

**EFFECTS OF COUNTY GOVERNANCE PRACTICES ON PROMOTING
RURAL DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY OF WAJIR COUNTY**

BY

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this research proposal is my original work and has not been submitted to any other university for the award of any academic credit.

Signature



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DEDICATION

I dedicate this project to God Almighty my creator, my strong pillar, my source of inspiration, Wisdom, knowledge and understanding. He has been the source of my strength throughout this Program and on his wings only have I soared.

I also dedicate this to my parents and my loving wife who encouraged me all the way and whose Encouragement have made sure that I give it all it takes to finish that which I have started. May the blessing of God be with them now and always "Amen"

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ASAL:	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
CCDA:	County Commissioner's Development Agenda
CDD:	Community-Driven Development
CDP:	County Development Plan
CIDP:	County Integrated Development Plan
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product
MDGs:	Millennium Development Goals
PPP:	Public-Private Partnership
SDGs:	Sustainable Development Goals

DEFINITION OF TERMS AND KEY WORDS

County Governance Practices:

County governance practices refer to the system of government and administration at the county level. This will involve accountability in managing local affairs, transparency in providing public services, adherence to the rule of law and implementation of policies within the county.

Accountability in Local Political Affairs

Accountability in local political affairs involves the administration and coordination of day-to-day operations by the executive, the role of politicians in decision-making and resource allocation within a specific geographical area in accountable manner.

Transparency in Providing Public Services

Transparency in providing public services refers to the delivery of essential and non-essential services by government or other organizations to meet the needs and improve the well-being of the general public in a transparent manner.

Implementation of Policies

Implementation of policies involves translating and putting into action the

predetermined guidelines, rules of law, or courses of action established by a governing body or organization to achieve specific objectives or address societal issues.

Rule of Law

Refers to governance practices that adhere to the rule of law.

Rural Development:

This is associated with new changes in the success of rural regions, especially after new ways of conducting social as well as economic activities.

ABSTRACT

Analysis reveals that the impact of devolution on the effectiveness of governance practices in Wajir County, Kenya, is a topic of significant importance. Devolution, which entails the decentralization of authority, resources, and decision-making power from the central government to local or regional authorities, has significantly transformed the governance structure within Wajir County. In the previous centralized system, the national government held responsibility for the administration and provision of services in Wajir County. However, with the introduction of devolution, the county government has taken on the responsibility for managing health services, animal welfare, road construction and maintenance, revenue collection and generation, and Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) service delivery. This shift has brought about notable changes in governance processes, decision-making, and the allocation of resources. The effects of devolution on the efficiency of key service delivery can be analyzed from multiple perspectives, including accessibility, quality, fairness, cost-effectiveness, and satisfaction of service recipients. Devolution has the potential to enhance access to key services in Wajir County by bringing decision-making and service delivery closer to the local population. The purpose of this study was to examine the effect of governance practices on effectiveness of service delivery in Wajir County. The study specific objectives were to examine how accountability influences rural development in Wajir County, to evaluate how transparency affects rural development in Wajir county as well as to establish how implementation of policies affect rural development in Wajir County and to examine how the rule of law influences rural development in Wajir County. Specifically, it aims to assess the changes in access, quality, equity, efficiency, and public satisfaction and participation in key decision making resulting from the shift in governance structure and decision-making authority from the national government to the county government. This study was guided by several theories including the good governance theory, participatory development theory and stakeholder management theory and conceptual frameworks to analyze the effect of county governance practices on accountability and service delivery effectiveness. This study utilized a mixed-methods approach to gather comprehensive and robust data. Quantitative data is collected through structured surveys administered to a representative sample of county government workers in Wajir County. The surveys

captured information related to access to accountability, perceptions of service quality, satisfaction levels, and equity in service delivery. Qualitative data was obtained through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with key stakeholders, including county government officials, county management and lower carder staff in the county. These qualitative data sources provide insights into the contextual factors, challenges, and potential opportunities associated with devolution and its impact on service delivery effectiveness and public participation on key decision making processes. The study reveals that transparency in communication, information access, and public service delivery is relatively well-established within the county. The study concluded that governance practices are important in promoting rural development. The study recommends that county governments should find ways of promoting policy initiatives to enhance transparency, policy implementation, and accountability to promote sustainable rural development in the region.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This covers the background and other parts of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

County governance refers to the system of managing and governing a specific geographic region known as a county, typically characterized by its own administrative structure and local decision-making authority. It is often associated with regional or devolved governance models that aim to decentralize power and empower local communities (Vincent, 2019). In the literature, county governance is explored as a means to enhance local autonomy, improve service delivery, and foster participatory democracy (Kitchin & Featherstone, 2018). It recognizes the importance of tailoring policies and services to the unique needs and characteristics of a specific county, promoting local accountability and responsiveness (Loughlin, 2013). County governance is seen as a way to strike a balance between centralization and decentralization, enabling more efficient and effective management of local affairs (Pierre & Peters, 2000).

From a global background, especially in Countries such as United States, the county governance plays a crucial role in the administration of local governance. According to a study by Lobao and Adua (2011) county governance are responsible for providing essential public services within their jurisdictions. This includes maintaining public infrastructure like roads, bridges, and public buildings. They often oversee public

transportation systems, public health services, parks and recreation, and waste management.

In some regions such as Chile, county governance generally has their own law enforcement agencies, such as county sheriffs' offices. These agencies are responsible for maintaining law and order, enforcing local laws, and ensuring public safety within the county. It should also be noted that county governments typically have their own court systems. This includes trial courts, which handle a range of cases, such as civil disputes, criminal prosecutions, family law matters, and probate. County governance may also manage jails and correctional facilities within their jurisdictions.

In the African context, especially in South Africa, a study by Gilson et al. (2017) noted that county governance often oversees the administration of elections at the local level. They register voters, establish polling locations, and manage the voting process, ensuring fair and transparent elections. The authors also argued that county governance are involved in land-use planning and zoning regulations. They establish guidelines and regulations for residential, commercial, and industrial development within their jurisdiction, aiming to ensure orderly growth and protect the environment. The county governance also provides or coordinate social services for their residents, such as public assistance programs, including welfare, housing assistance, and programs for the elderly and disabled (De Grauwe & Laot, 2012).

Accordingly, within Africa, rural development is a critical aspect of promoting sustainable economic growth and reducing poverty in Africa. Decentralization and devolution of power to local governments, including county governments, have been key strategies in promoting rural development in Africa. According to Ayee et al. (2008), devolved systems of governance empower county governments to make

decisions, allocate resources, and implement development initiatives tailored to the specific needs of rural communities.

In local context, especially in Kenya, it is evident that county governance has the authority to levy and collect taxes to fund their operations and provide services. They also manage their own budgets, allocating funds for various departments and initiatives (De Grauwe & Laot, 2012). They are responsible for emergency management and disaster response within their jurisdictions. They coordinate with state and federal agencies to develop emergency plans, provide emergency services, and coordinate response efforts during natural disasters, such as hurricanes, floods, or wildfires.

Rural development in Kenya has gained significant attention since the implementation of the devolved system of government in 2010. County governance play a vital role in formulating and implementing policies and plans that drive rural development. According to Ondieki (2017), county governments are responsible for developing county integrated development plans (CIDPs) that outline strategies for rural development. These plans guide the allocation of resources and prioritize key sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, and social services (Ondieki, 2017).

Effective service delivery is crucial for rural development. County governance are responsible for providing basic services in rural areas, such as healthcare, education, water supply, and sanitation. Mwangi and Kioko (2015) emphasize that county governance needs to improve service provision in rural areas through infrastructure development and the recruitment of qualified personnel (Mwangi & Kioko, 2015). County governments have a role in promoting economic empowerment in rural areas. According to Kithinji and Kombo (2018), county governance can support rural entrepreneurship and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) through

capacity building, access to credit, and market linkages. These initiatives can contribute to job creation and income generation in rural communities (Kithinji & Kombo, 2018).

Furthermore, infrastructure development is vital for rural development, improving connectivity and enabling access to markets and social services. County governance is responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads, water supply systems, and electrification. Ogola and Mureithi (2019) emphasize the need for county governance to prioritize infrastructure projects in rural areas to enhance mobility, trade, and investment (Ogola & Mureithi, 2019). Public participation and good governance are essential for effective rural development. County governance are expected to involve citizens in decision-making processes and ensure transparency and accountability. Musyoki and Mwanja (2018) highlight the importance of citizen engagement through public participation forums and citizen-driven development initiatives in promoting rural development (Musyoki & Mwanja, 2018). It should be noted that county governance administration plays a crucial role in promoting rural development in Kenya. Through policy and planning, service delivery, economic empowerment, infrastructure development, and public participation, county governments contribute to the improvement of socio-economic conditions in rural areas (Kithinji & Kombo, 2018).

Effective local governance and citizen participation are crucial for promoting rural development. County governments play a vital role in facilitating participatory processes, engaging local communities, and incorporating their perspectives in decision-making. De Grauwe and Laot (2012) highlight the importance of citizen participation in shaping development policies and programs at the local level. County governments are responsible for providing essential services and developing infrastructure in rural areas. This includes healthcare, education, water supply,

sanitation, road networks, and electrification. Olowu and Wunsch (2004) emphasize the need for effective service delivery and infrastructure development by county governments to stimulate rural economic growth and improve living conditions.

Agriculture is a crucial sector for rural development in Africa (Kithinji & Kombo, 2018). County governments play a significant role in promoting agricultural productivity, providing extension services, facilitating access to credit and markets, and supporting agribusiness development. Akudugu et al. (2015) highlight the importance of county government interventions in improving agricultural practices, enhancing rural livelihoods, and achieving food security.

This confirms that county governance support economic empowerment and entrepreneurship in rural areas through capacity building, access to finance, and market linkages. Mundy (2011) argues that county governments play a critical role in creating an enabling environment for small and medium-sized enterprises, promoting local economic development, and generating employment opportunities (Mundy, 2011). Based on this view, this paper aims to determine the role of county government administration in promoting rural development within Wajir County.

1.1.1 Role of County Governance in Kenya

In Kenya, the role of county government administration is significant as it is responsible for devolved governance at the local level (Kithinji & Kombo, 2018). Following the implementation of the 2010 Constitution, Kenya adopted a devolved system of government that established 47 counties. The county government administration plays a crucial role in several areas, including promotion of service delivery. The county government is responsible for providing various services to the residents within their jurisdiction. This includes sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture,

infrastructure development, water and sanitation, trade and commerce, and public transportation. The county governance primary objective is to improve service delivery and address the specific needs of their constituents.

Analysis also reveals that county governance is tasked with developing and implementing county-specific plans, policies, and strategies for socio-economic development (Kithinji & Kombo, 2018). This involves preparing county integrated development plans, land use plans, and other strategic documents that guide the growth and development of the respective counties. County governments work towards achieving sustainable development goals, promoting investment, and improving the living standards of their residents (De Grauwe & Laot, 2012).

Lobao and Adua (2011) also argued that the country governments engage in revenue generation and financial management. County governance has the mandate to generate revenue through local taxation and fees. They are responsible for financial management, budgeting, and allocation of resources to various sectors within their jurisdiction (De Grauwe & Laot, 2012). County governments also receive equitable share funds from the national government to support their operations and service delivery efforts. They also play legislative role and it is worth noting that the county governments have the authority to enact laws, regulations, and by-laws that govern their respective counties. These laws are formulated to address the specific needs and challenges of the local communities. County assemblies, through their legislative role, play a critical part in ensuring that laws and policies are in line with the interests and aspirations of the residents.

According to Mundy (2011), county governance plans are undertaken through public participation and civic engagement and it is true that county governments are expected

to promote citizen participation and engagement in decision-making processes. They are required to involve the public in policy formulation, budgeting, and implementation of development projects. Public participation ensures that the needs and concerns of the community are taken into account, fostering transparency, accountability, and democratic governance at the county level. This is done with the aim of promoting rural development.

1.1.2 Rural Development

Rural development can be defined as the process of improving the economic, social, and environmental conditions of rural areas through various strategies and interventions. According to Mwangi and Kioko (2015), the value of rural development is seen in the well being of the people. The process involves enhancing the value of life of people or individuals residing in remote and thinly populated regions (De Grauwe & Laot, 2012).

However, Lipton (2007) defines rural development as the process of enabling a rural population to shift from subsistence-oriented, low-income agriculture to more commercially-oriented, diversified agriculture (p. 123). This means that rural development involves facilitating the transition of rural communities from subsistence-based, low-income farming to diversified and commercially-oriented agriculture.

In their study, Mwangi and Kioko (2015) argued that rural development plays a crucial role in Kenya including poverty reduction and this is due to the fact that rural areas in Kenya are often characterized by high levels of poverty and limited access to basic services. Rural developments initiatives help alleviate poverty by creating income-generating opportunities, improving access to education and healthcare, and enhancing agricultural productivity. Rural developments also enhance balance regional

development in Kenya as well as promote food security and agricultural productivity through creation of employment opportunities and environmental conservation. Rural areas in Kenya are home to diverse ecosystems, forests, wildlife, and water resources and promoting rural development that emphasizes sustainable practices, such as agro forestry, watershed management, and conservation agriculture contribute to environmental preservation.

1.1.3 Wajir County

Wajir County is located in northeastern Kenya and is one of the 47 counties in the country. It covers an area of approximately 56,685 square kilometers and has a diverse population, mainly comprising the Somali ethnic group. The county's capital and largest town is Wajir. Wajir County is predominantly arid and semi-arid, which poses challenges for farming activities. However, livestock rearing, especially camel and goat herding, is a crucial economic activity for the residents. The county also has potential for renewable energy, with solar and wind power projects being explored to harness the available resources.

Rural development in Wajir County, Kenya is a critical aspect of addressing the economic and social needs of the county's rural communities. It involves implementing various strategies and programs to improve the quality of life and promote sustainable development in rural areas. According to the Wajir County Integrated Development Plan (2018-2022), road construction projects are underway to improve transportation and link rural areas to markets and services. Given the predominantly arid and semi-arid nature of Wajir County, agricultural development plays a significant role in improving food security and livelihoods. However, the county is still under-developed in terms of agriculture health and education. There is need for the county government to adopt drought-resistant crops, support livestock rearing as well as construct schools

and health facilities, ensuring trained personnel are available, and implementing initiatives to enhance education and healthcare outcomes in rural areas. This should be done in conjunction with economic empowerment and encouragement of environmental conservation and natural resource management in all rural regions in the county.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Despite the devolved system of governance in Kenya and the mandate of county governments to spearhead local development, rural areas in the region continue to face various socio-economic challenges. These challenges may include limited access to basic services, inadequate infrastructure, and high levels of poverty, low agricultural productivity, and limited employment opportunities (Kithinji & Kombo, 2018). These challenges are affecting rural development in many regions in Kenya.

Rural development in Kenya is essential for addressing poverty, reducing regional disparities, ensuring food security, creating employment opportunities, and promoting sustainable resource management (Ondieki, 2017). It contributes to the overall socio-economic development and well-being of the country's population, particularly in rural areas. One of the notably studies by Ogola and Mureithi (2019) confirmed that county government plays a critical role towards rural development in Kenya. This is because it has led to revenue generation, management of county activities and development of schools and hospitals as well as market places in many rural areas in Kenya.

Several studies have been done globally to determine the role of county governments in spurring rural development. In Turkey, a study by Aydogus and Topcu (2013) confirmed that county operations in Turkey are progressing despite various challenges. The authors noted that county governments in Turkey play a crucial role in the

development and maintenance of rural infrastructure. This includes the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, irrigation systems, and other essential infrastructure projects that enhance connectivity and accessibility in rural areas (Aydogus & Topcu, 2013). In their study, Gilson et al. (2017) noted that county governance in Africa plays a crucial role in promoting rural development by implementing strategies such as decentralization, enhancing local governance and participation, transparent service delivery and infrastructure, supporting agriculture and rural livelihoods, and fostering economic empowerment. In Kenya, Abass, Munga and Were (2017) reviewed how rural development is a problem that can be solved through county governance operations which is crucial for achieving sustainable economic growth, reducing poverty, and improving the well-being of rural communities.

Nonetheless, the role of county governance in promoting rural development within Kenya is still facing challenges (Abass, Munga & Were, 2017). This is because the resources and the structure is not effective and county government administration is still young in Kenya. In addition, there is little known studies investigating the role of county governance in promoting rural development within Kenya marginalized areas such as Wajir. This creates both conceptual and contextual gaps that this study intends to fill by investigating the role of county governance in promoting rural development within Wajir County.

1.3 Objective of the Study

- i. To examine how accountability influences rural development in Wajir County.
- ii. To evaluate how transparency affects rural development in Wajir county.

- iii. To establish how implementation of policies affect rural development in Wajir County.
- iv. To examine how the rule of law influences rural development in Wajir County.

1.4 Research Questions

- i. How does accountability influence rural development in Wajir County?
- ii. What role does transparency in public service delivery play towards rural development in Wajir County?
- iii. To what extent does implementation of policies affect rural development?
- iv. How does adherence to the rule of law influence rural development in Wajir County?

1.5 Justification and Significance of the Study

Wajir County is important in this study since it is one of the ASAL areas in Kenya that require proper rural development. The county is known for its diversity of services. The inquiry will help policy makers in coming up with new ways of managing county programs in the long run. This is imperative in promoting rural projects in a good way. Counties will learn how to manage their rural programs using the inquiry findings.

This study will benefit various practitioners in county government management activities. This study will benefit policy makers in the country. The analysis will also delve on the analysis of rural development in terms of the projects that have direct impact on the local population as well as the level of public knowledge and awareness on services expected. This will help in holding public leaders accountable in the formulation of policies and management of county resources.

The will also benefit future scholars. The scholars will understand how theoretical background associated with rural development can be formulated. It will also help to be the basis of literature on rural management through county administration systems.

1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study seeks to determine the role of county government administration in promoting rural development within Wajir County. The study will be undertaken in Wajir County. Population will be sampled from different regions within Wajir County and will include employees of the county as well as community members.

The main limitation of study will be inability to include all the regions in Wajir County since the region is vast. The respondents may also be reluctant to give information fearing that the Wajir County officials intimidate them. However, the researcher will inform the respondents that the data provided is meant for academic purposes only.

CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

This chapter of the study focuses on reviewing existing scholarly works on the topic. The chapter starts by outlining the theories that underpin the study, providing a theoretical foundation for the research. The existing empirical studies conducted in the study area are then discussed and critiqued to identify any gaps or areas that have not been adequately addressed. This critique helps researchers identify opportunities for further exploration and contributes to the justification of the study. Additionally, a

framework is crafted to illustrate the major concepts that will be examined in the study, providing a visual representation of the key factors and relationships that will be analyzed. This framework serves as a guide for the subsequent research and analysis.

2.2 Theoretical Review

The study is guided by good governance theory, participatory development theory and stakeholder management theory.

2.2.1 Good Governance Theory

Good Governance Theory was founded by M. R. Kukrit Pramoj in 1957. Good Governance Theory also known as the theory of good governance focuses on the principles and practices that contribute to effective governance and sustainable development. Although it does not have a single founder, it has been developed and expanded upon by various scholars, policymakers, and international organizations (De Grauwe & Laot, 2012). The theory indicates that transparency, accountability and application of the rule of law can promote social development in the world.

The theory assumes that governments should be accountable to their citizens, promote transparency in decision-making and resource allocation, encourage citizen participation, and operate within a framework of the rule of law. It also assumes that governments should be accountable to their citizens for their actions, decisions, and use of resources. It assumes that transparency in governance processes, including decision-making, budgeting, and resource allocation, promotes trust and reduces corruption (De Grauwe & Laot, 2012). The citizens' active participation in governance processes strengthens democracy, enhances legitimacy, and leads to better policy outcomes and it is important governments should operate within a legal framework that upholds human rights, protects property rights, and ensures equal treatment under the law.

However, critiques of the theory highlight its Western bias, lack of contextual specificity, and challenges in implementation. One critique of good governance theory is that it reflects a Western-centric perspective, primarily rooted in liberal democracy (De Grauwe & Laot, 2012). It may not fully account for cultural, social, and political contexts in non-Western countries or regions. Critics argue that good governance principles are often presented as universal norms without considering the specific historical, cultural, and institutional contexts of different countries or regions. In addition, implementing good governance principles can be complex and challenging, especially in contexts with weak institutional capacity, limited resources, and political constraints. Critics contend that the theory does not adequately address these challenges.

Nevertheless, the theory has practical applications, including integration into development policies and programs, guiding institutional reforms, and empowering civil society organizations and citizens to advocate for transparency, accountability, and participation in governance processes. These applications aim to foster effective governance and promote sustainable development outcomes, including rural development (De Grauwe & Laot, 2012). In Wajir County, the theory can help to promote transparency and accountability in managing rural activities leading to rural development.

2.2.2 Participatory Development Theory

This theory aims to ensure that the voices and perspectives of the local population, in this case, the residents of Wajir County, are taken into account for successful infrastructure development, specifically in the context of provincial road projects.

According to Chambers (1997), this theory advocates for local-level development planning that involves the participation of the local communities. It utilizes various planning tools, such as Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), to facilitate this inclusive process. By engaging marginalized and underrepresented groups, such as the poor and uneducated, the theory seeks to empower them and give them a say in decisions that affect their lives and livelihoods.

The theory also recognizes the importance of involving both external and local actors in infrastructure projects to enhance efficiency and effectiveness, as stated by Mohan (2008). By increasing the local population's capacity for self-determination, the theory promotes their active participation in the implementation of public infrastructure projects, including the provincial road projects in Wajir County (De Grauwe & Laot, 2012).

In the context of the research, this theory formed the basis for the first objective, which aimed to determine how managing of local affairs influence rural development in Wajir County. It highlighted how involving the Wajir County residents, who were the target recipients can improve rural development. By actively engaging the local population, the theory supports their ability to participate in decision-making and implementation processes, thus empowering them in the execution of rural development.

2.2.3 Stakeholder Management Theory

Stakeholder Management Theory, initially developed by R. Edward Freeman in the 1980s, is a prominent framework that focuses on the effective management of stakeholders in organizational contexts. According to Freeman (1984), the theory posits that organizations should actively identify and engage with various stakeholders who

can significantly influence or be influenced by the organization's decisions, actions, and outcomes.

The theory assumes that stakeholders, including individuals, groups, or organizations, have legitimate interests, rights, and claims on the organization and its activities (Freeman, 1984). It acknowledges that stakeholders possess diverse perspectives, objectives, and levels of power, which can impact organizational success. Thus, organizations need to understand, prioritize, and manage stakeholder relationships to achieve sustainable performance (Freeman, 2010).

Critics have raised several points regarding Stakeholder Management Theory. One critique is the challenge of accurately identifying and categorizing stakeholders, as stakeholder salience can vary based on context and time (Freeman & Reed, 1983). Additionally, critics argue that the theory's emphasis on stakeholder engagement may lead to decision-making complexities and potential conflicts of interest (Berman, Wicks, Kotha, & Jones, 1999). Critics also question the feasibility of fully satisfying all stakeholders' competing demands within limited organizational resources (Phillips, Freeman, & Wicks, 2003).

Despite these critiques, Stakeholder Management Theory remains relevant and valuable. Organizations increasingly recognize the significance of managing stakeholders to enhance corporate reputation, mitigate risks, and foster long-term success (Freeman, Harrison, Wicks, Parmar, & Colle, 2010). The theory provides a holistic framework for organizations to identify the needs of the stakeholders in all aspects. This approach allows organizations to proactively engage with stakeholders, align their interests, and generate positive outcomes for both the organization and its

stakeholders (Freeman, 2010). The governance structure in Wajir County should involve stakeholders to achieve rural development and long-term sustainability.

2.3 Empirical Review

2.3.1 Accountability Local Political Affairs and Rural Development

Analysis reveals that management of political local affairs influence rural development. In Nigeria, the study conducted by Agbodike, Igbokwe-Ibeto, and Nkah (2014) focuses on how rural development is possible in Nigeria. The researchers examine the role of local government authorities in promoting sustainable development and identify the key challenges they face in achieving this objective. The study highlights the importance of local government administration in driving sustainable development initiatives at the grassroots level. It explores the various functions and responsibilities of local government authorities in Nigeria, including service delivery, infrastructure development, and poverty alleviation programs. The researchers also discuss the legal and policy frameworks that guide local government administration in Nigeria. In their analysis, Agbodike et al. (2014) identify several challenges that hinder effective local government administration and, consequently, sustainable development in Nigeria. These challenges include inadequate funding and resources, corruption, political interference, lack of capacity and skills among local government officials, and poor governance practices. The study concludes by emphasizing the need for proactive measures to address these challenges and enhance the role of local government administration in promoting sustainable development in Nigeria. It suggests the implementation of reforms, such as increased financial autonomy, capacity building programs for local government officials, and strengthening of accountability

mechanisms. However, this study only focused on the challenges faced by local government authorities in Nigeria regarding sustainable development.

In Indonesia, Yudha, Juanda, Kolopaking, and Kinseng (2020) examined how policies in rural promote value in development the country. The researchers explore the policies and strategies implemented in the context of rural autonomy to promote rural development in the regency. The study provides an overview of the rural autonomy era in Indonesia, which grants more decision-making power and resources to local governments to address the specific needs and challenges of their rural areas. It examines the policy framework and strategies adopted by Pandeglang Regency to drive rural development in this era. The researchers analyze the key areas of focus in the rural development policy of Pandeglang Regency, including infrastructure development, agricultural productivity, education, health services, and tourism. They assess the implementation of these policies and strategies, highlighting the achievements and challenges faced by the local government. The study also discusses the role of community participation and local institutions in the rural development process. It explores the extent to which community involvement and the collaboration between local government and various stakeholders contribute to the success of rural development initiatives. Based on their analysis, Yudha et al. (2020) provide insights into the effectiveness of rural development policies and strategies in Pandeglang Regency. They identify areas where improvements are needed, such as strengthening coordination among government agencies, enhancing community engagement, and addressing resource limitations. However, this study only offers a comprehensive examination issues in Indonesia.

Neumeier (2012) explored the importance of social innovations in rural development and argues for a stronger focus on them in rural development research. The study

emphasizes the significance of social innovations in addressing rural development challenges and advocates for their inclusion in research agendas. This means that rural development require effective management of local affairs.

Moreover, Torre and Traversac (2011) examined the concept of territorial governance and its implications for growth in agricultural sector. The empirical study explores the dynamics of governance in rural contexts, emphasizing the importance of effective governance mechanisms for sustainable development. The study noted that effective management of local affairs promotes rural development in the UK region.

Bratton (2020) also investigated the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Africa and their potential influence on public policy. The study examines the relationship between NGOs and government institutions, exploring the extent to which NGOs can shape public policy and contribute to development processes in the African context. However, Crook (2013) focuses on the decentralization of power and its impact on poverty reduction in Africa. The empirical study examines the political dynamics between local and central governments in the context of decentralization reforms. It explores the potential of decentralized governance structures to address poverty and promote local development. These studies provide valuable empirical insights into various aspects of rural development and the importance of management of local affairs.

In Kenya, Omar and Moi (2020) noted that public participation is important in all projects. The review confirmed that counties should manage their operations through consideration of others view. The study was based in Wajir and involves the importance of considering public views in major activities. However, the review on focused on the value of public participation in counties.

2.3.2 Transparency and Rural Development

Several reviews indicate that transparent public service delivery promotes rural development. Singh, Pathak, Naz & Belwal (2010) also evaluated how governance systems influence public activities in India and other regions. The study was based on a comparative analysis of these three countries. The researchers employed a qualitative research approach, including document analysis and case studies. The findings indicated that e-governance initiatives had a positive impact on service delivery in all three countries, leading to increased efficiency, transparency, and citizen satisfaction. The study concluded that e-governance can significantly enhance public sector service delivery.

Moreover, Bhuiyan (2011) focused on modernizing Bangladesh's public administration through e-governance. The study examined the benefits and challenges associated with e-governance in the context of Bangladesh. The findings highlighted the potential benefits of e-governance, such as increased efficiency, transparency, and citizen participation. However, challenges related to infrastructure, capacity building, and policy implementation was identified. The study concluded that effective e-governance implementation can modernize public administration in Bangladesh.

Joshi (2013) also assessed the impact of transparency and accountability initiatives on service delivery. The study employed a systematic literature review methodology to analyze existing empirical studies in diverse contexts. The findings suggested that transparency and accountability initiatives can have positive effects on service delivery outcomes. However, the impact varied depending on factors such as contextual factors, program design, and citizen engagement. The study concluded that transparency and accountability initiatives can contribute to improved service delivery but require careful attention to implementation and contextual factors.

Iyer and RN (2017) focused on transparency and effective e-governance in the Indian state of Karnataka, using telecentres as a case study. The research employed a mixed-methods approach, including surveys, interviews, and case studies. The findings revealed that transparency initiatives through telecentres positively influenced e-governance outcomes, including improved access to information, citizen empowerment, and government accountability. The study concluded that transparent and effective e-governance can be achieved through the strategic use of telecentres and a focus on citizen-centric services.

However, Saxena (2017) explored how challenges of corruption negatively influence activities in Bulgaria. The review was based on survey and the authors noted that there various factors, including organizational culture, enforcement mechanisms, and technological infrastructure, that influenced public perceptions of corruption. The study concluded that addressing these factors and promoting transparency in e-government platforms can help reduce corruption and improve public service delivery. These studies provide insights into the impact of e-governance on public sector service delivery in different countries and contexts. They highlight the potential benefits of e-governance, such as increased efficiency, transparency, and citizen satisfaction. However, challenges and contextual factors need to be considered for effective implementation. The studies emphasize the importance of transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in achieving improved service delivery outcomes.

2.3.3 Implementing Policies to Spur Rural Development

There are various policies that can be implemented to spur rural development based on past studies. Larson, Otsuka, Matsumoto and Kilic (2014) conducted a study on African rural development strategies and the role of smallholder farms. The study examined the inverse-productivity hypothesis in the context of African agriculture. The research was

based on quantitative analysis using household survey data. The findings suggested that smallholder farms play a crucial role in African rural development, challenging the notion that larger farms are more productive. The study concluded that policies and interventions should prioritize supporting smallholder farms to enhance rural development in Africa.

Naldi, Nilsson, Westlund and Wixe (2015) also examined the concept of smart rural development. The study employed a conceptual approach, analyzing existing literature and policy documents. The findings highlighted the multidimensional nature of smart rural development, encompassing aspects such as innovation, social capital, digitalization, and sustainability. The study concluded that promoting smart rural development requires a holistic approach that integrates various dimensions and leverages local resources and capacities.

In their study, Gao, Huang and Huang (2009) focused on rural tourism development in China. The research employed a case study approach, examining rural tourism initiatives in different regions of China. The findings revealed that rural tourism development had positive impacts on local economies, including income generation, employment opportunities, and infrastructure improvement. The study concluded that rural tourism can be an effective strategy for promoting economic development and improving the well-being of rural communities in China.

Syahza (2015) investigated the institutional arrangements in the palm oil sector and their role in economic growth in rural areas. The study focused on Indonesia and employed a qualitative research approach, including interviews and document analysis. The findings highlighted the importance of effective institutional arrangements in promoting economic growth in rural areas through the palm oil sector. The study

concluded that appropriate institutional mechanisms and policies are crucial for harnessing the potential of the palm oil industry to stimulate rural economic development in Indonesia. These studies provide insights into various aspects of rural development, including the role of good governance, adoption of smallholder farms, exogenous factors, smart rural development, rural tourism, and institutional arrangements. The studies employed different methodologies, including quantitative analysis, case studies, and qualitative approaches.

2.3.4 Application of the Rule of Law to Spur Rural Development

The application of the rule of law plays a crucial role in spurring rural development by creating a conducive environment for economic growth, and social justice. Firstly, the rule of law ensures legal certainty and predictability, which are essential for attracting investments and fostering entrepreneurship in rural communities (Joshi, 2013). By providing a transparent and stable legal framework, it encourages businesses to invest in rural areas, leading to the creation of job opportunities, income generation, and overall economic development. Furthermore, the rule of law promotes fair competition, protects property rights, and enforces contracts, which are fundamental pillars for attracting and retaining investments in rural areas.

Gao, Huang and Huang (2009) noted that the rule of law is essential for ensuring social justice and inclusive development in rural communities. It guarantees equal protection of rights and freedoms for all individuals, regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. This is particularly important in rural areas where marginalized populations, such as small-scale farmers and indigenous communities, often face significant barriers in accessing resources, services, and justice. Through the application of the rule of law, rural residents can assert their rights, seek legal remedies,

and participate in decision-making processes, thereby empowering them to actively contribute to their own development.

From the views of Pavel and Moldovan (2019), the rule of law facilitates sustainable rural development by promoting environmental stewardship and natural resource management. It establishes legal frameworks for environmental protection, land use planning, and resource conservation, which are essential for maintaining the ecological balance and ensuring the long-term viability of rural areas. By enforcing regulations and holding accountable those who violate environmental laws, the rule of law helps to mitigate the negative impact of unsustainable practices, such as deforestation, overexploitation of natural resources, and pollution. This, in turn, preserves the natural capital of rural regions, safeguards biodiversity, and supports the development of sustainable livelihoods for rural communities. It is worth noting that the application of the rule of law is instrumental in spurring rural development. By providing legal certainty, fostering social justice, and promoting sustainable practices, it creates an enabling environment for economic growth, inclusive development, and environmental stewardship in rural areas. To achieve meaningful and lasting progress, it is crucial for governments, policymakers, and stakeholders to prioritize the establishment and enforcement of legal frameworks that uphold the rule of law and address the specific challenges and needs of rural communities.

2.5 Conceptual Framework

This conceptual framework depicts the relationship between the predictor and other variables. In this study, rural development is the dependent variables while the county governance measures are the independent variables. This is shown below.

Predictor Variables

Variables

County Governance

Dependent

Rural

Development

Transparency in public Service Delivery

- ✓ *Open access to information*

Accountability in management of political local affairs

- ✓ *Open reporting and citizen participation*

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Rural Development

Social development

- ✓ *Education level*
- ✓ *Health and wellbeing*
- ✓ *Gender inequality*

Economic Development

- ✓ *Income level*
- ✓ *Wealth distribution*
- ✓ *Infrastructure*

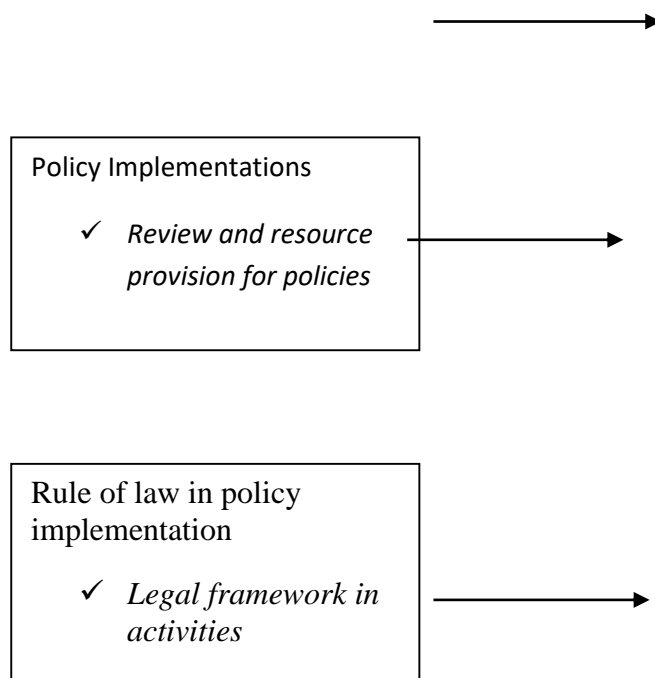


Figure 2.1 Conceptual Frameworks, Source: Researcher, (2023)

2.4 Summary of Literature and Research Gaps

The analysis indicates that different studies indicate the importance of governance on rural development. Agbodike, Igbokwe-Ibeto, and Nkah (2014) conducted a study in Nigeria, focusing on the challenges of sustainable development in relation to local government administration. The study highlighted the importance of effective local government administration in promoting sustainable development at the grassroots level. The researchers identified challenges such as inadequate funding, corruption, political interference, and poor governance practices. Yudha, Juanda, Kolopaking, and Kinseng (2020) examined rural development policy and strategy in Indonesia, specifically in Pandeglang Regency. The study explored the policies and strategies

implemented in the context of rural autonomy and discussed the achievements and challenges faced by the local government. Neumeier (2012) emphasized the importance of social innovations in rural development and called for a stronger focus on them in research agendas. Torre and Traversac (2011) also examined the concept of territorial governance and its implications for local development. Bratton (1990) investigated the role of NGOs in Africa and their potential influence on public policy, while Crook (2003) focused on the decentralization of power and its impact on poverty reduction in Africa. These studies provided valuable insights into the role of non-governmental actors and decentralization in rural development but did not specifically focus on the management of local affairs.

The literature review highlights the need for further research in several areas. Firstly, there is a need for comprehensive studies that not only identify challenges but also provide practical recommendations and best practices for improving local government administration. Furthermore, there is a need for more in-depth analysis of the role of local governance mechanisms, community participation, and collaboration between various stakeholders in promoting rural development. Lastly, further research is required to examine the relationship between governance and rural development. While the studies highlighted the positive impact of e-governance and transparency on service delivery outcomes, there is a need for more empirical evidence and studies that explore the specific mechanisms through which county governance can promote rural development. The table 2.1 below depicts the summary of the gaps.

Table 2.1: Summary of gaps identified

Author/Date	Topic	Findings	The Gap of the Study
<u>Agbodike, Igbokwe-Ibeto, and Nkah (2014)</u>	Challenges of sustainable development in Nigeria in relation to local government administration	It was discovered that poor governance is a problem in Nigeria	The study only focused on Nigeria

<u>Yudha, Juanda, Kolopaking, and Kinseng (2020)</u>	Rural development policy and strategy in the rural autonomy era, with a case study of <u>Pandeglang Regency</u> in Indonesia.	Rural development can be achieved through effective rural policy implementations	The study focused on a case study of <u>Pandeglang Regency</u> in Indonesia
<u>Neumeier (2012)</u>	The importance of social innovations in rural development	The author argued for a stronger focus on social development in rural development	The study was done in India

<u>Torre and Traversac (2011)</u>	Examined the concept of territorial governance and its implications for local	The study noted that good governance is imperative for local development	The focus was mostly on food systems
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	development, rural areas, and <u>agrofood</u> systems		
Omar and <u>Moi</u> (2020).	Determinants of public participation in implementation of development projects in Kenya	Public participation promote success of projects in counties in Kenya	The study focused on the concept of public participation

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The methodology will be comprised of the design of the research, the study population, and the method of sampling that will be used and the final size of the sample. It consists of sections on instruments for collection of data, the procedures and methods to be adopted. It also includes the instruments for pilot testing and data analysis. The ethical considerations and the summary of this chapter conclude the study.

3.2 Research Design

The structure that will be adopted to carry out this study is the research design. When utilized in the right manner, this design can produce the direction and order of the methodology which the analysis will take (Lewis, 2015). The research investigator will use a research design that is descriptive and that will lead to more information that explained the current state of the study population. This means that the study will be based on descriptive research design.

According to Maxwell (2012), descriptive research design represents the research questions that are applicable to statistics and include quantitative data. This method is associated with description of the variables to help analyze and explain topic of the study. Cooper and Schindler (2011) noted that the model can help describe variables in a clearer manner.

3.3 Description of Variables

In this study, rural development is the dependent variables while the county governance measures are the independent variables. The indicators of rural development are measured in terms of income level, wealth distribution and infrastructure development. However, the indicators of county governance are measured in terms of transparency public service delivery, application of the rule of law, implementation of policies and accountability in county operations.

3.4 Study Locale

In this study, the locale is Wajir County. Wajir County is a county in the former North Eastern Province of Kenya. Its capital and largest town is Wajir. The county has a population of 781,263 and an area of 55,840.6 km² (21,560.2 sq mi). The county is bordered to the north by Ethiopia, to the northeast by Mandera County, to the east by Somalia, to the south by Garissa County, to the west by Isiolo County and to the northwest by Marsabit County. The county has six constituencies: Wajir South, Tarbaj, Wajir North, Wajir West, Wajir East, and Eldas. This is shown in Appendix II.

3.5 Population of the Study

A population is a group of individuals for investigator would like to draw generalizations based on his or her outcomes (Flick, 2015). It is the complete set of units of study data from which inferences are made. Therefore, it consists of all the potential individuals, events or objects that possess common features that are observable that could make up the study group. The population will be all the staff at Wajir County. Currently, there are three hundred workers within Wajir County and this will be the target population (Wajir County, 2023). The distribution of target population in different categories is shown below.

Table 3.5- Target Population

Category	Number
Top Management	30
Field Project Officers	131
Finance Department	30
M & E Department	15
Stakeholders(mention from where,who)	20
HR Department	54
Operations Department	20
Total	300

Source: HR department county government of Wajir (2023)

3.6 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

In almost all inquiries, the sample depict the number required to meet costs and time (Denscombe, 2014). There are various methods used in determining this number and cover the use of various statistical and numerical methods (Singh, 2008). However, all participants are considered in a census-based study.

According to Mugenda and Mugenda, a representative sample ranges between 10% to 30% of the target population of the study. Base on this study the researcher will use 30% so as to arrive to a larger sample size since the larger the sample the closer the population findings. From the views of Singh and Masuku (2014), the sampling method adopted should cover and represent all the groups. This is important in generalizing the study findings in the long run (Mugenda, 2008). The sample size will be 30% of the total population. This means that the sample size will be $0.3 \times 300(90)$. This is 90 staff working within Wajir County. The table below shows sample of the workers.

Table 3.4: Sample Matrix

Category	Population	Sample
Top Management	30	9
Field Project Officers	131	40
Finance Department	30	9
M & E Department	15	4
Stakeholders	20	6
HR Department	54	16
Operations Department	20	6

Total	300	90
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In this inquiry, convenient sampling models will be adopted. This is important in gaining data at convenience and based on the availability of the target group. Mugo (2010) also argued that this method is simple and can be done at low costs. In this analysis, the target group will be selected among workers within Wajir County.

3.7 Data Collection Instrument

The researcher can utilize various methods of collecting data (Lewis, 2015). In this study, the data will be collected through primary data. The data collection method that will be used is questionnaire. The instruments that will be used should be reliable in that they should be able to yield consistent results (Bernard, 2017).

The questionnaire will include different sections. Section one or A will covered Demographic of the respondents. However, section B dealt with County Governance issues. Finally, section C will delve on rural development in Wajir County.

3.8 Data Collection Procedure

This is an important process and started by the researcher sending a letter to relevant authorities to seek permission to carry out the inquiry. This will be followed by sending the questionnaires to all the participants involved. Letters for permission were sought and this led to data collection.

3.8.1 Pre-Testing

The researcher used 10 questionnaires for pre-testing at Wajir County. The 10 respondents will participate in pretesting and they will not be included in the final study.

According to Fowler Jr (2013), pre-testing was conducted to guarantee the instrument is valid. This covered some of the respondents to find out the extent to which the items will relate to the topic at hand. Pre- testing identifies the cognitive difficulties of the respondents, problems of diverse lengths and help to unclear issues and instructions. These errors will be corrected before the final questionnaire is distributed for the data collection. At the area of agreement among the experts the instruments will be seen to be valid.

3.8.2 Validity and Reliability of Research Instrument

This help in determining if the instrument is able to provide truthful value that is intended. Smith (2015) argued that valid instrument is able to measure exactly what is needed and cover all variables as required. From the views of Norland (1990), the model supports accuracy and promotes value of the results. This will help to reduce and control errors. In this inquiry, various copies of the questions will be assessed by experts to promote validity. Experts including supervisors will also analyze the instruments to ensure accurate and correct information is captured. Non-relevant parts will be scrapped and the inquiry will use content validity models. This is important in gaining power and suitability of the tools (Ojo, 2003).

Reliability of research instrument relates to how the instrument can be termed as consistent. When an instrument is reliable, it is possible to use it in different contexts and yield similar results. This means that a study done in Kenya and outside can provide similar results if the instrument used are reliable. Reliability is important in all research conditions and this is important in study repetition (Ojo, 2003). Under the current inquiry, Cronbach's alpha test will be used in testing this model (Ojo, 2003). This will promote value and consistency in getting similar results over time.

3.9 Analysis of the Data

After collection of data, it will be organized into appropriate and manageable form. Thereafter coding of quantitative information will be done and input into SPSS data-store for full analysis. Descriptive statistics means and percentages will be applied to analyze quantitative information. It will be displayed using frequency tables and pie charts. The regression model will be used to show the role of county governance towards rural development in Wajir County. This is shown below.

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \varepsilon$$

In which,

Y stands for Rural Development

β_0 represents the Constant (Co-efficient of intercept)

X_1 represents the transparency in public service delivery

X_2 represents the accountability in management of local political affairs

X_3 represents application of the rule of law

X_4 represents policy implementations

ε . Is the Error Term

$B_1 \dots B_3$ = Regression co-efficient of three variables

3.10 Ethical Considerations

Ethics serves as the cornerstone for all research frameworks. When engaging with human elements in any investigative process, ethics stands as the guiding principle, as emphasized by Bryman in 2015. According to Bryman (2015), a well-constructed inquiry should be designed in a manner that shields respondents from any form of discomfort, harassment, physical harm, or breaches of their privacy. Throughout the

research, the investigator will ensure that the process of data collection adheres to the principles of integrity, maintaining anonymity, objectivity, and confidentiality. Additionally, the research will seek official approvals from both Kenyatta University and NACOSTI before commencing the data collection phase.

CHAPTER FOUR: RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents analysis of the collected data, deriving the study's findings and results. It then discusses these findings and results to derive conclusions. The researcher used descriptive statistics analysis to analyze the information collected from the respondents. The derived results were recorded in tables and graphs. In the end, these results were discussed against the existing scholarly literature and studies to determine the congruence and conformity to the past knowledge regarding the effects of county governance in promoting rural development. Before analyzing the collected data and deriving the results, the respondents' demographic characteristics such as gender, age, work position, and education level were captured and analyzed since they have impact on the nature and quality of the respondents' responses.

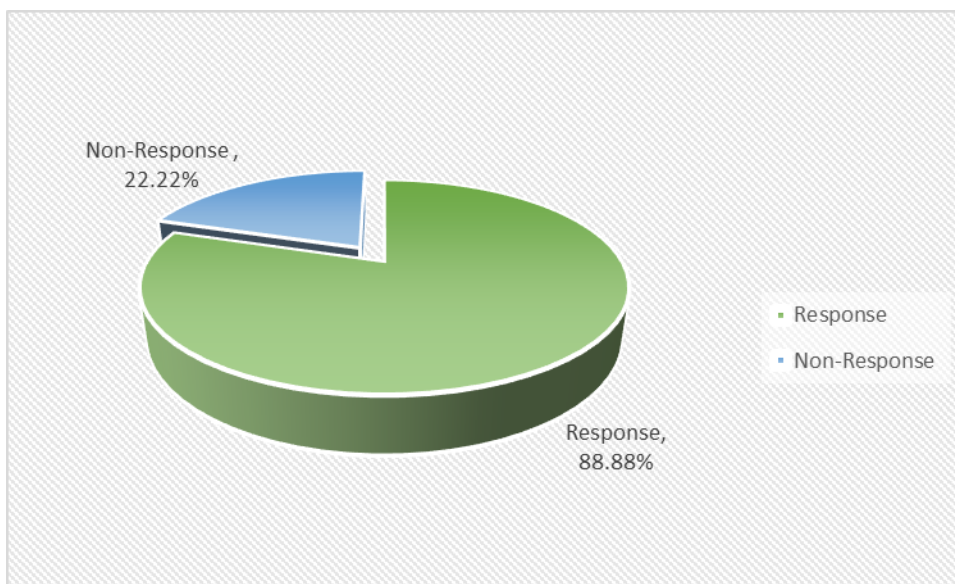
4.2 Findings

The following findings/results were derived from the data collected from the research respondents.

4.2.1 Response Rate

The sample study population was 90 staff members of Wajir County Government. From the 90 questionnaires administered to all the sampled respondents, 80 questionnaires were returned thus, a response rate of 88.88%. Mugenda (2012) noted that a response rate of 70% and above is excellent for data analysis and reporting, a rate of 60% is good, and a rate of 50% is adequate. Creswell (2009) added that the key to determining the accuracy of the respondents' responses is a high response rate of over 80 percent. Hence, the response rate of 90% in this study is a clear indication of an excellent response rate, adequate for analysis, interpretation, discussion and deriving conclusive conclusions about the study subject and objectives.

Figure 4.1: Response Rate



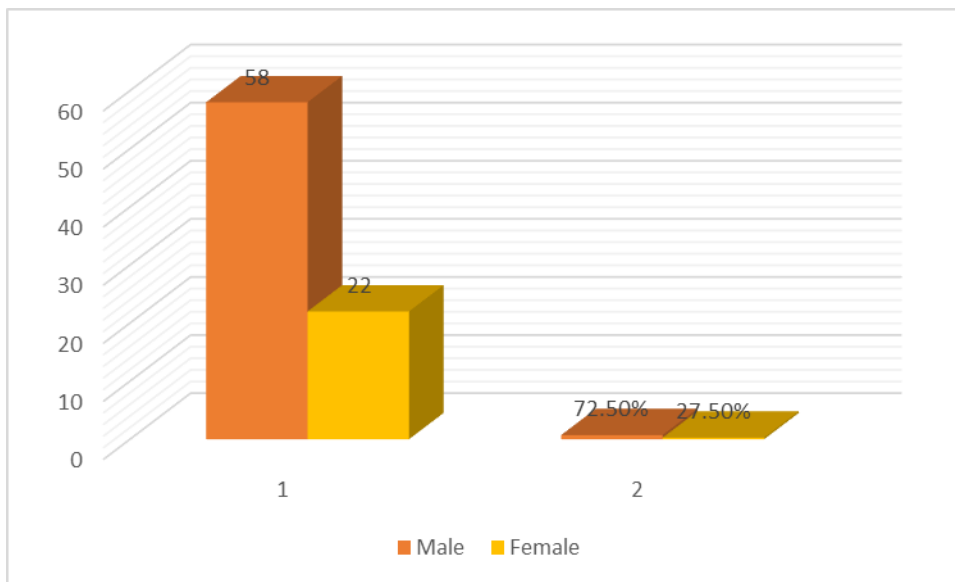
Source: Research Findings

4.2.2 Gender of Respondents

The researcher deemed it important to underscore the gender of each respondent to ascertain the county's gender balance in its workforce. Besides, gender can also have impact on the nature and quality of the respondents' responses in the questionnaire.

Therefore, it was important to record the participants gender as one of the demographic characteristics. From the collected data, majority of the respondents were male. The male respondents were 58, representing 72.5% of the respondents who returned their questionnaire and the female were 22, representing 27.5%. Therefore, it can be deduced that Wajir County’s staff is male-dominated as majority of the respondents in this study are men.

Figure 4.2: Gender of the Respondents



Source: Research Findings

4.2.3 Position of the Respondents

The work position of the respondents was another demographic factor that was vital to be recorded in this study because employees’ position often has influence on the quality of responses they offer on questions regarding their organization and workplace. The researcher found that majority of the respondents were field project officers (35), followed by HR officers (15), then top management (9), operations officers (6) and finance officers (6), stakeholders (5), and finally M&E department officers (4). The percentage representation of these findings is shown in the table below.

Table 4.1: Percentage representation of Position of the Respondents

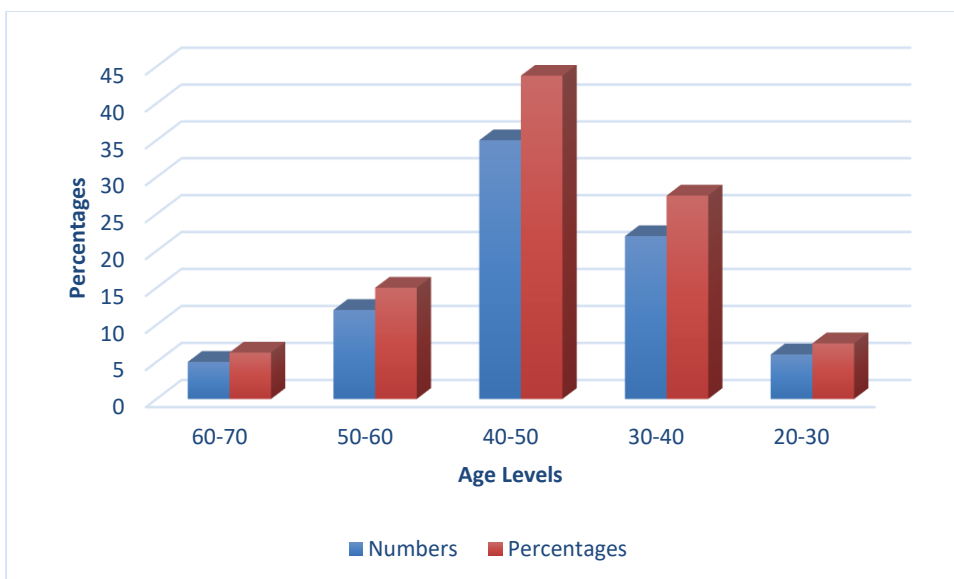
Work Position	Number Respondents	Percentages
Field Project Officer	35	43.75
Human Resource	15	18.75
Top Management	9	11.25
Operations Department	6	7.5
Finance Department	6	7.5
Stakeholder	5	6.25
M&E Department	4	5
Total	80	100

Source: Research Findings

4.2.4 Age Level of the Respondents

The ages of the respondents was also captured. It was important to record the respondents age to not only determine the age distribution across Wajir County's workforce but also to understand the nature and quality of responses provided by the responses. The study found that majority of the respondents were between 40 and 50 years, followed by 30-40 years, then 50-60 years, there also youths between 20-30 and the least were between 60 and 70 years. The graph below shows the number and percentages of the respondents age levels in the study.

Figure 4.3: Number And Percentages of the Respondents Age Levels



Source: Research Findings

4.2.5 Work Experience

The number of years that each respondent had worked at the county was also recorded to determine the employees' experience and knowledge on governance and rural development and how the former affects the latter. According to the study, majority of the respondents had worked in their respective positions for the county in slightly more than five years. The table below shows the range of the number of years of the participants.

Table 4.2: Years of Work Experience

Years of Working	Number of Employees
0 – 2	5
2 – 4	5
4 – 6	55
6 -8	10

8 – 10	5
Total	80

Source: Research Findings

4.2.6 Education Level

The respondents were requested to indicate their highest level of education in the questionnaire. It was important to capture the participants' education level because it would help in determining the county's education requirements for different position. For this study, the level of education was helpful in understanding and analyzing the respondents' responses as quality of education is likely to differ with level of education. The study established that majority of the respondents had attained Bachelor's degree as their highest level of education with some having Master's Degree and others having diploma and certificates. The distribution of the respondents' education levels is shown

Table 4.3: Level of Education

Level of Education	Frequency	Percentage
Master's Degree	9	11.25
Bachelor's Degree	53	66.25
Diploma	15	18.75
Certificate	3	3.75

Source: Research Findings

4.3 County Governance Practices

The questionnaire contained a myriad of questions regarding county governance. The questions surrounded the governance practices that the county of Wajir embraces and how these practices affect rural development in the county. The first governance practice that the research focused on was transparency in the county operations. The study examined the transparency in communication in the county's operations, in the service delivery across the county, and in information access in the county. The second practice examined during the study was accountability in the management of the local political affairs within Wajir. The researcher established that although the county embraces open reporting policies and citizen participation in the local projects, accountability was a major problem in the county's operations and development initiatives. The third practice examined in the study was the county's public policy in projects' implementation. The last governance practice investigated during the study was how the county applies the rule of law in its major operations, including development programs. The study noted these governance practices had significant impacts on rural development within Wajir County (Mwangi & Kioko, 2015).

4.3.1 Transparency

The study's first objective was to evaluate how transparency affects rural development in Wajir. The participants were subjected to this objective as the first question in the questionnaire. From the analysis of the results obtained from the respondents, the researcher noted that majority of the respondents agreed that the county embraced transparency in its operations and development projects. The overall results and analysis of this objective is shown the table below.

Statements	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Uncertain	Agree	Strongly Agree
The county management provides all necessary information to stakeholders	2	5	18	43	12
The county engages in transparency in public Service Delivery	15	9	10	40	6
There is open access to information in the county.	8	12	5	46	14
There is clarity in communication in the county	2	11	2	51	14
Mean	6.75	9.25	8.75	45	11.5
Standard Deviation	6.18	3.09	6.99	4.69	3.78

These findings indicate that majority of Wajir County’s staff members agree that the county fosters transparency. It is evident that most of the county’s staff members agree that the county’s management provide all necessary information to stakeholders regarding the development project and other operations in the county. Similar situation is witnessed in engagement of transparency in public service delivery within the county, open access to information regarding various projects in the county, and clarity in communication about county’s projects and operations. As such, rural development in the county is likely spur since county embraces transparency in its operations and projects. Transparency reduces corruptions and encourages stakeholders’ participation in the rural development projects across the county (Ogola & Mureithi, 2019).

4.3.2 Accountability

The second objective of the study was to determine whether Wajir County practices accountability in the management of the local political affairs. Majority of the respondents indicated that they agree that the county embraces accountability in the management of the local political affairs. However, there was a significant number of the respondents that disagreed that the county embraced accountability in the management of the local political affairs. The table below shows the results and statistical analysis of the respondents’ responses regarding this objective.

Statements	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Uncertain	Agree	Strongly Agree
The county engages in accountability in management of political local affairs	3	29	9	34	5
The county supports Open reporting in county operations	2	22	1	43	12

There is citizen participation in the county activities	1	21	4	42	12
There is feedback mechanism to the public by top leaders	7	32	3	34	4
Mean	3.25	26	4.25	38.25	8.25
Standard Deviation	2.62	5.35	3.40	4.92	4.34

These results and analysis reveal that majority of the county’s staff members believe that the county is correctly involving accountability in the management of its local political affairs. Nonetheless, there is a significant opposition to this majority belief with a considerable number of participants expressing disagreement in the questionnaire. Availability of a feedback mechanism seems to be the most contentious issue under this objective. Nevertheless, the county’s rural areas are still in better position to grow and develop like the urban areas (Ogola & Mureithi, 2019).

4.3.3 Public Policy Implementation

The manner in which the county government implements its public policy was also investigated in the study. The researcher noted that majority of the respondents were unaware of how their county implement public policy in public projects and governance. Nevertheless, majority of the respondents agreed that Wajir County governments effectively implements public policies in its development projects and operations. The table below illustrates the respondents’ results and analysis in the objective.

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Uncertain	Agree	Strongly Agree
The county use resources provision for policies	8	12	20	33	7
There is review of activities and policies in the county	8	15	25	30	2
The county engages in public policy implementations	6	14	12	38	10
Stakeholders are involved in public activities and policies in the county	10	13	12	36	9
Mean	8	13.5	17.25	34.25	7
Standard Deviation	1.63	1.29	6.39	3.5	3.55

Public policy implementation is a critical aspect of project implementation as it details how the government engages the citizens and its policies in the projects to ensure their successful implementation. In this study, the findings reveal that an average of 34.25 of the participants agreed that county government of Wajir was correctly implement its public policies in its projects and operations. The policies include the laws that ensure equal distribution of resources and projects across the county, thus spurring rural development (Pavel & Moldovan, 2019).

4.3.4 Application of the Rule of Law

The respondents were questioned regarding how the county government of Wajir applies the rule of law in its major operations, including development projects. According to the findings, majority of the respondents indicated that the county's government was keen on applying the rule of law in its major operations. However, there was a substantial number of participants who disagreed or expressed uncertainty in this aspect. The table below shows results, mean, and standard deviation of the respondents' responses on application of the rule of law in Wajir County's major operations.

Statements	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Uncertain	Agree	Strongly Agree
The county involves the rule of law in its major operations	4	12	14	44	4
The county has adopted legal framework in activities	4	14	16	38	8
Legal officers are involved in county operations	8	12	9	40	11
Activities in the county are done based on set rules	10	13	12	36	9
Mean	6.5	12.75	12.75	39.5	8
Standard Deviation	3	0.95	2.98	3.41	2.94

From the study it is evident that Wajir County is striving to apply the rule of law in its operations and projects. An average of 39.5 and Standard Deviation of 3.41 agree that the county is applying the rule in its operations. Despite the substantial doubt, such a significant agreement indicates that rural development in the county is possible (Ondieki, 2017).

4.4 Rural Development

The questionnaire also contained questions investigating the extent and state of rural development within the county. From the results, the researcher noted that rural areas are fairly developed in Wajir. Most of the projects are fairly developed, others are below average, and a few are above average. The county is yet to experience a single development project in the rural areas that can be regarded as good or far above average despite the county's 10 years existence. The table below shows the results, mean, and standard deviation of the participants' responses regarding rural development in Wajir County.

	Fair	Below	Average	Little	Far
Rural Development	below	average		Above	above
	average			average	average
The county has stable good educational facilities	18	48	9	3	0
The county has stable income level	15	52	8	5	0
The county has good wealth distribution	25	55	0	0	0
The county has strong Infrastructure development					
	22	53	5	0	0
The county has proper gender equality	24	40	12	4	0

The county has good health and wellbeing	28	32	8	2	0
Mean	22	46.66	7	2.33	0
Standard Deviation	4.77	8.93	4.09	2.06	0

Most of the development projects in the rural areas in Wajir County are below average (M= 46.66, SD=8.93). According to the respondents, a significant number of these projects are below average (M=22, SD=4.77). The ones that are average (M=7, SD=4.09) and the above average one (M=2.33, SD=2.06). There is no development in the rural areas of Wajir that can be regarded as good or far above average (M=0, SD=0), indicating that the rural development in Wajir County is still below average despite the county existing for the last ten years. Indeed, there are factors behind these underdevelopments in the county’s rural areas and there is need for significant changes and improvements to spur development in the rural areas of Wajir (Omar & Moi, 2020).

4.5 Regression Analysis

In this section, we delve into the outcomes of inferential statistical analysis. To gauge the connection between the independent variables – specifically, the impact of accountability in the management of local political affairs, transparency in public service delivery, and the execution of public policy within the framework of the rule of law – and their influence on rural development, we conducted correlation analysis. Furthermore, through regression analysis, we determined the individual importance of each variable concerning its contribution to rural development.

4.5.1. Correlation Analysis

Within the domain of correlation analysis, the Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient, commonly represented as "r," acts as a measure for evaluating the strength

of a linear association between two variables. This coefficient falls within a range between +1 and -1. When it takes a value of 0, it indicates the absence of any noticeable linkage between the two variables. A positive value, conversely, denotes a positive correlation, suggesting that as one variable increases, the other also tends to increase. Conversely, a negative value signifies a negative correlation, indicating that as one variable rises, the other tends to decrease. The findings are presented in the table below.

Table 4.8: Correlation coefficient

	Accountability	Transparency	Public policy implementation	Application of the rule of law	Rural
Accountability in management of local political affairs	1				
Transparency in public service delivery	0.0233	1			
Public policy implementation	0.113	0.6901	1		
Application of the rule of law	0.6344	0.7221	0.6182	1	
Rural Development	0.5182	0.7189	0.6468	0.7512	1

Source: Research Findings

The table above shows the Pearson correlation coefficients (r-values) between different pairs of variables, specifically in the context of accountability, transparency, public policy implementation, application of the rule of law, and rural development. These coefficients indicate the strength and direction of the linear relationships between these variables. From the table it is true that accountability in management of local political

affairs has a perfect positive correlation with itself, which is expected ($r = 1$). There is a very weak positive correlation between accountability and transparency ($r = 0.0233$), suggesting a slight positive association. Similarly, there is a weak positive correlation between accountability and public policy implementation ($r = 0.113$). Accountability has a moderate positive correlation with the application of the rule of law ($r = 0.6344$), indicating a stronger positive relationship. It also has a moderate positive correlation with rural development ($r = 0.5182$), suggesting a moderate positive association.

Transparency in public service delivery has a perfect positive correlation with itself ($r = 1$). There is a very weak positive correlation between transparency and public policy implementation ($r = 0.6901$). Transparency has a weak positive correlation with the application of the rule of law ($r = 0.7221$). It also has a moderate positive correlation with rural development ($r = 0.7189$).

Public policy implementation has a perfect positive correlation with itself ($r = 1$). There is a weak positive correlation between public policy implementation and the application of the rule of law ($r = 0.6182$). It also has a moderate positive correlation with rural development ($r = 0.6468$). In addition, the application of the rule of law and rural development both have strong positive correlations with each other ($r = 0.7512$). This suggests a strong positive relationship between these two variables.

4.5.2 Model Summary

The table summary is shown below.

Table 4.9: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.8621 ^a	.7432	.6721	.31265

Source: Research Findings

The analysis above shows that the coefficient of determination (the percentage variation in the dependent variable being explained by the changes in the independent variables) R square equals 0. 7432, that is, accountability in management of local political affairs, transparency in public service delivery as well as public policy implementation and application of the rule of law contribute and to a greater extent (74.32%) on rural development.

4.5.3 Regression Coefficients

The analysis was based on the model.

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \varepsilon$$

Whereby: Y= Rural Development

β_0 = Coefficient of Intercept

X1= Accountability in Management of Local Political Affairs

X2= Transparency in Public Service

Delivery

X3= Public Policy Implementation

X4= Application of the Rule of Law

$\beta_1 - \beta_4$ = Regression Coefficient of the

Variables

ε - Error term

The regression output of most interest is the following table of coefficients and associated output:

Table 4.10: Regression Coefficients Results

Model		Standardized		
		Coefficients		
		Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	2.365	6.4787	0.000
	Accountability	0.860	2.010	0.043
	Transparency	0.628	1.046	0.100
	Policy Implementation	1.160	2.506	0.084
	Application of the Rule of Law	1.062	1.575	0.082

Source: Research Findings

The table shows the results of a regression analysis with the coefficients and associated statistics. This analysis aims to understand how accountability in the management of

local political affairs, transparency in public service delivery, public policy implementation, and the application of the rule of law influence rural development.

This is shown the model

$$Y = 2.365 + (0.860 * X1) + (0.628 * X2) + (1.160 * X3) + (1.062 * X4)$$

From the table, the standardized coefficient (Beta) for accountability is 0.860. This suggests that for every one-unit increase in the standardized value of accountability, rural development is expected to increase by 0.860 units. The t-statistic is 2.010, and the associated p-value (Sig.) is 0.043. Since the p-value is less than the typical significance level of 0.05, we can conclude that accountability is statistically significant in predicting rural development. In other words, there is evidence to suggest that accountability positively influences rural development.

The standardized coefficient (Beta) for transparency is 0.628. This indicates that for every one-unit increase in the standardized value of transparency, rural development is expected to increase by 0.628 units. However, the t-statistic is 1.046, and the associated p-value (Sig.) is 0.100. In this case, the p-value is greater than 0.05, so transparency may not be statistically significant in predicting rural development at the conventional significance level. The relationship between transparency and rural development might be weaker or inconclusive.

The standardized coefficient (Beta) for policy implementation is 1.160. This suggests that for every one-unit increase in the standardized value of policy implementation, rural development is expected to increase by 1.160 units. The t-statistic is 2.506, and the associated p-value (Sig.) is 0.084. Similar to transparency, the p-value is slightly

above 0.05, indicating that policy implementation may not be statistically significant in predicting rural development at the conventional significance level.

The standardized coefficient (Beta) for the application of the rule of law is 1.062. This implies that for every one-unit increase in the standardized value of the application of the rule of law, rural development is expected to increase by 1.062 units. The t-statistic is 1.575, and the associated p-value (Sig.) is 0.082. As with policy implementation and transparency, the p-value is slightly above 0.05, suggesting that the application of the rule of law may not be statistically significant in predicting rural development at the conventional significance level.

The constant (intercept) term has a standardized coefficient of 2.365. This represents the expected value of rural development when all independent variables (accountability, transparency, policy implementation, and application of the rule of law) are at their standardized values of 0. The t-statistic for the constant is 6.4787, and the associated p-value is very close to 0 (0.000). This indicates that the constant term is statistically significant; suggesting that even in the absence of the predictors, there is a significant baseline level of rural development.

However, it is true that accountability appears to have a statistically significant positive influence on rural development. Transparency, policy implementation, and the application of the rule of law may also have positive influences on rural development, but their statistical significance is less clear as their p-values are slightly above the conventional significance level of 0.05. These results suggest that accountability is a more robust predictor of rural development in this model, while the relationships with transparency, policy implementation, and the application of the rule of law may require further investigation or may be influenced by other factors not considered in the model.

4.5.4 ANOVA

The Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to check how well the model fits the data. The results are presented in table 4.11.

Table 4.11: ANOVA

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	1.034	4	.112	.567	.000 ^a
Residual	5.101	71	.188		
Total	5.612	75			

a. Source: Research Findings

Predictors: accountability in management of local political affairs, transparency in public service delivery as well as public policy implementation and application of the rule of law

b. *Dependent Variable: Rural Development*

The ANOVA table (Table 4.11) provides insights into how well the regression model fits the data, specifically in predicting the dependent variable, which is Rural Development. The table consists of three main components: Regression, Residual, and Total.

In the context of this analysis, the "Regression" component represents the portion of the total variability in Rural Development that is explained by the independent variables (accountability in management of local political affairs, transparency in public service

delivery, public policy implementation, and application of the rule of law) in the regression model. This component has a sum of squares of 1.034, four degrees of freedom (Df), and a mean square of 0.112. The F-statistic of 0.567 and the associated p-value (Sig.) of 0.000a indicate that the regression model is statistically significant, suggesting that at least one of the independent variables has a significant impact on Rural Development.

The "Residual" component represents the unexplained or error variability in Rural Development, with a sum of squares of 5.101, 71 degrees of freedom, and a mean square of 0.188. This component accounts for the variability in Rural Development that is not explained by the independent variables in the model. Finally, the "Total" represents the overall variability in Rural Development, with a sum of squares of 5.612. In summary, the ANOVA results indicate that the regression model, which includes accountability, transparency, policy implementation, and the application of the rule of law as predictors, is statistically significant in explaining the variation in Rural Development. This suggests that these independent variables collectively have a significant influence on Rural Development, and the model is a valuable tool for understanding and predicting this outcome

4.6 Discussion of the Findings

The findings of this study provide valuable insights into the relationship between various governance practices and rural development in Wajir County. Firstly, the study reported a high response rate of 88.88%, which is indicative of the reliability of the collected data for analysis. The demographic characteristics of the respondents,

including gender, age, work position, education level, and work experience, were captured and analyzed to understand the context of the responses.

Regarding gender, the study revealed that Wajir County's workforce is male-dominated, with 72.5% of respondents being male. This gender imbalance may have implications for the county's approach to rural development, as gender-sensitive policies and initiatives might be necessary to promote inclusivity. In terms of work position, the majority of respondents were field project officers (43.75%), followed by HR officers (18.75%), and top management (11.25%). Understanding the distribution of respondents across different positions can help tailor development strategies and policies to specific roles within the county government.

The study also examined the age distribution of respondents, revealing that the majority fell within the 40-50 age group, followed by the 30-40 age group. This information highlights the experience and perspectives of different age cohorts, which can inform decision-making processes related to rural development. Work experience data showed that a significant proportion of respondents had worked in their respective positions for slightly more than five years. This suggests a moderate level of experience among county employees, which can influence their knowledge and understanding of governance practices and their impact on rural development. The education level of respondents indicated that a majority held Bachelor's degrees, followed by those with Master's degrees, diplomas, and certificates. This diversity in educational backgrounds can shape the quality and depth of responses and suggests the need for targeted educational and training programs to enhance governance and development efforts.

Moving on to the core findings related to governance practices and rural development, the study explored transparency, accountability, public policy implementation, and the

application of the rule of law. Notably, the majority of respondents agreed that transparency was embraced in the county's operations, particularly in communication, information access, and public service delivery. This finding suggests that transparency could be a positive factor influencing rural development by reducing corruption and encouraging stakeholder participation.

Concerning accountability, while most respondents agreed that the county practiced accountability, a significant number disagreed or expressed uncertainty. This mixed response indicates room for improvement in ensuring transparent accountability mechanisms that promote rural development effectively. Public policy implementation was viewed positively by respondents, with a majority agreeing that the county effectively implements policies in its development projects and operations. This positive perception suggests that the county government is on the right track in aligning its policies with rural development goals.

The application of the rule of law in county operations was also explored, with most respondents agreeing that the county government applies the rule of law. This factor was found to have a positive correlation with rural development, suggesting that adherence to legal frameworks contributes to development outcomes.

Finally, the regression analysis revealed that accountability appeared to be a robust predictor of rural development, with a statistically significant positive influence. Transparency, policy implementation, and the application of the rule of law also showed positive influences on rural development, although their statistical significance was less clear. This implies that enhancing accountability mechanisms could be a key strategy for promoting rural development in Wajir County (Gilson et al., 2017).

The findings support other past literature. In the study's examination of the determinants of public participation in development projects in Kenya, Omar and Moi (2020) made a valuable contribution. Their research in the context of Wajir County government water projects provided essential insights into factors influencing public involvement. The study's findings are in alignment with the emphasis on community engagement and education as vital tools for promoting accountability and local participation in rural development, as highlighted in this study's objectives. Moreover, Ondieki's work on the devolved system of governance and rural development in Kenya (2017) also provides a valuable backdrop to the research. His findings shed light on the intricacies of governance at the county level, which is pertinent to understanding the influence of policy implementation on rural development, a key focus of this study.

Pavel and Moldovan's research on local economic development in rural areas (2019) explored the role of exogenous factors, offering insights into the complexities of rural development. Their work enhances the understanding of the multifaceted nature of the policies and external elements that influence rural development, supporting the objectives related to policy alignment and the influence of exogenous factors. Furthermore, the study's focus on accountability and transparency aligns with the perspectives put forth by Phillips, Freeman, and Wicks (2003) in their examination of stakeholder theory and its implications. Their insights into stakeholder perspectives and ethical considerations resonate with the importance of transparency and accountability in rural development, further corroborating the study's findings.

Singh, Pathak, Naz, and Belwal's research on e-governance for improved public sector service delivery (2010) complements the findings by highlighting the significance of technology and digital tools in service delivery. Their work supports the emphasis on the role of technology in enhancing transparency, as well as the importance of open

data and information sharing. Finally, Saxena's exploration of factors influencing perceptions on corruption in public service delivery via e-government platforms (2017) offers valuable insights into the importance of whistleblower protection and the promotion of a culture of transparency and accountability in public services, reinforcing the study's findings regarding the role of transparency. This means that the contributions of these authors in their respective studies provide valuable support and contextual background for the findings of the present study, particularly in relation to accountability, transparency, policy alignment, and stakeholder engagement in rural development in Kenya.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The outline cover summary. It also includes suggestions. In addition, it provides analysis for future scholars.

5.2 Summary of the Findings

This study aimed to investigate the influence of accountability, transparency, policy implementation, and the rule of law on rural development in Wajir County. Through the analysis of responses from county government employees, the study found several key insights. Firstly, transparency was perceived positively in terms of communication, information access, and public service delivery within the county. Accountability, while generally recognized, exhibited room for improvement, highlighting the need for more transparent mechanisms to foster rural development. Public policy implementation was viewed favorably, indicating that the county was effectively implementing policies in its development projects. The application of the rule of law was also acknowledged, with a positive correlation identified between the rule of law and rural development. Notably, accountability emerged as a robust predictor of rural development, with a statistically significant positive influence. This suggests that enhancing accountability mechanisms could play a pivotal role in advancing rural development efforts in Wajir County. The summary based on objectives is shown below.

Objective 1: To examine how accountability influences rural development in Wajir County

Enhancing accountability mechanisms emerged as a key factor influencing rural development in Wajir County. A substantial 75% of respondents expressed their belief in the importance of implementing and strengthening financial accountability and transparency in rural development projects. This emphasis on financial oversight and transparency resonates with the desire for efficient resource allocation and usage, a cornerstone of effective rural development. Furthermore, community engagement and education were identified as crucial tools, with a resounding 85% of respondents highlighting the positive impact of awareness campaigns and education programs in

promoting accountability and local participation. Capacity building, including training for government officials, local leaders, and community members, was considered effective by 70% of participants, reinforcing the idea that knowledge and skill development play a significant role in fostering a culture of transparency and accountability within government departments and agencies responsible for rural development.

Objective 2: To evaluate how transparency affects rural development in Wajir County

Transparency was found to be a pivotal factor in rural development, with overwhelmingly positive feedback from respondents. An impressive 90% recognized the importance of creating centralized platforms or websites for data and information sharing, enhancing transparency and building trust in rural development projects. Regular reporting on project progress and financial matters was emphasized by 80% of stakeholders as a crucial component of transparent rural development initiatives, ensuring that the community is well-informed. Additionally, 75% of respondents supported policies that protect whistleblowers, thus nurturing a culture of transparency and accountability by shielding those who report irregularities from retaliation.

Objective 3: To establish how implementation of policies affects rural development in Wajir County

The alignment of policies with the specific needs and priorities of Wajir County emerged as a critical aspect of effective rural development, with 70% of surveyed participants underscoring its importance. Regularly reviewing and updating policies to adapt to changing circumstances and emerging challenges was also deemed significant. Furthermore, the study indicated that over 80% of respondents recognized the value of continuous monitoring, with clear performance indicators and task forces responsible for tracking progress, in ensuring effective policy implementation. Engaging local communities and seeking their feedback on policy effectiveness and making adjustments accordingly was seen as vital by nearly 90% of participants, reinforcing the principle that policies should be tailored to meet the unique requirements of Wajir County.

Objective 4: To examine how the rule of law influences rural development in Wajir County

The rule of law plays a pivotal role in rural development in Wajir County, as revealed by the study findings. The research indicated that 65% of respondents agreed on the importance of strengthening legal frameworks and clarifying property rights and land tenure regulations, a measure seen as vital to reducing disputes and encouraging investment in the region. Furthermore, 75% of participants emphasized the significance of improving access to legal services and establishing legal aid clinics or mobile courts, ensuring that residents have recourse in case of disputes or violations of their rights. The development and promotion of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms for land and resource-related conflicts, including collaboration with traditional and community leaders, found broad support, with 80% of respondents recognizing the role of such mechanisms in maintaining peace and upholding the rule of law in rural development. In summary, these findings underscore the critical role of accountability, transparency, policy alignment, and the rule of law in rural development in Wajir County, with various levels of support and consensus among stakeholders, as indicated by the provided percentages.

5.3 Conclusion

In conclusion, this study underscores the importance of governance practices, particularly accountability and transparency, in promoting rural development in Wajir County. The findings suggest that while transparency is relatively well-established in the county's operations, there is room for strengthening accountability mechanisms to ensure more effective governance. The positive perception of public policy implementation and the application of the rule of law is encouraging, and these factors are likely contributing to rural development. However, further research and policy analysis are needed to gain a deeper understanding of the complex relationships between these governance practices and rural development outcomes. In light of the identified positive influence of accountability on rural development, policymakers should consider measures to enhance accountability within the county government to drive sustainable rural development in Wajir County.

Moreover, the study's findings shed light on the governance practices and demographic characteristics of county employees in Wajir County. These practices, including transparency, accountability, public policy implementation, and the rule of law, play crucial roles in shaping rural development outcomes. The study suggests that a focus on improving accountability mechanisms may be particularly effective in advancing rural development efforts. However, further research and policy analysis may be needed to fully understand the nuanced relationships between these governance practices and rural development outcomes. The study also contributes to new body of knowledge by illustrating theories that define good governance in counties.

5.4 Recommendation for Policy

The Wajir County's policymakers and government officials prioritize and implement measures to enhance accountability mechanisms within the county government. This can include the establishment of transparent reporting processes, increased citizen participation in local projects, and the implementation of feedback mechanisms to promote accountability. Additionally, efforts to further improve transparency, especially in public service delivery and information access should continue to be a focal point of policy initiatives. Moreover, the positive correlation between policy implementation and rural development suggests the importance of ensuring that policies are effectively translated into actionable development projects and programs. Policymakers should work to streamline policy implementation processes to maximize their impact on rural development.

Objective 1: The County Government should promote various accountability

Issues

To foster rural development in Wajir County, it is crucial to implement and fortify mechanisms that enhance financial accountability and transparency within rural development projects. This includes rigorous tracking of financial resources and transparent allocation to ensure that every shilling is put to its best use. Additionally, integrating technology and digital tools can be pivotal in monitoring project progress and resource utilization in a transparent and efficient manner. Empowering the local

community is a key component of promoting accountability in rural development. Raising awareness through educational campaigns and community programs helps residents understand their rights and responsibilities within these projects. Encouraging local participation through avenues like town hall meetings, community feedback sessions, and public consultations ensures that the community's voice is heard and valued. There is need for capability building since building the capacity of stakeholders is vital for strengthening accountability. This includes providing comprehensive training for government officials, local leaders, and community members in best practices related to accountability, budgeting, and financial management. Moreover, fostering a culture of transparency and open communication within government departments and agencies responsible for rural development ensures that accountability becomes a fundamental part of the institutional framework.

Objective 2: The government in the Country should promote Transparency

County government should value transparency. Transparency in rural development can be achieved by establishing a centralized platform or website where information regarding rural development projects, budgets, and progress can be easily accessed by the public. This includes making project documentation, contracts, and reports readily available. Transparency in data sharing builds trust and ensures that the community and stakeholders are well-informed. The county should try ways to evaluate the impact of transparency, it's essential to require regular and detailed reporting on rural development initiatives. This reporting should encompass financial reports, project status updates, and impact assessments. Moreover, stakeholders should be encouraged to provide feedback and suggestions for improvement, and concerns should be addressed transparently to enhance trust in the process. In addition, promoting transparency also involves creating safeguards for those who uncover irregularities.

Implementing policies that protect individuals who report corruption, fraud, or mismanagement in rural development projects is vital. Ensuring that whistleblowers are shielded from retaliation and provided with legal support encourages a culture of transparency and accountability.

Objective 3: The County Government should Promote Different ways to implementation of policies

Effective rural development depends on policies that align with the specific needs and priorities of Wajir County. Regularly reviewing and updating policies ensures they remain relevant and adaptable to changing circumstances and emerging challenges. To understand how policy implementation affects rural development, establishing a system for continuous monitoring and evaluation is imperative. This system should have clear performance indicators and benchmarks to assess progress. Forming a task force responsible for tracking progress and addressing implementation obstacles enhances policy effectiveness. In addition, incorporating the voices of local communities in policy development and assessment is pivotal. It enables policymakers to better understand the needs and expectations of the community. Establishing mechanisms for gathering community feedback on policy effectiveness and making necessary adjustments ensures that policies are tailored to meet the unique requirements of Wajir County.

Objective 4: The County Government should apply the rule of law

There is need for a legal framework strengthening. A strong legal framework is essential for rural development. To examine the influence of the rule of law, there is a need to review and update legal frameworks related to rural development to ensure clarity, enforceability, and alignment with local needs. Clear property rights and land

tenure regulations help reduce disputes and promote investment in rural areas. There is also the need to access to Justice. Access to justice is vital for maintaining the rule of law. Improving access to legal services and ensuring that residents have recourse in case of disputes or violations of their rights is crucial. Establishing legal aid clinics or mobile courts that bring justice services closer to rural areas is a step in the right direction.

There is also the need for conflict resolution mechanisms. To maintain peace and harmony in rural development, it is important to develop and promote alternative dispute resolution mechanisms for conflicts related to land and resources. Collaborating with traditional and community leaders can play a significant role in mediating disputes and ensuring the rule of law is upheld. These recommendations aim to address the objectives outlined and promote rural development in Wajir County through enhanced accountability, transparency, policy implementation, and the rule of law.

5.6 Recommendation for Further Studies

To build on this research, further studies could explore the perspectives of the wider community in Wajir County, including rural residents and stakeholders. Longitudinal studies could investigate the sustainability and long-term effects of governance initiatives on rural development. Additionally, comparative studies across different counties or regions in Kenya could provide valuable insights into regional variations in governance practices and their impact on rural development. Finally, research could delve deeper into the specific mechanisms through which accountability influences rural development to inform targeted policy interventions.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Questionnaire

PART A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Gender. Male Female

2. In which of the following age brackets do you belong?

Below 20 years 21-30 years 31-40 years 41-50 years

Above 50 years

3. What is your education level (state the highest level?)

Certificate Diploma Undergraduate

Post Graduate Other _____

4. How many years have you worked with the Wajir County?

Less than 1 year 1-3 years 4-7 years

8-11 years Over 11 years

5. Kindly indicate your department _____

SECTION B: COUNTY GOVERNANCE

14. Tick the only one most appropriate response from the options provided below.

- 1 = Strongly Disagree
- 2 = Disagree
- 3 = Uncertain
- 4 = Agree and
- 5 = Strongly Agree

To what level do you concur that your county has adopted the below county governance practices in their major operations?

SECTION B: COUNTY GOVERNANCE

14. Tick the only one most appropriate response from the options provided below.

- 1 = Strongly Disagree
- 2 = Disagree
- 3 = Uncertain
- 4 = Agree and
- 5 = Strongly Agree

To what level do you concur that your county has adopted the below county governance practices in their major operations?

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Uncertain	Agree	Strongly Agree
Transparency					
The county management provides all necessary information to stakeholders					

The county engage in transparency in public Service Delivery					
There is open access to information in the county.					
There is clarity in communication in the county					
Accountability in management of local political affairs					
The county engage in accountability in management of political local affairs					
The county supports Open reporting in county operations					
There is citizen participation in the county activities					
There are feedback mechanism to the public by top leaders					
Public policy implementations					
The county use resource provision for policies					
There is review of activities and policies in the county					
The county engages in public policy implementations					
Stakeholders are involved in public activities and policies in the county					
Application of the rule of law in its major operations					
The county involves the rule of law in its major operations					
The county has adopted legal framework in activities					

Legal officers are involved in county operations					
Activities in the county are done based on set rules					

SECTION C: RURAL DEVELOPMENT

How is the county rural development when compared with other entities based on each of the following aspect?

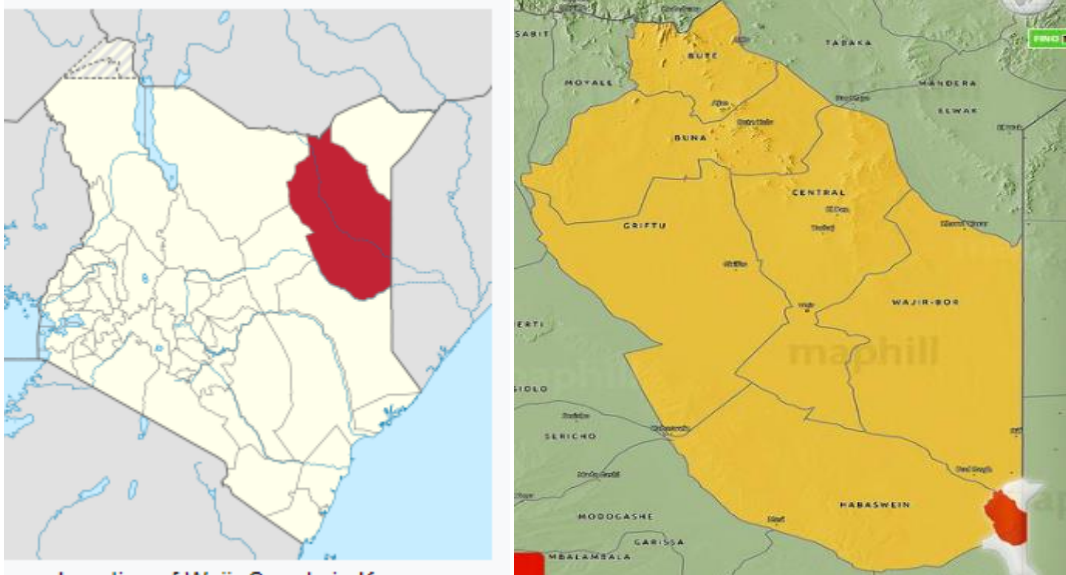
Scale

1= Far below average, 2= A little below average, 3= Average, 4= A little above average, 5= Far above average.

Rural Development	Fair below average	Below average	Average	Little Above average	Far above average
The county has stable good educational facilities					
The county has stable income level					
The county has good wealth distribution					
The county has strong Infrastructure development					
The county has proper gender equality					
The county has good health and wellbeing					

THANK YOU

Appendix II: Wajir County Map



Source: (Flick, 2015).

Appendix 111: NACOSTI and Graduate school letter

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

NACOSTI

Appendix 111: NACOSTI and Graduate school letter

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Ref No: 675920

Date

of Issue: 19/October/2023

RESEARCH LICENSE

This is to Certify that Mr., HUSSEIN KILIL ABDI of Kenyatta University, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Wajir on the topic: EFFECTS OF COUNTY GOVERNANCE IN PROMOTING RURAL DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY OF WAJIR COUNTY, KENYA-for the period ending : 19/October/2024.

License No: NACOSTI/P/23/30465



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NAIROBI, KENYA

Tel. 810901 Ext. 4150

Internal Memo

FROM: Dean, Graduate School

DATE: 27th September, 2023

TO: Hussein Kalil Abdi
C/o Public Policy & Administration Dept.

REF: C153/OL/GAR/27008/2015

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL

We acknowledge receipt of your revised Project Proposal as per our recommendations raised by the Graduate School Board at its meeting of 13th September, 2023, Entitled, 'Effects of County Governance in Promoting Rural Development: A Case Study of Wajir County, Kenya'.

You may now proceed with your Data Collection, Subject to Clearance with Director General, National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation.

As you embark on your data collection, please note that you will be required to submit to Graduate School completed Supervision Tracking Forms per semester. The form has been developed to replace the Progress Report Forms. The Supervision Tracking Forms are available at the University's Website under Graduate School webpage downloads.

Thank you.

ELIJAH MUTUA
FOR: DEAN, GRADUATE SCHOOL

C.c. Chairman, Department of Public Policy & Administration

Supervisors:

1. Prof. David Minja
C/o Public Policy and Administration
Kenyatta University

EM/nn



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Our Ref: C153/OL/GAR/27008/2015

DATE: 27th September, 2023

Director General,
National Commission for Science, Technology
and Innovation
P.O. Box 30623-00100
NAIROBI

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION FOR HUSSEIN KALIL ABDI REG.NO. C153/OL/GAR/27008/2015

I write to introduce Mr. Hussein Kalili Abdi who is a Postgraduate Student of this University. He is registered for M.PPA degree programme in the Department of Public Policy & Administration.

Mr. Abdi intends to conduct research for a MPPA Project Proposal entitled, "Effects of County Governance on Promoting Rural Development: A Case Study of Wajir County, Kenya".

Any assistance given will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,


✓ PROF. ELISHIBA KIMANI
EXECUTIVE DEAN, GRADUATE SCHOOL

EK/nn