and economic development. An empowered woman has the ability to make much more better decisions in relation to economic development than men just due to one basic concept; women live in the community and spend much of their times in managing the homes that make up the community. In South Africa and India women have the opportunities of developing their communities. They have achieved this by identifying the urgent community development projects that must be implemented, the time frames of these projects, their urgency, the amount of resources required (labor, financial and time resources), and the location/cite of these projects, the first beneficiaries and many more. Development ideas that are developed by women normally touch on the local community since women spend over 92% of their times in the homesteads with their beloved ones or children; making them better people who understand what the community needs in terms of development (UNICEF, 2017). Women in Africa if given a chance can make effective decisions on the type, nature, time site and kind of development projects implementation (SIDA, 2016). Women have the ability of deciding on the best models of integration in implementing community development projects and they know the best projects that should be given priorities in the community (Murunga, 2017). Women are the ones who ensure proper implementation of much of the county run projects like the ECDE since they prepare the kids for elementary education, they make decisions on the types of ECDE centers the kids should attend, women decide on where and when they want the ECDE centres be run, they make major decisions on community health projects implementation, community markets, community water projects and many more (World Bank, 2016). Women are very active when given a chance with full knowledge of what happens in the local homesteads (UNDP, 2015).

2.1.3 The Extent to Which Asset Creation Capacity by Women Influences the Implementation Community Development Projects

A report by ILO (2016) in Zambia indicates that an increase of 1 per cent in the number of girls who have completed secondary education boosts annual per capita income growth. This is the same rate at which the whole country's economy is growing (0.3%). So if we educate girls, entire countries can raise themselves out of poverty more quickly. Sum-up: Empowering women is a pathway for achieving all of the development goals in the countries as contained in the various treaties. An extra year of education boosts a girl's future wages by 10 to 20 percent, while an extra year of secondary school boosts them by 15 to 25 per cent. Therefore, based on the few concepts from the above reports, it can be deduced that one empowered woman contributes significantly to the wealth of a nation over 15% on average as compared to a man. Wealth and asset creation is a simple concept in community projects implementation and execution. It basically involves the ability of individuals to generate various resources that are required for projects success. The concept includes that ability of a given gender to provide three capital resources of a project that include: time resources for the project implementation till it is at the position of sustaining itself, the ability of an individual to provide the labour capital resources required, the financial resources always consumed by projects and to some extent some other resources like land (AsDB, 2010).

According to ARC (2017) Kenya has enough resources that can cut across the cultural satisfaction, economic satisfaction and directional satisfaction that can later on lead to sustainable economic development in various ways. Bayeh (2016) notes that in pastoralist communities in Africa like parts of Ethiopia where women are allowed to access education and own property besides making crucial decisions on development projects implementation, development is achieved at a relatively high rate. Other studies have shown that women who are empowered are able to raise and mobilize funds for community development projects implementation, the empowered women are able to mobilize communities to donate their land for vital community projects like location of water projects, MCH projects and many more, the women are able to invest and multiply the various assets in their hands and all this is seen as a way of increasing the assets available and projected for community development.

2.1.4 Peace Building Capacity and its Influences on the Implementation Community Development Projects

A number of studies have shown that sustainable development enshrined in the sustainable development goals is impossible without women's empowerment and gender equality. Consequently, it is asserted that gender equality is both a human rights issue and a precondition for, and indicator of, sustainable development (Alvarez and Lopez, 2013). It is also affirmed that gender disparity is prevalent across the cultures of the world and that without serious steps to tackle it, sustainable development cannot be achieved. Therefore, one can understand from such explanations that without the equal inclusion of women in all areas of development initiatives, all the above-mentioned components of sustainable development cannot be achieved. UN Women (2014) has indicated that during community conflicts women and children are the most vulnerable people who suffer the most and when projects fail to be implemented in the community, they are the most affected too. Women in communities are the first people to call their husbands and other close people to calm and compromise situation or come up with solutions to conflicts so that the children and the community at large should not suffer (OECD, 2016). For projects to achieve their objectives there must be peace and security at the same time. Conflicts in communities push people away from the development agenda, they destroy and stall the already outlaid community development projects, and make people shift their initial development plans into immediate conflicts resolution. Due to these negative associations of conflicts and economic development through community development projects implementation; women are the most affected gender since the women consume much of the services of community development projects like the water and sanitation projects, community food security projects, jousting and many other projects (FDRE, 2016). Women in Africa play a very significant role in economic development given a chance. Women not only make peace when things get worse but act as agents of peace between their husbands and neighbors. Women have the ability to identify the volatile points in the community; women have the power to think beyond their present lives and think of their kids and the society in general. This makes them the first people to pray for happiness, peace and reconciliation in the community (UNDP, 2015). Women therefore play a very important role in reconciliation initiation in communities, peace crusading, peace negotiation etc.

2.2.1 Kabeer's Framework of Women Empowerment:

It basically three models or rather theories that are normally combined together by scholars to indicate Resources, Agency, and Achievement. According to Kabeer, empowerment is "the expansion of people's ability to make strategic life choices in a context where that ability was previously denied from them", (Kabeer 2001). She has identified resources, agency and achievement as three interrelated factors which can influence women's empowerment process and the importance women participation in development projects implementation; making it relevant for this study. In details, from this dimension she argues that resources (human resources, material resources and social resources) could expand people's ability to make decisions and to act, but this can be possible only if people are willing to take action collectively or individually. This occurs through raising people's consciousness about the existing situation and creating social networks for support. However, poverty and existing social norms and values can hinder the empowerment process. Moreover, empowerment can lead to conflict among family or community members. This framework will help to identify empowerment processes that were employed by various strategists of projects and community members in support of women's participation in project activities and those that hindered women's participation. Community development projects implementation procedures and practices, as well as the county government and community's responsibilities during project implementation and planning will be examined. Under this process, available resources and individual and collective agency could be revealed to examine their influences on women's participation in project activities.

2.2.2 Sen’s and Nussbaum Capabilities Theory:

The capability approach was originally developed by Sen and has its origin in Development Economics. He refines and transforms the concept of entitlements into the capabilities approach. A person’s capability to live a good life is defined in terms of the set of valuables like having access to empowerment and participation in decisive elements of achieving freedom. He defines an "agent" as someone who acts and brings about change, and whose achievements can be judged in terms of her own values and objectives (Sen, 1999). Therefore, the women decisions to participate in various development initiatives in the community can be said to fall in the category of agents. On one hand the well-being aspect is passive and indicates individuals own advantages related to quality of life such as being well educated, nourished and healthy. On the other hand, the agency aspect which is related to individual's actions suggests exercising their choice to achieve freedom and wellbeing. Sen pays more attention to agency aspect than the wellbeing aspect in the enhancing people’s "capability". He has insisted that women should not be understood as passive recipients of welfare instead they should have the ability to find a job, earn an independent income and participate in decision making processes within and outside the family. Capabilities are assumed to play a significant role in helping women to make strategic life choices and to control resources and decisions that could significantly affect their lives outcome. The relevance of this story is seen in situations where women participate in providing labour (where the theory recommends that women should look for jobs), participate in decision making and generation income (assets creation).

2.3 Conceptual Framework:

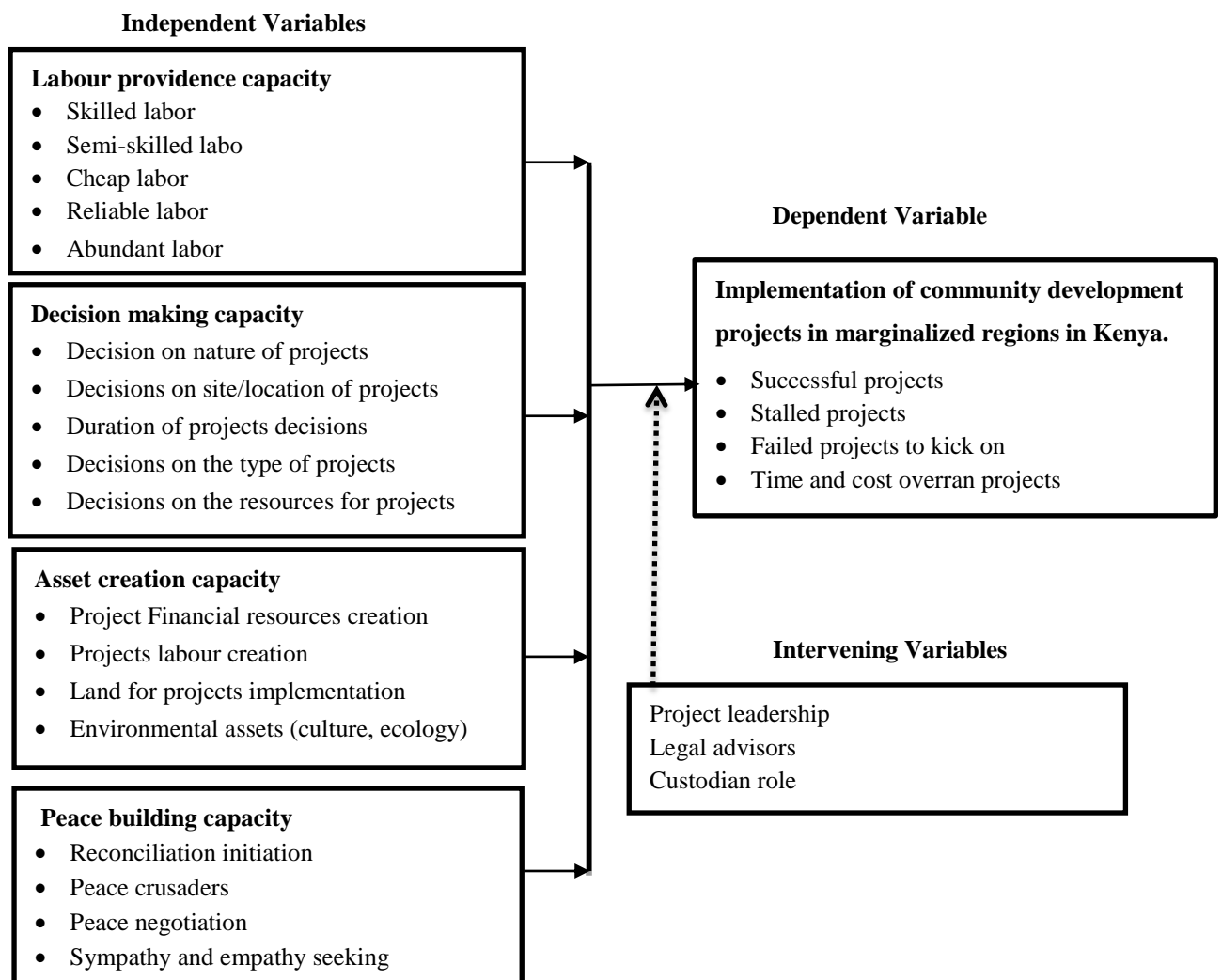


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design:

This study adopted a descriptive case study design. In the social sciences and life sciences, a case study is a research method involving an up-close, in-depth, and detailed examination of a subject of study (the case), as well as its related contextual conditions.

3.2 Target population:

The target population of this study included all the women who made up the households as either wives or heads in the county. According to the county report on households that was documented from the 2017 Tana River literacy baseline survey, there were 47, 414 households. In each household, one woman was chosen for the study and therefore the 47, 414 women were targeted for the study.

Table 3.1: Target Population

Population category	Frequency
Household (women only)	47,414
County ministers	11
Total	47,425

Source (NDMA, 2017)

3.3 Sampling Size and Sampling Procedure:

The sample size in the study was calculated by use of the Morgan and Krejcie table of 1970 shown below: From the table, when $N=47,414$, a sample $(s) = 381$. On the other end, a population census was carried out on the county minister heads. Therefore, the total sample population was $381+11= 392$ respondents. Simple random sampling was applied to obtain the respondents from the households in Tana River County while a population census was applied to pick all the eleven county ministry heads that are in charge of overseeing the implementation of various development projects in the county.

3.4 Data Collection Instruments:

The main tool of primary data collection was the use of a questionnaire. A questionnaire is an instrument for collecting data, and almost always involve asking a given subject to respond to a set of oral or written questions (Trochim, 2009). Advantages of using questionnaires include: they are cost-efficient, they're practical, give speedy results, ensure user anonymity and cover all aspects of a topic.

3.5 Data Collection Procedure:

A letter of transmittal was obtained from the graduate school, University of Nairobi Mombasa campus. The researcher visited the County department of education, social protection and special programme and informed them of the intended study. The researcher trained 4 research assistants who helped in distributing and collecting the questionnaires. The researcher used the drop and pick later method for those literate respondents, emailed some questionnaires to those who had valid email addresses, and in situations where the respondents needed immediate interpretation, they were assisted by research assistants. The researcher assured the respondents that the information was confidential and was for academic purposes only.

3.6 Data Analysis:

The received questionnaires were sorted to check for completeness and relevance in the study. Those questionnaires that were relevant for the study were assigned codes. The coded responses were entered into the computer SPSS software to facilitate data analysis in a descriptive form. Quantitative analysis was employed both descriptive and inferential statistics. The data was then presented by use of frequency tables representing the means, standard deviations, and percentages. The relationship between the variables (hypothesis) was tested by use of the chi-square formula.

4. DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATIONS

4.1 Labour Providence Capacity by Women and the Implementation of Community Development Projects:

Table 4.1 below shows the responses of respondents in relation to the influence of empowered women’s role in labour providence for projects implementation. Over 95% of the respondents who made the majority supported the idea that labour providence capacity by women influences the implementation of community development projects in Tana River County. In another question where the respondents were requested to show the extent to which they supported various issues related to labour providence capacity by women and the implementation of community development projects, the results were as shown below: (a scale of 1-5 was used where: strongly disagree =1, disagree=2, neutral=3, agree =4, strongly agree =5)

Table 4.1: Mean and Standard Deviation Scores of Women Labour Providence Rating

Statement	Mean	Std Dev.
Empowered women provide skilled labor that influences the implementation of community development projects	3.98	0.79
Empowered women provide semi-skilled labor which influences the implementation of community development projects	4.4	1.01
Cheap labor provided by empowered women in the county influence the implementation of community development projects	4.1	0.923
Empowered women provide reliable labor that influence the implementation of community development projects	3.91	0.816
Empowered women in the county provide abundant labor that influence the implementation of community development projects	4.14	0.830

Table 4.1 indicates that majority of the respondents supported the idea that empowered women provide labour that influences the implementation of community development projects. For example, a mean score of 3.98 indicates that a higher percentage of the respondents agreed with the idea that empowered women provide skilled labor that influences the implementation of community development projects. This is also indicated by a mean score of 4.4 meaning that majority of the respondents agreed with the idea that empowered women provide semi-skilled labor which influences the implementation of community development projects. In the same graphical trend, majority of the respondents agreed that cheap labor provided by empowered women in the county influence the implementation of community development projects as indicated by a mean of 4.1. Also, majority of the respondents agreed that empowered women provide reliable labor that influences the implementation of community development projects as represented by a mean of 3.91. Finally, empowered women in the county provide abundant labor that influence the implementation of community development projects and represented by a mean of 4.14

Table 4.2: Hypothesis Testing at 95% Significance Level

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	19.254 ^a	4	.001
Likelihood Ratio	27.217	4	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.504	1	.019
N of Valid Cases	200		

Ho: Labour providence capacity by women doesn’t influence the implementation community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya.

Ha: Labour providence capacity by women influences the implementation community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya significantly.

$\chi^2_c = 19.254 > \chi^2_{0.05, 4} = 9.488$ at 4 degrees of freedom and 95% significance level.

Since the calculated chi-square value of 19.254 is greater than the critical chi-square value at 95% significance level, the alternative hypothesis is accepted. This means that, labour providence capacity by women influences the implementation community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya significantly.

4.2 Decision Making Capacity by Women and Its Influence in the Implementation Community Development Projects:

Over 80% of the respondents who made the majority supported the idea that decision making capacity by women influences the implementation of community development projects in Tana River County. In another question where the respondents were requested to show the extent to which they supported various issues related to decision making capacity by women and the implementation of community development projects, the results were as shown below: (a scale of 1-5 was used where: strongly disagree =1, disagree=2, neutral=3, agree =4, strongly agree =5

Table 4.3: Mean and Standard Deviation Scores of Women Decision Making Rating

Statement	Mean	Std Dev.
Empowered women’s decision on nature of projects to be implemented influences the implementation of community development projects in this county	4.3	1.09
Empowered women’s decisions on site/location of projects influences the implementation of community development projects in the county	4.2	1.21
Duration of projects decisions by empowered women influences the implementation of community development projects in the county	3.61	0.9
Empowered women’s decisions on the type of projects influences the implementation of community development projects in the county	4.39	0.916
Empowered women’s decisions on the resources for projects influences the implementation of community development projects in the county	4.34	0.930

Table 4.3 indicates that majority of the respondents supported the idea that empowered women make decisions that significantly influence the implementation of community development projects. For example, a mean score of 4.3 indicates that a higher percentage of the respondents agreed with the idea that empowered women’s decision on nature of projects to be implemented influences the implementation of community development projects in the county. This was also similar to the idea that empowered women’s decisions on site/location of projects influences the implementation of community development as supported by a mean score of 4.2. The trend was similar with ideas that: Empowered women’s decisions on the type of projects (4.39); and decisions on the resources for projects (4.34) influences the implementation of community development projects in the county.

Table 4.4: Hypothesis Testing at 95% Significance Level

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	11.498 ^a	4	.022
Likelihood Ratio	14.446	4	.006
Linear-by-Linear Association	10.562	1	.001
N of Valid Cases	200		

Ho: Decision making capacity by women doesn’t influence the implementation of community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya.

Ha: Decision making capacity by women significantly influence the implementation of community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya.

$$\chi^2_c = 11.498 > \chi^2_{0.05, 4} = 9.488 \text{ at 4 degrees of freedom and 95\% significance level.}$$

Since the calculated chi-square value of 11.498 is greater than the critical chi-square value at 95% significance level, the alternative hypothesis is accepted. This means that, decision making capacity by women significantly influence the implementation community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya.

4.3 Asset Creation Capacity by Women’s Influence on the Implementation Community Development Projects:

Over 70% of the respondents who made the majority supported the idea that asset creation capacity by women influences the implementation of community development projects in Tana River County. In another question where the respondents were requested to show the extent to which they supported various issues related to assets creation capacity by women and the implementation of community development projects, the results were as shown below: (a scale of 1-5 was used where: strongly disagree =1, disagree=2, neutral=3, agree =4, strongly agree =5)

Table 4.5: Mean and Standard Deviation Scores of Women Decision Making Rating

Statement	Mean	Std Dev.
Empowered women ensure project financial resources creation influencing the implementation of community development projects in the county	3.53	0.709
Empowered women ensure projects labour creation influencing the implementation of community development projects	3.62	0.521
Empowered women provide land for projects implementation influencing the community development projects implementation	3.61	0.59
Empowered women ensure an enhancement of environmental assets (culture, ecology) thus influencing community development projects implementation in the county	4.09	0.616

Table 4.5 indicates that majority of the respondents supported the idea that empowered women have the capacity of creating assets that later on influence the implementation of community development projects. For example, a mean score of 3.53 indicates that a higher percentage of the respondents agreed with the idea that empowered women ensure project financial resources creation influencing the implementation of community development projects in the county. A similar trend was witnessed with the indicators whereby majority of the respondents supported the ideas that: Empowered women ensure projects labour creation (3.62); Empowered women provide land for projects implementation (3.61); and Empowered women ensure an enhancement of environmental assets -culture, ecology- (4.09) thus influencing community development projects implementation in the county.

Table 4.6: Hypothesis Testing at 95% Significance Level

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	93.976 ^a	4	.000
Likelihood Ratio	113.378	4	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	.477	1	.490
N of Valid Cases	200		

Ho: Asset creation capacity by women doesn’t influence the implementation of community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya.

Ha: Asset creation capacity by women significantly influences the implementation of community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya.

$$\chi^2_c = 93.976 > \chi^2_{0.05} = 9.488 \text{ at 4 degrees of freedom and 95\% significance level.}$$

Since the calculated chi-square value of 93.976 is greater than the critical chi-square value at 95% significance level, the alternative hypothesis is accepted. This means that, asset creation capacity by women significantly influences the implementation of community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya.

4.4 Peace Building Capacity by Women’s Influence on the Implementation Community Development Projects:

Over 95% of the respondents who made the majority supported the idea that peace building capacity by women influences the implementation of community development projects in Tana River County. In another question where the respondents

International Journal of Novel Research in Humanity and Social Sciences

Vol. 5, Issue 4, pp: (101-115), Month: July - August 2018, Available at: www.noveltyjournals.com

were requested to show the extent to which they supported various issues related to peace building and reconciliation capacity by women and the implementation of community development projects, the results were as shown below: (a scale of 1-5 was used where: strongly disagree =1, disagree=2, neutral=3, agree =4, strongly agree =5

Table 4.7: Mean and Standard Deviation Scores of Women Peace and Reconciliation Capacity

Statement	Mean	Std Dev.
Empowered women play a role in reconciliation initiation, influencing the implementation of community development projects	4.53	0.809
Empowered women are peace crusaders influencing the implementation of community development projects	4.22	0.921
Empowered women play a role in peace negotiation thus influencing the implementation of community development projects	3.99	0.999
Empowered women play a role in sympathy and empathy seeking thus influencing the implementation community development projects in the county	4.29	0.916

Table 4.7 indicates that majority of the respondents supported the idea that empowered perform a very vital role in peace building thus influencing the implementation of community development projects. For example, a mean score of 4.53 indicates that a higher percentage of the respondents strongly agreed with the idea that empowered women play a role in reconciliation initiation, influencing the implementation of community development projects. The same trend indicated that majority of the respondents agreed that: Empowered women are peace crusaders (4.22); Empowered women play a role in peace negotiation (3.99); and Empowered women play a role in sympathy and empathy seeking (4.29), thus influencing the implementation community development projects in the county.

Table 4.8: Hypothesis Testing at 95% Significance Level

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	16.37 ^a	4	.173
Likelihood Ratio	5.968	4	.202
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.015	1	.156
N of Valid Cases	200		

Ho: Peace building capacity by women doesn't influence the implementation of community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya.

Ha: Peace building capacity by women significantly influences the implementation of community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya.

$$\chi^2_c = 16.37 > \chi^2_{0.05} = 9.488 \text{ at 4 degrees of freedom and 95\% significance level.}$$

Since the calculated chi-square value of 16.37 is greater than the critical chi-square value at 95% significance level, the alternative hypothesis is accepted. This means that, peace building capacity by women significantly influences the implementation of community development projects in marginalized regions in Kenya.

5. SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary of the Findings:

In relation to the research objectives, over 95% of the respondents who made the majority supported the idea that labour providence capacity by women influences the implementation of community development projects in Tana River County. This was confirmed by the various indicator responses. For example, a mean score of 3.98 indicates that a higher percentage of the respondents agreed with the idea that empowered women provide skilled labor that influences the implementation of community development projects. This is also indicated by a mean score of 4.4 meaning that majority of the respondents agreed with the idea that empowered women provide semi-skilled labor which influences the

implementation of community development projects. Finally, empowered women in the county provide abundant labor that influence the implementation of community development projects and represented by a mean of 4.14. Since the calculated chi-square value of 19.254 is greater than the critical chi-square value at 95% significance level, the alternative hypothesis is accepted.

Equally, over 80% of the respondents who made the majority supported the idea that decision making capacity by women influences the implementation of community development projects in Tana River County. The trend was confirmed to be the same by the scores achieved by the various indicators. Also, majority of the respondents (3.61) agreed with the statement that duration of projects decisions by empowered women influences the implementation of community development projects in the county. The trend was similar with ideas that: Empowered women's decisions on the type of projects (4.39); and decisions on the resources for projects (4.34) influences the implementation of community development projects in the county. Since the calculated chi-square value of 11.498 is greater than the critical chi-square value at 95% significance level, the alternative hypothesis is accepted.

In relation to the third objective, over 70% of the respondents who made the majority supported the idea that asset creation capacity by women influences the implementation of community development projects in Tana River County. This was confirmed by the various responses from the rated questions. A similar trend was witnessed with the indicators whereby majority of the respondents supported the ideas that: Empowered women ensure projects labour creation (3.62); Empowered women provide land for projects implementation (3.61); and Empowered women ensure an enhancement of environmental assets -culture, ecology- (4.09) thus influencing community development projects implementation in the county. Since the calculated chi-square value of 93.976 is greater than the critical chi-square value at 95% significance level, the alternative hypothesis is accepted.

As per the fourth objective, over 95% of the respondents who made the majority supported the idea that peace building capacity by women influences the implementation of community development projects in Tana River County. This was replicated in the various indicators. The same trend indicated that majority of the respondents agreed that: Empowered women are peace crusaders (4.22); Empowered women play a role in peace negotiation (3.99); and Empowered women play a role in sympathy and empathy seeking (4.29), thus influencing the implementation community development projects in the county. Since the calculated chi-square value of 16.37 is greater than the critical chi-square value at 95% significance level, the alternative hypothesis is accepted.

5.2 Discussions of the Findings:

In relation to the first objective, over 95% of the respondents supported the idea that labour providence capacity by women influences the implementation of community development projects. UNESCO (2017) shares similar results by arguing that women are more available than men when it comes to development projects that immediately have a positive influence to the community. UN Women (2018) also noted that women are not only available for their support but at times they offer free labour that can't be quantified or paid for. Furthermore, when women are involved in development; their labour is exact, effective and cheap provided that their recognition and fully empowerment is ensured.

In relation to the second objective over 80% of the respondents supported the idea that decision making capacity by women influences the implementation of community development projects. SIDA (2016) noted that an empowered woman has the ability to make better decisions in relation to economic development than men. This due to the fact that women live in the community and spend much of their times in managing the homes that make up the community. USAID (2018) has added that women play a role in community development.

In relation to the third objective, over 70% of the respondents supported the idea that asset creation capacity by women influences the implementation of community development projects in Tana River County. UN Women (2017) deduced that one empowered woman contributes significantly to the wealth of a nation over 15% on average as compared to a man. Wealth and asset creation is a simple concept in community projects implementation and execution. It basically involves the ability of individuals to generate various resources that are required for projects success (AsDB, 2010).

In relation to the fourth objective, over 95% of the respondents supported the idea that peace building capacity by women influences the implementation of community development projects in Tana River County. In the rated factors, a mean score of 4.53 indicated that a higher percentage of the respondents strongly agreed with the idea that empowered women

play a role in reconciliation initiation, influencing the implementation of community development projects. In agreement to this is UN Women (2014) which has indicated that during community conflicts women and children are the most vulnerable people who suffer the most and when projects fail to be implemented in the community, they are the most affected too. Equally, women in communities are the first people to call their husbands and other close people to calm and come up with solutions to conflicts.

5.3 Conclusions:

The researcher concludes that women who are empowered in the community are able to make informed decisions that influence the implementation of community development projects.

The researcher further concludes women who are empowered in the community have the capacity of generating revenue and income that can be used in economic development.

From the findings, it can be concluded that an empowered woman is very important in ensuring peace and initiating the process of peace building. Peace is one component that is very important in ensuring that projects are implemented and sustainably deliver their mandates. The women initiate peace wherever there are conflicts by bidding their husbands to calm down and have the urge of living together with neighbor. Once the peace is achieved, community development is possible since development projects can be implemented.

5.4 Recommendations:

The researcher recommends that for sustainable implementation of community development projects to be achieved in the county, women must be empowered at all levels.

The women should also be involved in all the levels of projects decision making irrespective of their education background or any other socio-cultural classification factor. The women should be given equal opportunities like men to make development related projects implementation decisions since they are the majority consumers of these projects' deliverables. Women should also be sensitized by a number of bodies and even the government on various ways in which they can actively participate in decision making in community development projects implementation.

The researcher recommends that women be allowed to have rights and access to both communal and individual properties.

Finally, women should be involved in all the strategies that are aimed at creating peace, resolving conflicts and ensuring reconciliation. They should also be trained on the evolution of conflicts and the modern models of solving community-based conflicts.

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