

**EXAMINING CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND AS AN INSTRUMENT OF
RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN KAKAMEGA COUNTY, KENYA**

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DECLARATION

This thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university or any other award.

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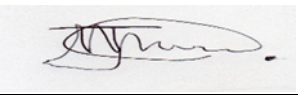
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DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to my parents, Juliah Purity Mulefu and Charles Matete as well as my siblings for their encouragement and unwavering support throughout this study.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CDCF	Constituency Development Catalyst Fund
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CHW	Community Health Worker
DFRD	District Focus for Rural Development
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
KIPPRA	Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research
KUERC	Kenyatta University Ethical Review Committee
MP	Member of Parliament
MPLADS	Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme
NACOSTI	National Council for Science and Technology
NG-CDF	National Government Constituency Development Fund
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

Active Participation: Refers to the meaningful involvement of community members in all stages of the project cycle, from identification and planning to implementation and evaluation. This implies a shared decision-making process, where community members have genuine influence over project outcomes.

Community Development: Denotes the process where the government and other agencies support members of a community to recognize and take combined action on issues that are significant for their welfare.

Community Participation: In this study, it denotes the involvement of local communities in rural development projects.

Community Welfare: It pertains to a combination of a range of programs, initiatives, and efforts by the government that seek to provide financial and other support to people and groups in the community. They include services such as low-cost or free public education, affordable healthcare, social security, employment and income, and food security among others.

Constituency Development Funds: Refer to funding provisions by the central/national government, which are directly channelled as financial resources to electoral constituencies for local development.

Constituency: Refers to an area or an electorate, which is represented by a Member of Parliament (MP).

Dynamics of CDF: Within the context of this study, the dynamics of CDF refer to the patterns and relationships between various aspects of the fund i.e., - the participation of the local populace, utilization trends, and challenges in the utilization of the fund – and rural development.

Infrastructure: This denotes a wide range of physical amenities that act as a channel for the provision of services to individuals such as water and electricity lines, railways and roads, buildings, and others.

Passive Participation: This refers to a situation where community members are primarily recipients of information about development projects rather than active participants in their planning, implementation, or evaluation. This implies a limited or non-existent role in decision-making processes, with minimal opportunity for input or

influence over project selection, design, or execution.

Rural Development: It denoted a strategy for assisting local populaces to set the priorities within their rural communities through democratic and effective frames, by offering the local capacities, equity, justice, investment in key social services, and infrastructure, and by ensuring the overall safety of the rural populations.

Utilization: Refers to the practical and effective usage of a resource

ABSTRACT

Rural poverty remains a significant impediment to rural development. The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) was established in Kenya to address this challenge by decentralizing development. Despite its existence for nearly two decades, concerns persist about its implementation, distribution, and impact on poverty alleviation. This study examined the dynamics of CDF as a tool for rural development in Ikolomani Constituency, Kakamega County. Specifically, it investigated community awareness and participation, fund utilization, and the challenges hindering CDF's effectiveness. Guided by Alexis de Tocqueville's Decentralization Theory, the study employed a cross-sectional design with mixed methods. A sample of 384 participants was determined using Andrew Fisher's formula. Data collection involved surveys, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews. Quantitative data were analyzed descriptively, while qualitative data were analyzed thematically. Ethical approval was obtained from the KUERC.

Findings revealed high awareness of the CDF (84.4%), primarily through chief's barazas (53.6%). While 72% of participants perceived good fund utilization, challenges included low community participation, embezzlement, and corruption. The study concludes that effective strategies are essential to improve CDF implementation and achieve sustainable rural development. It is recommended that policymakers and stakeholders prioritize enhancing community participation, strengthening accountability mechanisms, and investing in capacity building to optimize the impact of CDF on rural development.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

For many decades, extreme poverty has remained a momentous challenge both in developed and developing societies across the world. However, as pointed out by the World Bank (2020), the worldwide poverty rates have been significantly declining over the past two decades. This decline in the overall poverty levels had been associated with the subsiding of rural poverty from 29 per cent in 2003 to 23 per cent in 2016, owing to several measures that have been put in place by governments and states to ensure local development (Barry & Øverland, 2016). Poverty is a multidimensional and complex issue that pertains to, among other aspects, markets, gender, climate, governance, culture, and public policy. Some of the causes of persistent poverty include but are not limited to low agricultural production, inadequate development, unemployment, weaknesses in the education system, and climatic conditions such as persistent droughts among others (Anyanwu, 2017; Brady, 2019; Kabuya, 2015). Although global poverty rates are decreasing, there are varied regional trends in mitigating rural poverty, with the rates of decline being much slower in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia (Lyons, Kass-Hanna & Greenlee, 2020). Pinter (2013) argues that the most effective mechanism and core strategy for eradicating poverty and attaining sustainable community and rural development is for governments and stakeholders to work with underprivileged community members. Rural development, therefore, becomes a crucial strategy for poverty alleviation and improving the overall quality of life for local populations.

There is no collectively agreed meaning of rural development as it is employed in distinct ways and within massively diverse contexts, both as a concept and as a phenomenon. As a concept, Torre and Wallet (2020) note that rural development connotes the general enhancement in the quality of life of rural populations. As a phenomenon, on the other hand, Van der Ploeg (2018),

defines rural development as an outcome of various economic, physical, institutional, sociocultural, and technological factors. Concisely, rural development refers to an integrated process, which comprises social, economic, and political development that aims to improve the standards of living and welfare of individuals residing in rural regions (Morss, 2019). Horowitz (2019) defined rural development as a strategy for assisting local populaces to set the priorities within their rural communities through democratic and effective frames, by offering local capacities, equity, justice, and investment in key social services and infrastructure, and by ensuring the overall safety of the rural populations.

In agreement with the sentiments of Ngiri (2016), the concept of rural development is a household concept and a critical constituent of mainstream thinking in Kenya. Generally, rural development has gained global attention and has a momentous significance for a country like Kenya, where the largest proportion of the populace resides in rural areas (Muia, 2015). There is no doubt that in Kenya; the rural sector is a fundamental factor in the country's productive sectors (Ngetich & Kiplagat, 2018). As noted by Muia (2015), the emphasis of rural development is to enhance rural livelihoods by addressing the unique challenges modelled by life in the rural regions as well as exploiting possible opportunities within. The author also acknowledged that one of the detrimental challenges is rural poverty, citing that nearly three-quarters of the poorest population globally reside in rural areas (Muia, 2015). This, therefore, underscores the relevance and need for rural development. One of the key mechanisms for rural and or local development in Kenya is the Constituency Development Funds (CDF).

The CDF is a program that has been initiated and implemented in several developing economies and is spreading rapidly across the world (Samwel, Emmanuel & Sylvester, 2015). The CDF funds refer to funding provisions by the central/national government, which are directly channelled as financial resources to electoral constituencies for local development

(Tshangana, 2010). As noted by Hickey (2010), to date more than 23 countries adopted CDFs including India, Philippines, Pakistan, Malaysia, Nepal, Mongolia, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Papua New Guinea, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya among others. As argued by Mezey (2014), CDFs were meant to offer the communities at the grassroots level the opportunity to make informed expenditure resolutions that were geared toward maximizing their welfare.

The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) was established in Kenya in 2003 through the “CDF Act of 2003”, which was subsequently amended in the CDF revision “Act of 2007” (Mitullah, 2015). The fundamental purpose of its establishment was to intensify community involvement in decision-making, particularly where the affairs of the local populace are concerned. Harris and Posner (2020) argued that Kenya’s CDF program was a decentralized development initiative that aimed at poverty alleviation at the constituency levels. As pointed out by Ngiri (2016), CDFs in Kenya have been used to steer local development projects including economic empowerment, health, education, and infrastructural developments such as cattle dips, water and sanitation, police posts, and rural roads. The emerging questions however are how then have CDFs in Kenya as a local development initiative become fundamental in enhancing the welfare and lives of individuals in rural places. How has its implementation been conducted to drive the rural development agenda? Even though the fund has been in existence in Kenya for two decades now, there have been constant concerns regarding its distribution, implementation, and governance mechanisms, as well as contests about its efforts to enhance the welfare of the local communities (Samwel, Emmanuel & Sylvester, 2015). These authors note that initially lauded for its potential to address grassroots needs, CDF had faced challenges such as misappropriation of funds, politicization, and uneven distribution.

Despite growing research and advances in methodologies and data, understanding the dynamics of constituency development funds and reconciling this with patterns of rural development in Kenya remains a disputatious subject. Furthermore, the contests around CDF in Kenya attract an inquiry into the degree to which the initiative is attaining its envisioned goal of rural advancement, particularly through beneficiary participation and community welfare. Moreover, the extent to which CDFs are put in use by legislators, and the extent to which local people partake in and benefit from them vary from one constituency to another. This contentiousness and the element that rural poverty remains pervasive in Ikolomani Constituency (Mutwiri, 2021) regardless of the CDF and rural development initiatives that had been put in place charged the interest of the researcher to examine the dynamics of the Constituency Development Fund as a mechanism put in place by the Kenyan national government to alleviate rural poverty and enhance local development in the area. Additionally, to the best of the scholar's familiarity, there is no precise study that examined the dynamics and utilization of CDF as an instrument of rural development in the Ikolomani Constituency, thus a significant research gap. This study, therefore, sought to build on what is known from extant research on CDF and rural development, as well as existing knowledge gaps to provide a critical and in-depth analysis of the dynamics of the Constituency Development Fund as an instrument of rural development in Ikolomani Constituency. The study examined CDF with specific reference to its allocation and utilization, awareness and participation of local communities, and the related hindrances in its utilization in Ikolomani Constituency, Kakamega County, Kenya.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Rural poverty remains a persistent challenge hindering development in Kenya. The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) was established in 2003 to address this issue by decentralizing development and empowering communities. However, despite its potential, the

effectiveness of CDF in improving the lives of rural residents remains contested. This study focuses on the role of CDF in rural development within the context of Ikolomani Constituency, Kakamega County. While CDF has been operational for nearly two decades, its impact on poverty alleviation and community welfare in specific regions remains understudied. This research aims to examine the dynamics of CDF implementation in Ikolomani, including fund utilization, beneficiary awareness, and participation. By identifying the factors influencing the success or failure of CDF initiatives, this study seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities for rural development in the region.

Specifically, this research addressed the following questions: To what extent has CDF been utilized to address the pressing needs of the community in Ikolomani Constituency? How aware are community members of the CDF process, and what is their level of participation in decision-making? What are the primary factors hindering the effective utilization of CDF funds in Ikolomani Constituency? By answering these questions, the study contributes to the ongoing discourse on the role of CDF in rural development and provides insights for policymakers and practitioners seeking to improve the impact of this critical fund.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general aim of the study was to examine the Constituency Development Fund as a tool of rural development in Ikolomani Constituency, Kakamega County. The precise objectives of the research were:

- i. To find the extent of awareness and involvement of local populace in Community Development Fund initiatives in Ikolomani Constituency, Kakamega County, Kenya
- ii. To examine the utilisation of the Constituency Development Fund as an instrument of rural development in Ikolomani Constituency, Kakamega County, Kenya
- iii. To assess the key hindrances to the Constituency Development Fund as a tool of local

development in Ikolomani Constituency, Kakamega County, Kenya

- iv. To propose recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the Constituency Development Fund in promoting rural development in Ikolomani Constituency, Kakamega County, Kenya.

1.4 Research Questions

- i. Are the local people cognisant of the existence of CDF and do they participate in Community Development Fund initiatives in Ikolomani Constituency, Kakamega County, Kenya?
- ii. How has the Constituency Development Fund been utilized as an instrument of rural development in Ikolomani Constituency, Kakamega County, Kenya?
- iii. What are the key hindrances to the Constituency Development Fund as an instrument of rural development in Ikolomani Constituency, Kakamega County, Kenya?
- iv. What strategies can be implemented to enhance the effectiveness of the Constituency Development Fund in promoting rural development in Ikolomani Constituency, Kakamega County, Kenya?

1.5 Assumptions of the Study

The study had four key assumptions:

- i. CDF has the potential to alleviate rural poverty. This assumption was based on the purpose of the CDF program: to empower communities through local decision-making and resource allocation for development initiatives.
- ii. Low community awareness and participation can hinder the effectiveness of CDF. The study assumed that informed and engaged communities are crucial for identifying local needs and ensuring proper utilization of funds.

- iii. Challenges exist in the implementation and governance of CDF. This assumption was based on the mentioned concerns regarding misappropriation, politicization, and uneven distribution of funds.
- iv. The case of Ikolomani Constituency is representative of broader issues with CDF in rural Kenya. This assumption acknowledged the potential for specific contexts to influence the effectiveness of the program but also suggested the findings may have wider implications for understanding CDF across Kenya.

1.6 Justification and Significance of the Study

The findings of this study contribute to theory, academia, practice, and policy. The study provides important knowledge to the existing works on the dynamics of CDFs on rural/community development, particularly regarding the link between community involvement and welfare in rural regions of the Ikolomani Constituency, Kakamega County. The key beneficiaries of the findings from the study include scholars, policymakers, CDF management committees, as well as citizens who seek information regarding the dynamics of the fund. Essentially, the results from the study created both theoretical and applied knowledge regarding the concept of rural/community development, thus being significant within the academic milieu. Generally, this study built on the case that community or local participation in development initiatives such as the CDF is a vital prerequisite for poverty alleviation and sustainable rural development in Kenya. The detailed data that was collected from the study gives insights into the link between stakeholders and local people's participation and rural development. Such information provides relevant actors in CDF and other rural development initiatives with empirical evidence that might guide their future actions towards the realization of sound and effective strategies that bring development closer to people in local communities. Further, it informs policy decisions on the appropriate strategies for improving the awareness and participation of local communities in CDF-related programs, mitigating the hindrances to

effective utilization of the fund and addressing the persistent issue of rural poverty in the Ikolomani Constituency and across the country.

1.7 Scope of the Study

This study was grounded on primary research on the CDF as an instrument of rural development in Ikolomani Constituency, Kakamega County. The selection of the study location was founded on the documentation by the World Bank Group (2020) in collaboration with the KIPPRA which revealed that hardcore rural poverty rates in Kakamega County remained high at over 40.1 per cent. It was therefore crucial to understand the dynamics of CDFs in the area as a tool for eradicating rural poverty and promoting rural development. The study was done in the Idakho North and Idakho East Wards of the constituency. In terms of the study's population, this research focused on individuals who are aged 18 years or older from rural communities within the study area. The rationale for the selection of this population was that they were assumed to have relevant and important information regarding the dynamics of CDF in the area, which was crucial in contributing to the subject of the study.

1.8 Limitations of the Study

One of the key limitations of this study lay in its design in the sense that the study employed a cross-sectional research design, whereby the dynamics of the CDF as an instrument of rural development in the Ikolomani Constituency were only assessed at one particular time. This research design limited the possibility of studying the research problem over a prolonged period to track trends and changes in the implementation of CDF, its efforts in alleviating rural poverty and its contribution towards local development. Moreover, the study was limited by hesitancy in response and information sharing, particularly among participants who might have had political allegiance to or were against some politicians and leaders in the area. To manage this, the researcher elucidated to the sampled participants that the data needed was intended

solely for academic use and that data would be handled with stern observation of participant anonymity and confidentiality.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher gives a review of the existing relevant literature per the study objectives. The sub-topics in this chapter include the notion of rural development in Kenya; the CDF in Kenya; the involvement and participation of local people in CDF initiatives; CDF utilization; and the hindrances against CDF utilization. The chapter also isolates the research gap and presents the theory relevant to the study and the study's conceptual framework.

2.1 The Concept of Rural Development in Kenya

There is no collectively agreed meaning of rural development as it was used in distinct ways and within vastly diverse contexts, both as a concept and as a phenomenon. As a concept, Torre and Wallet (2020) note that rural development connotes the general enhancement in the quality of life of rural populations. As a phenomenon, on the other hand, Van der Ploeg (2018), defined rural development as an outcome of various economic, physical, institutional, sociocultural, and technological factors. Concisely, rural development refers to an integrated process, which comprises economic, political, and social development that aims to enhance the welfare and standards of living of individuals residing in rural areas, as well as alleviate rural poverty (Morss, 2019). Horowitz (2019) delineates rural development as a strategy for assisting local populaces to set the priorities within their rural communities through democratic and effective frames, by offering local capacities, equity, justice, investment in key social services and infrastructure, and ensuring the overall welfare of the rural populations.

Additionally, Mosayyebi, Barghi, Rahimi and Ghanbari (2018), noted that the fundamental objective of rural development initiatives had been to address unemployment and alleviate rural poverty through the establishment and implementation of basic economic and social

infrastructure, provision of education and training facilities for the rural youth, provision of employment to rural labourers and farmers, and strengthening rural farming among others. Based on these definitions, this current study builds on the notion that for a rural development dogma to be effective, it must give a concentrated and deeper thought to the central role of the “local” rural setting in seeking to find amicable solutions to the prevailing challenges of rural poverty and regional development imbalance of the countryside.

Just like in any other economy in the world, the rural economy is a fundamental component of the overall Kenyan economy. As noted by Ngetich and Kiplagat (2018), Kenya is a predominantly rural country with nearly 70 per cent of its populace residing in the rural regions of the country. Owing to this fact, the Kenyan government since independence has pursued various strategies in its rural development agenda, which have been marked by pitfalls and successes. Since the time of independence, the goals of rural development agendas in Kenya have included raising the standards of living of the populations, stimulating and fostering comprehensive and sustainable socio-economic change in the rural areas, ensuring increased participation of local people in development initiatives, and ensuring equitable distribution of resources and development to all segments of the population (Muia, 2015).

One of the major rural development initiatives pursued by the government after independence was the implementation of Sessional Paper No. 10 of 1965, which highlighted the necessity of planning and controlling the use of resources within the African socialism framework (Ngetich & Kiplagat, 2018). Another key initiative for rural development during the post-independence period was the District Focus for Rural Development (DFRD), which saw the decentralization of forecasting and implementation to the district level to coordinate social and economic development in rural areas (Fibæk, 2021). Other rural development programs initiated by the government included the Special Rural Development Program, Rural Development Fund, and

District Development Planning. As argued by Auya and Oino (2013), the majority of these programs were futile to adequately respond to the needs of the local communities, particularly due to the unavailability of appropriate technologies, lack of political will, lack of participation by the beneficiaries, disregard of institutional development and inadequacy of government funding. The authors further point out that the financial engagements for the implementation of local development plans were challenging and featured unwarranted delays in the disbursement of funds and limited co-funding by local partners thus severely retarding the implementation of projects. Because of these inefficiencies in the realization of rural development, the government introduced the CDF in 2003, as a development program for fighting poverty from the grassroots level. The focus of this paper was to examine the dynamics of CDF as a tool for local development, through the examination of its utilization, trends of beneficiary participation, and hindrances against its implementation and utilization as reviewed in the subsequent sections of this chapter.

2.2 Constituency Development Fund in Kenya

As aforementioned, most of the rural development agendas that were initiated by the government failed to ensure development in the local areas of the country, thus necessitating the government to launch the CDF as a program that would be more successful in realizing rural development. The CDF was initiated by the government in the year 2003 under the CDF Act (Act No. 11) as stipulated in the “Kenya Gazette No. 107 of 9th January 2004” (Das & Ngacho, 2017). As noted in the Acts 2013 repeal, the CDF is delineated as a quota of the yearly country’s budget that is dedicated to the country’s 290 constituencies for the goal of poverty eradication, capital creation, and infrastructural expansion at the constituency levels (the Republic of Kenya, 2013). As noted by Waribu (2016), the CDF was launched to alleviate rural poverty and intensify civic contribution in decision-making, particularly where the affairs of the local populace are concerned. The CDFs comprise of yearly budgetary allocation of 2.5 percent of

the government's returns to the 290 constituencies. In the 2006/2007 fiscal year, the rates were reviewed to 3.5 per cent. 75 per cent of the CDFs are distributed equally amongst all the constituencies, while 25 per cent is assigned to constituencies based on their prevailing poverty levels (Ngiiri, 2016). Overall, the CDF program targets to control regional developmental imbalances that are often caused by inequitable resource distribution and partisan politics. It also targets general growth and development, especially in the improvement of community welfare at the grassroots and local levels. Additionally, it aims to fund development projects that have a direct economic and social influence on poverty alleviation and uplift the lives of the populace (Waribu, 2016).

As highlighted in existing studies, the introduction of CDF has led to the initiation of development projects at the rural level that have resulted in a significant rise in the welfare of local people and communities in Kenya. For instance, Akwalu and Muchai (2020) in their study intended to examine the impacts of the CDFs on community welfare reported that the devolved funds have had a positive influence on the social welfare of the local people in Tigania East Constituency. Based on the authors' arguments the impact was evidenced by improved health programs, youth development projects, educational facilities, and infrastructure projects. In examining the effects of CDF on rural development, Auya and Oino (2013), reported that CDF has had a notable effect on rural communities, particularly in ensuring increased availability of educational and health services for people in various constituencies in Kenya.

Ikolomani is one of the 290 constituencies in Kenya, which receives the annual CDF budgetary allocation. However, to the best of the investigator's information, there is no particular study that has been conducted to examine the CDF as an instrument of rural development in the Ikolomani Constituency. Based on this knowledge gap and what is known in the existing literature, the research, therefore, sought to examine the dynamics of CDF as an instrument of rural development in the Ikolomani Constituency. This research paper was based on the notion

that the success of CDF as a local development initiative is not only linked to the availability of CDF funds, but also to a range of related aspects, including how the funds are utilized, the hindrances against its implementation and utilization, and the involvement and partaking of the local people, who in this case are the beneficiaries. The study's objectives, therefore, included establishing the degree of awareness and partaking of local people in Community Development Fund initiatives; examining the extent of Constituency Development Fund utilization; assessing the key hindrances against CDF utilization as an instrument of rural development in Ikolomani Constituency.

2.3 The Awareness and Participation of Local People in Community Development Fund Initiatives

Participation in rural development can be described as the course through which individuals/stakeholders divide the control and influence over rural development resources, decisions, and initiatives that affect them (Audu, Ahmed & Lawan, 2021). The significance of the involvement and contribution of rural people in rural development initiatives has been reiterated in the extant literature. In a descriptive survey conducted in Mwense Constituency in Zambia, Matipa (2020) assessed the degree of community involvement in the identification of CDF schemes and their implementation. The findings of the study revealed that the councillors and MPs are the ones who produced the CDF projects to be executed, with little consultation or involvement from the members of the community. The authors further reported that the level of local people's participation in the identification of the projects was only in being informed of what was being planned by the CDF management team. Matipa (2020) argues that this extent of participation is weak and reflects the first stage in Wilcox's (1994), Ladder of Participation Theory, in which the theorist argues that consultation and information dissemination are often wrongly perceived as participation. The conclusion from the research's

findings is that the extent of communal participation in CDF is often restricted to being told what has previously been decided by other main stakeholders, thus implying “a passive participation” of the local beneficiaries by consultation. Furthermore, the outcome of this passive participation is projects that are unwanted, inappropriate, and unused by the targeted community beneficiaries.

Gekul (2014), surveyed to find out the degree of awareness of the local populations of the existence of decentralized funds such as the CDCF, as well as their involvement in project identification, establishment, monitoring, and management in Babati Constituency, Tanzania. The study’s findings discovered that most of the constituents had limited consciousness of CDCF community initiatives since they do not take part in their identification, prioritization, and execution. The outcome of this was poor management of the community development projects. From the results, the investigator concluded that all members of the rural community, whether persuasive or not, ought to be actively involved in the identification, prioritization, execution, management, and appraisal of CDCF projects to ensure increased effectiveness of the fund and sustainable development.

Nthiga and Moi (2021) examined the effects of civic involvement in the prioritization of CDF in Makueni County and reported that there were high levels of civic involvement and awareness in the county. Their findings indicated that participation was actualized through barazas and local groups, local representation, and voting among other drives. Generally, their study revealed that the residents of the county felt that the level of involvement in the prioritization of CDF was commendable. In agreement with their findings, the authors argued that the county has been publicized to have an outstanding public participation framework in the country and in the African Region. They further argue that the county’s public participation structure has been recommended to other county governments by the World Bank in a bid to

advocate for adequate involvement of the people in county development initiatives (Nthiga & Moi, 2021). From the results of this study, it can be determined that the contribution of beneficiaries influences the prioritization of CDF projects and ensures that the local people are satisfied with the projects' identification, prioritization, and implementation processes. Participation also ensures that the prioritized development projects respond to the most urgent and dire needs of the local communities.

Muusya (2019), conducted a descriptive survey in Mwingi Central Constituency to examine the aspects that influence community partaking in CDF-sponsored developments. The findings of the research revealed that the aspects of endowment and empowerment were fundamental components of civic involvement in development initiatives. The researcher also established that significant levels of unawareness were present among the local individuals in the constituency since most of them held a strong belief that the CDF projects were facilitated by MP's money, liked to MP's cronies and it is only the legislator who has the authorities to assign the funds' officials and committee. This belief limited the participation of the locals in CDF initiatives in the constituency. As argued by the author, community participation in CDF projects establishes a facilitating environment for sustainable development, since it not only allows the beneficiaries to choose the kind of development, they want but also commits to supporting the government in realizing sustainable development (Muusya, 2019).

In a similar descriptive study conducted in Mwingi West Constituency to evaluate the outcome of public contribution on the sustainability of sporting schemes sponsored through CDF, Mukuri and Wamitu (2020), established that the local community limitedly partakes in decision-making in CDF initiatives as expected in the fund's legal provisions. This was evidenced by the rare conducting of review meetings with the local populace and other CDF stakeholders, as well as the low level of beneficiary involvement in every phase of project

implementation. On resource enlistment, the study established that public participation was significantly low and majorly limited to materials and labour. The study concluded that the local community is not wholly involved in the implementation, evaluation and monitoring of CDF projects as evidenced by the reported absence of community representation in CDF committees, absence of awareness by the locals, and absence of consultative meetings with the local individuals to evaluate the projects that would be most beneficial for them (Mukuri & Wamitu, 2020). The study concluded that civic participation was an essential element in executing sustainable CDF sports ventures. Acknowledging the importance of beneficiary participation Auya and Oino (2013) point out that distinct from other development resources that come from the national government and filter through wider levels of bureaucracies and structures, the CDFs are directly channelled to the grassroots levels. This offers individuals the chance to make expenditure choices that maximize their well-being through the establishment of development ventures such as health and education programs, which are considered to be the primary challenges facing local development in Kenya.

Whereas the awareness and participation of the local communities have been perceived as an enabler of full access to benefits of development to beneficiaries the ultimate relationship between this awareness and participation and rural development has not yet been clarified in the extant literature. The reviewed studies have emphasized more on the hindrances to participation and scantily on the impact that participation or lack of it has on the constituency development fund as an instrument of rural development. This raises a gap in the literature and, therefore, a consideration of the participation of individuals in CDF initiatives as a catalyst for sustainable rural development was needed. To bridge this research gap, therefore, the current study pursued to examine the levels of community involvement in CDF initiatives in Ikolomani Constituency, as a way of understanding the dynamics of the fund as a strategy for rural development.

2.4 The Utilization of Constituency Development Fund as an Instrument of Rural Development

Governments have varied purposes for implementing decentralization programs such as the Constituency Development Funds. Existing studies have shown different ways in which CDF has been utilized for local development across different countries and contexts. In a study done in India by Blair (2017), the author notes that the constituency development funds scheme, which is termed the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), is allocated yearly to each Member of Parliament (MP) as an unrestricted fund for community works. As pointed out by the author, the funds have been used to create physical infrastructure such as electrification, health, sanitation, education, and transportation amenities among others.

In another study carried out in Malaysia, Sri, Lee, Ariff, Azra, and Law (2021), note that the country's lawmakers are provided with allocations that are aimed at delivering basic infrastructural developments and offering welfare and community aid to their constituencies. Based on their arguments, CDFs in Malaysia have the potential of addressing the issues of inefficient and late delivery of essential services, assist the government to address the public's urgent needs, and reassure public participation in development decision-making (Sri et al., 2021). Both of these studies in India and Malaysia have however reported that the utilization of CDFs has been problematic, often due to money and patronage politics, which have led to incompleteness or lack of delivery of CDFs projects, thus disadvantaging the beneficiaries and undermining the rural development efforts (Blair, 2017; Sri et al., 2021).

Hapompwe, Tembo, Kukano and Siwale (2020) conducted an analytical desk review aimed at investigating the influence of CDFs on rural development in Rufunsa Constituency, Zambia, with a keen reference to the health and educational sectors. The findings from their study

revealed that while CDFs are used to fund the education and health sector, most of the rural projects in the constituency have been inefficiently implemented, with no substantial track record on the utilization of the funds for rural development. Furthermore, the authors highlight that in Zambia; CDF funds have been misappropriated, overspent, and misapplied by MPs, leading to the incompleteness of rural development projects and failure to accrue benefits to the targeted beneficiaries. The findings from their study concluded that the Rufunsa constituency had developmental inconsistencies as well as CDF application, management, and utilization inadequacies (Hapompwe et al., 2020). From this study, therefore, the inquiry of whether or not CDF has been utilized in making health, education facilities and other services reachable and available to rural people becomes of paramount significance. Notably, these elements reflect the social indicators of poverty. The present study, therefore, sought to investigate the utilization of CDF as an instrument of rural development in the Ikolomani Constituency.

In Tanzania, the Constituency Development Catalyst Fund (CDCF) Act 16 of 2009 states that the fund is apportioned for development initiatives within electoral constituencies (Nombo & Chingonikaya, 2020). The authors note that the funds are arrangements of fiscal devolved government subsidy strategies through which financial resources are trickled down from the federal administration to constituencies for development ventures envisioned to address community development and enhance local people's involvement in developments at the grassroots. In examining the efficacy of the Constituency Development Catalyst Fund (CDCF) in Dar es Salam constituencies, Nguyaine (2019) found that there has been underutilization of the funds since its initiation in the year 2009, as evidenced by the constituencies' audited financial records. In addition, the author reports that despite the allocation of funds to the constituencies by the national government, CDCF-funded projects for some of the constituencies in Dar es Salam were not implemented, with accountability and transparency of the funds remaining low. This was coupled with deferral in the discharge of the funds and

political intrigue (Nguyaine, 2019). The research's findings revealed the challenges in the effective utilization of CDFs as a catalyst for rural development. The present research sought to examine the trends in the utilization of CDF in the Ikolomani Constituency as a catalyst for rural development, as well as the challenges that have been encountered in its utilization.

A wide range of empirical studies has been conducted across various constituencies in Kenya to examine the extent of CDF utilization. In their descriptive study aimed at establishing the effect of CDF on public welfare in Tigania East, Akwalu and Muchai (2020) reported that the devolved funding has been used in financing youth projects, educational programs, infrastructure developments, and health projects. As highlighted by the authors, the utilization of the CDFs in these important sectors of the economy has had a significant influence on the welfare of rural communities in Tigania East. Besides the successes of the fund reported in the study, the authors also reported that the constituency is among the many constituencies in Kenya that have experienced notable public complaints regarding the utilization of CDF. The findings of their study revealed that out of 50 projects financed through the CDF, less than 10 were successfully executed, with most remaining in dilapidated and unfinished conditions. The current study sought to understand the constraints in the utilization of CDF for sustainable rural development.

Ngiri (2016), conducted quantitative descriptive research to investigate the influence of CDF on socio-economic development in the Mbeere Constituency. From the results of his study, the scholar reported that CDF has been used to facilitate development projects, which have positively influenced grassroots development in the constituency. The findings revealed that CDF executed and expanded healthcare and educational facilities, as well as basic infrastructure, and has led to the overall improvement in the local community (Ngiri, 2016). Furthermore, the researchers established that CDF played a crucial role in availing direct

employment interventions through financing youth projects, and providing education bursaries to needy students in the community. In another descriptive study conducted to survey the part of CDF in enhancing local development in North Mugirango Constituency, Auya and Oino (2013) established that CDF has become a fundamental program for enhancing the lives of rural people. According to the researchers, CDF has played a notable part in ensuring that local people have access to education and healthcare services, within their community settings as compared to when the funds were not yet introduced. Besides the success of the fund in catalyzing local development in North Mugirango, the authors also argue that some pitfalls were reported, which to some extent hindered the delivery of these essential services to the local people. Some of these challenges included weak sustainability strategies, lack of community involvement and participation, and embezzlement of the funds by respective managing committees and MPs (Auya & Oino, 2013).

To this point, therefore, it is evident that Constituency development funds have been used to finance development projects, health programs, infrastructure, healthcare, and education programs. Even so, various studies noted significant constraints and challenges in the utilization and management of the funds, which led to the obstruction of rural development agendas, thus the key question of whether the funds have been adequately utilized to drive local development initiatives and alleviate rural poverty in various constituencies including Ikolomani remains unclarified. Regardless of the ample literature on the utilization of CDFs, to the top of the investigator's knowledge, there is no particular empirical study that had been carried out to study the linkage between CDFs and rural development in the context of the Ikolomani Constituency. The question of the effectiveness of the utilization of CDF for rural development in the Ikolomani Constituency, therefore, became of significant importance to this study. Building on the knowledge in the existing literature, this research, therefore, pursued to study the dynamics of Constituency Development Funds utilization in Ikolomani

Constituency, Kakamega County, with a keen focus on how the funds have been used, effectiveness or lack of it in their utilization, and some of the constraints encountered in utilization, with regards to rural development.

2.5 Hindrances to Constituency Development Fund as an Instrument of Rural Development

While the Constituency Development fund has been proven to play a noteworthy role in ensuring sustainable rural development, a myriad of hindrances has been noted and emphasized in the existing literature. In a study meant at unearthing the challenges faced by CDF in Borabu/North Mugirango Constituency, Samwel, Emmanuel, and Sylvester (2015) reported that although CDF has had a positive influence in the country, it has been faced with numerous hindrances that range from poor leadership, low community participation, corruption, poor implementation and monitoring of CDF initiatives to unequal distribution of the funds within the constituency. The findings from the study point to poor leadership in the constituency as the key hindrance to CDF, which is attributed to the unfair and corrupt recruitment processes of members of the CDF committee (Samwel et al., 2015).

This finding was reinforced by the fact that nearly all the committee members were selected by the MP, who rewarded his close allies without considering the leadership abilities, experience, and academic qualifications of the nominees. Furthermore, the researchers noted low levels of community participation and argued that the local constituents were not engaged in selecting their representatives thus perceiving it to have been imposed on them. Lastly, the study reported that there were no accountability strategies and checks that were put in place in the constituency to ensure effective utilization of the allocated funds since the CDF committee seldom reports any case of misappropriation of the funds (Samwel et al., 2015). The findings from this survey reveal that there are hindrances in CDF that deter the delivery of services to

rural populations and hinder rural development, which include low levels of community participation, poor leadership, as well as ineffective implementation strategies. It is in this context that the present research pursued to examine the hindrances to CDF as an instrument of rural development in the Ikolomani Constituency.

Hussein (2018) carried out a descriptive research to study the implementation strategies of CDF in the Wajir East Constituency and reported that the fund faces numerous implementation challenges that affect the effectiveness of CDF projects. The researcher argues that these challenges include a lack of collaboration and valuable trust among the stakeholder, substandard projects, embezzlement of CDF money, as well as selectively implemented projects that do not pay attention to the dire needs of the local constituents. Hussein (2018) states that most of the participants in his study held the belief that CDF was intended to profit only a few individuals. A similar study was conducted by Ndirangu and Gichuhi (2019) to examine the aspects influencing the efficacious implementation of CDF projects in Laikipia County. The outcome from their research presented that the low levels of public involvement and participation limited the efficacy of the fund as an instrument for ensuring grassroots development in the county. Based on their findings, the authors argue that this challenge is associated with the failure to involve the constituents in choosing the CDF committee members and in the prioritization and recognition of initiatives to be facilitated by the fund. Furthermore, they note that another hindrance to CDF reported in the study is cultural receptivity, which is characterized by a low level of comprehension of project implementation processes, poorly implemented belief and value systems, and overall poor management of CDF funds (Ndirangu & Gichuhi, 2019).

Auya and Oino (2013) highlight that some of the contests facing CDF include weak sustainability strategies, lack of community involvement and participation, and embezzlement

of the funds by respective managing committees and MPs. The results from these studies reveal that the Constituency Development Fund has been faced with a myriad of challenges, which have had negative impacts on the effective implementation of projects. However, little is known regarding the hindrances to CDF as an instrument of rural development. Furthermore, there have been emerging contests and criticisms regarding the failures of CDF in improving the standards of living of the populaces and in enhancing overall community welfare, thus warranting further investigations. It was, therefore, crucial to conduct an assessment of the hindrances to CDF as an instrument of rural development and examine how these hindrances have affected the poverty alleviation vision of the fund and the realization of local development in the Ikolomani Constituency. It is within this context that the investigator conducted a study to examine the hindrances to the CDF as an instrument of rural development in the Ikolomani Constituency.

2.6 Research Gap

Overall, literature on the dynamics of the CDF as an instrument of rural development is scanty compared to that which looks into CDF in development and infrastructural projects. Documented literature has largely accentuated decentralization efforts and allocation of CDF over inquiries into the specific role of the fund in catalysing local development. For instance, the ultimate relationship between the awareness and participation of local populaces and rural development has not yet been clarified in the extant literature. The reviewed studies have emphasized more on the hindrances to participation and scantily on the impact that participation or lack of it has on the CDF as a tool of rural development. Additionally, little is known regarding the hindrances to CDF as an instrument of rural development. Owing to this, therefore, the relationship between constituency development funds and local/rural development was considered an empirical interrogation, that needed to be investigated by

including a reference point of the role that the funds have played in rural poverty alleviation, and improving the standards of living for the rural populaces, as well as the related hindrances.

Furthermore, the assessment of the dynamics of this fund had not been adequately elucidated as evidenced by the contradictions and growing debate on the effectiveness of CDF as an instrument of rural development, with criticisms revolving around its utilization, beneficiary participation, the ultimate impact on the local communities, as well as the challenges and failures of the fund. Methodologically, limited studies on constituency development funds and particularly in rural contexts have applied participatory research approaches as a technique of understanding the dynamics of CDF as an instrument of rural development, more so in Ikolomani Constituency, which is the target location for this study. Regardless of the ample literature on the utilization of CDFs, to the best of the investigator's knowledge, there was no particular empirical study that had been carried out to establish the linkage between CDFs and rural development in the context of the Ikolomani Constituency. The question of the CDF as an instrument of rural development in the Ikolomani Constituency, therefore, became of significant importance to this study. It is for this cause, therefore, that this study sought to include CDF as a variable inducing rural development in Ikolomani Constituency. The study, therefore, pursued to examine the dynamics of CDF as an instrument of rural development in Ikolomani Constituency, Kakamega County through the lens of community development in terms of themes, concepts, theory, issues, and methodological inquiries. In summary, the researcher considered how, in retrospect, Constituency Development Fund has contributed to rural poverty alleviation efforts and impacted rural development in Ikolomani Constituency, Kakamega County.

2.7 Theoretical Framework

Alexis de Tocqueville's "Decentralization Theory" (De Tocqueville, 1945) guided this study.

The theory was propounded by Alexis de Tocqueville in the mid-1800s and later broadened by John Stuart Mill (Mill, 1998) on the ground to positively influence the political engagement of citizens, which is pertinent in contemporary times. Tocqueville's study on 'Democracy in America,' in the 1830s brought about the ideologies of the linkage between decentralization, democracy, and citizen participation, which are the key tenets of the theory. Within the context of the theory, decentralization denoted the allocation of resources and power from the national government to smaller local governments, as a mechanism of dispensing power and conveying resources closer to the electorates. As in many emerging economies, decentralization has become a major component in the democratization of societies in Sub-Saharan Africa, including Kenya.

The CDF is one of the key mechanisms of fiscal decentralization in Kenya, which was implemented to enhance community contribution to sustainable development, more so in rural development. Within the framework of the current study, the fiscal decentralization of CDF as a deliberate transmission of power and resources to lower units of the government aims at enhancing community participation in resource allocation and decision-making, fair and equitable access to major services, and accountability and transparency. The aims and successes of the devolved fund in bringing about local development and contributing to rural poverty alleviation lie in adherence to its implementation, administration, and management modalities. The decentralization theory was relevant, therefore, in assessing the dynamics of CDF as a decentralized instrument for rural development in Ikolomani Constituency.

2.8 Conceptual Framework

The Conceptual framework (shown in figure 1) demonstrates the association between Constituency Development Fund and rural development. For this study, rural development is the dependent variable while the decentralization of the Constituency Development Fund

(CDF) is the independent variable. Under the independent variable are the categories of community participation in CDF initiatives, CDF utilization, and effects of CDF on community welfare. The parameters for measuring rural development are improved literacy levels, increased access to health care, electrification, clean water supply, and good road networks. Lastly, the moderating/intervening variables in the study are devolved units, local leadership, CDF legal framework, and political influence.

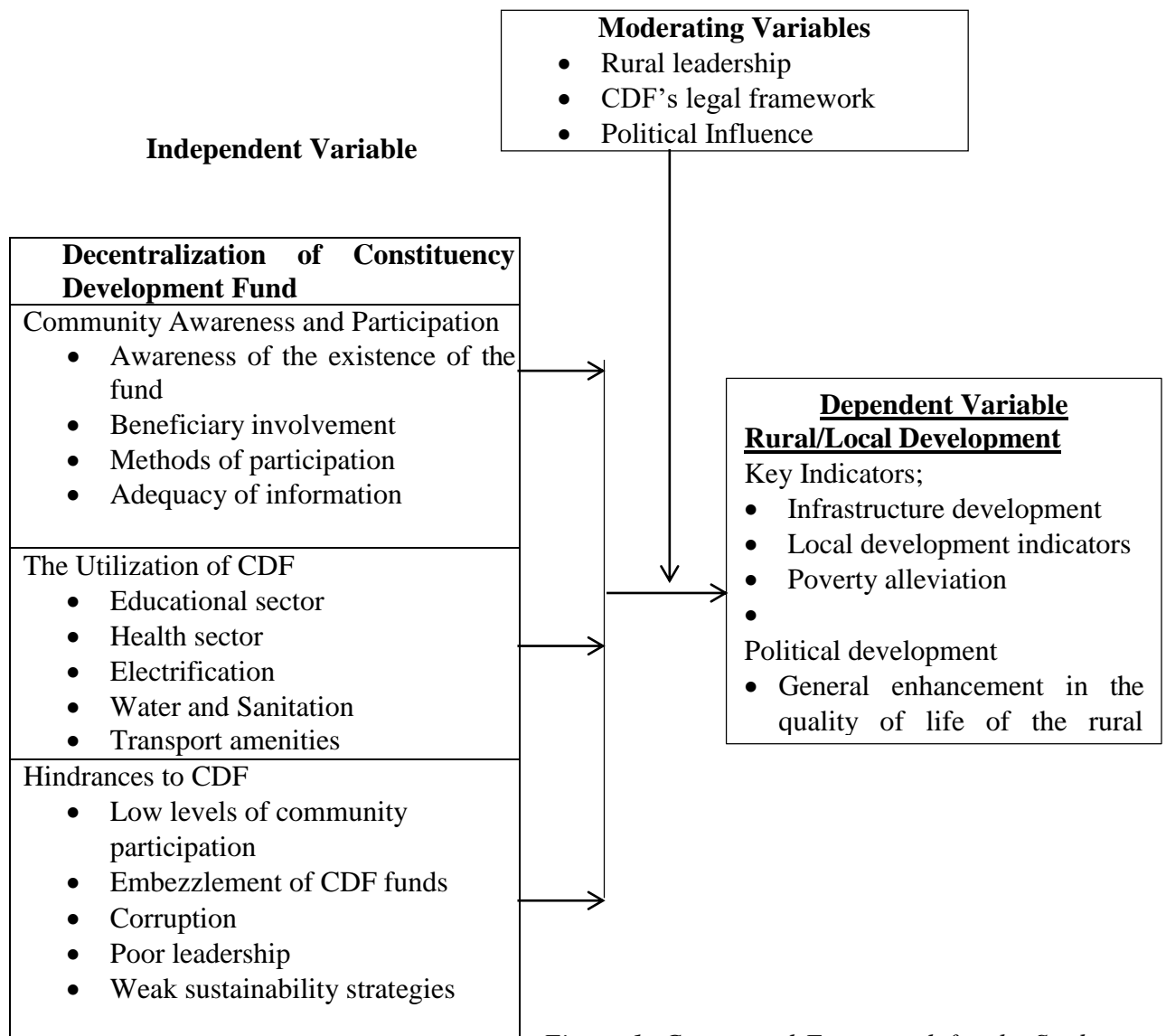


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework for the Study

Source: Researcher

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter begins with a presentation of the research design that was adopted in the study. Subsequently, an explanation of the study site, the study populace, as well as the research's sample size determination is discussed. Furthermore, it discusses the inclusion criteria of participants as well as the study sample and the sampling methods. Additionally, it discusses the research tools and data collection procedures that were employed, validity and reliability issues, pilot study issues, data management, and analysis, and ethical and logistical considerations for the study.

3.1 Research Design

As indicated by Creswell and Creswell (2017), a research design functions as a guide to an investigation as it aids a researcher in defining how to collect, manage, and analyze research data. This study adopted a cross-sectional design to explore the multifaceted dynamics of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in Ikolomani Constituency. This design allowed for a snapshot of the study population's perceptions, awareness, participation, and challenges related to CDF at a specific point in time. It was instrumental in delineating the intricacies of CDF processes, including community involvement and the fund's impact on rural development.

To comprehensively investigate the research problem, a mixed methods approach was employed, combining both qualitative and quantitative research techniques. This approach offered a holistic understanding of the phenomenon, providing both breadth and depth to the findings (Creswell & Creswell, 2017). Furthermore, triangulation was employed to enhance the study's validity and trustworthiness. By combining multiple methods, the potential biases inherent in single-method designs were mitigated (Flick, 2018).

3.2 Location and Site of the Study

This study was carried out in the Ikolomani Constituency, one of the twelve constituencies of Kakamega County. Ikolomani Constituency was an electoral constituency, which was first established in 1963 for election purposes. Kakamega County boundaries TransNzoia County to the North, Vihiga County to the South, Uasin Gishu County to the East, and Siaya County to the West. Ikolomani Constituency had four administrative wards namely Idakho North, Idakho South, Idakho Central, and Idakho East Wards. The actual study was conducted in two purposively sample wards namely, Idakho North and Idakho East. Idakho North Ward had an approximate population of 25, 861 people and comprised Shimanyiro, Mutaho, Shiseso, and Shikuku sub-Locations (KNBS, 2019).

Idakho East on the other hand has a population of 26,757 people and was made up of Shivenye, Lirhembe, Savane, Makhokho, Ivonda, and Shitoli Sub-Locations (KNBS, 2019). It is important to note that four sub-locations from each ward were randomly sampled. The justification for the purposive selection of these wards was that they were predominantly rural, thus relevant for examining the link between CDF and rural development in Ikolomani Constituency.

Table 1: Ikolomani Constituency Wards and Approximate Population

Ward	Approx. Population
Idakho North	25861
Idakho East	26757
Idakho Central	31134
Idakho South	20917

Source: *KNBS (2019)*

3.3 Description of the Study Population

3.3.1 Target Population

The targeted population for this study were members of the rural communities in Idakho North and Idakho East Wards of Ikolomani Constituency, Kakamega County. Based on KNBS (2019) reports, Idakho North Ward had 25, 861 people, while Idakho East had an approximate population of 26,757 people. For this study, the target population encompassed both women and men who were 18 years and older. The justification for this age description was that individuals of this age were eligible voters and could be involved in CDF public participation process. The targeted population was randomly drawn from eight sub-locations, four from each ward.

3.3.2 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Regarding the inclusion criteria, the study incorporated both women and men aged 18 years and older, in Idakho North and East Wards of Ikolomani Constituency. Additionally, the sampled individuals must have been residents of the named study locations and must have lived in the area for a minimum period of five years. This element was pre-verified in the survey questionnaire as well as the FGDs and KIIs guided by asking the target participants about the length of their residence in the study location. The rationale for their length of residence was to ensure that the participants had adequate knowledge regarding CDF in the area, particularly over the past constituency governance periods. Therefore, sampled individuals who did not fit these inclusion criteria were excluded from the study. Additionally, sampled individuals who could not consent to participate in the study were excluded.

3.3.3 Units of Analysis

As defined by Dolma (2010), a analysis unit is the unit from which an investigation seeks to study and draw conclusions. The unit of analysis for this study was individual members of the rural communities in Idakho North and East Constituencies, who gave the researcher information regarding the dynamics of CDF as an instrument of rural development in their locality. Additionally, members of the CDF committee and management were another unit of analysis that was used to establish the utilization of CDF in the Ikolomani Constituency.

3.4 Sample Size Determination

3.4.1 Sample Size Determination

The sample population for this research study was derived using Andrew Fisher's Sample Size Determination Formulary as shown below.

$$N = \frac{Z^2 \times P \times Q}{d^2}$$

Where:

N = the sample size (participants that will be surveyed)

d = 0.05 which was the sampling margin error (5%) that was accepted in this study. Z =1.96 (Z score which corresponds to a 95% confidence interval)

P = 0.5 (standard deviation)

Q = 0.5 (1-P)

Based on this formulary, therefore, the sample size for the study was 384.

3.4.2 Sampling Techniques

To effectively capture the diverse perspectives and experiences related to the Constituency Development Fund and its impact on rural development in Ikolomani Constituency, a mixed sampling approach was employed as follows.

Study Location Selection. Purposive sampling was instrumental in selecting Idakho North and

Idakho East wards as the study areas. These wards were purposefully chosen due to their predominantly rural characteristics, aligning with the study's focus on rural development. This sampling technique ensured that the research concentrated on areas where CDF's influence on rural communities could be profoundly examined.

Selection of Sub-locations. To introduce an element of randomness and enhance the representativeness of the sample, simple random sampling was utilized to select four sub-locations from each of the chosen wards. This method helped mitigate potential biases that might arise from subjective selection and increased the generalizability of the findings (Sharma, 2017).

Selection of Primary Participants: A combination of simple random and proportionate sampling was employed to select the primary participants. Simple random sampling was used to choose 384 rural community members from the selected wards, ensuring that every member of the population had an equal chance of being included. This approach helped to minimize selection bias and improve the external validity of the study. To achieve equitable representation from each sub-location, proportionate sampling was applied, allocating an equal number of participants to each sub-location based on its population size. This is illustrated in Figure 2 below.

Selection of Focus Group Participants and Key Informants: Purposive sampling was deemed appropriate for selecting participants for focus group discussions and key informant interviews. This technique allowed for the targeted selection of individuals possessing in-depth knowledge and experience related to CDF and rural development. By purposefully choosing participants with specific expertise, the research ensured that rich and informative data could be collected. Through the judicious application of these sampling methods, the study aimed to achieve a robust and representative sample that accurately reflected the diverse experiences and perspectives of the target population.

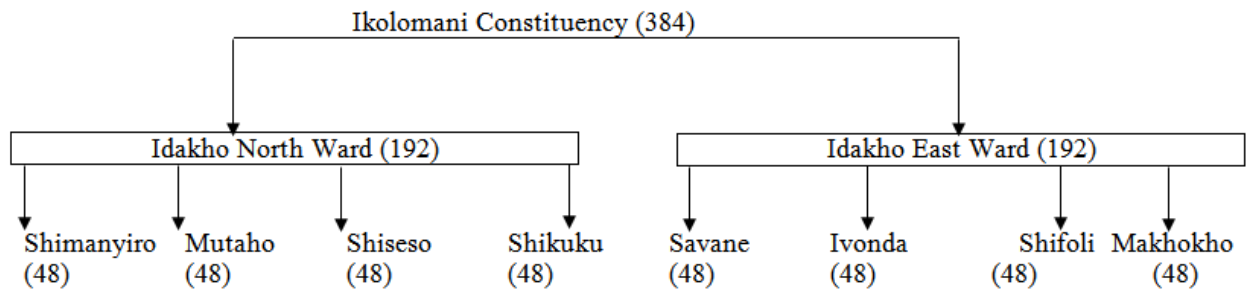


Figure 2: Summary of the Sampling Procedure

3.5 Research Instruments and Data Collection Procedures

The study collected primary research data and therefore, primary data collection instruments were used. Additionally, since the study adopted mixed methods research, both qualitative and quantitative research tools were used to collect data. These instruments included a survey questionnaire, key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs) as discussed below.

3.5.1 Survey Questionnaire

To collect primary data, a structured questionnaire was administered to 384 randomly selected rural community members in the Idakho North and Idakho East Wards of Ikolomani Constituency. The questionnaire comprised three main sections: socio-demographic characteristics, CDF awareness and participation, and CDF utilization and impact. A combination of closed-ended and open-ended questions was employed to collect both quantitative and qualitative data. Closed-ended questions facilitated data analysis and comparison, while open-ended questions provided opportunities for in-depth responses and rich insights.

The questionnaire was designed to gather information on participants' demographics, knowledge of CDF, levels of participation, perceptions of fund utilization, and their assessment of CDF's impact on their lives and communities. By utilizing this survey instrument, the study

aimed to collect data on the dynamics of CDF in the study area and contribute to a deeper understanding of its role in rural development.

3.5.2 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

KIIs are in-depth qualitative interviews that a researcher uses to gain first-hand information regarding a research topic (Hennink, Hutter & Bailey, 2020). Using a key informant interview guide, the researcher interviewed fifteen selected key informants for the study. Purposive sampling was used to select the key informants, who included the CDF management committee, Ward Administrators, and CDF officers from the constituency. Within the scope of this study, these key informants were considered experts, who had specific knowledge and understanding of CDF in the constituency and could provide insights into the dynamics of the fund as an instrument of rural development. The KIIs offered the researcher an opportunity to collect relevant in-depth information on the research problem (Hennink, Hutter & Bailey, 2020).

3.5.3 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

As part of the data collection process, four (4) focus group discussions were conducted, two in each of the purposively selected wards. Twenty-four participants were targeted in total by the FGDs. The FGDs were homogenous. The rationale for the homogenous groups lies in the arguments of McLafferty (2004), who noted that although not necessary, maintaining the homogeneity of a focus group in terms of the participants' occupation and other characteristics is crucial for group dynamics and interaction. As noted by the author, the more homogenous an FGD is, the more confident individual participants in the group are likely to be in contributing their opinions on the research problem.

Two of the FGDs comprised ordinary community members from the wards, who were direct beneficiaries of CDF projects and initiatives in the wards. The remaining two FGDs comprised

of civil servants in the Ikolomani Constituency such as nurses, teachers, etc., who gave the researcher in-depth information on how CDF had been utilized on key services and how this has influenced community welfare in the constituency. Before conducting the discussions, consent was sought from the discussants. Additionally, consent was sought to audio-record the group discussion proceedings. The overall goal of the FGDs was to gather in-depth qualitative information that provided a deeper understanding of the dynamics of CDF as an instrument of rural development in the Ikolomani Constituency (Mishra, 2016). Each FGD was expected to take approximately one hour. Dilshad and Latif, (2013), noted that the ideal time for an FGD was between 60 and 90 minutes. An FGD guide was used to moderate the discussions.

3.6 Pilot Study

Morin (2013), defines a pilot study as initial research carried out to assess the feasibility of the main study, alongside other research aspects such as cost, time, and adverse occurrences, with the intent of enhancing the research design before the actual research activity. Besides, a pilot study is integral in pre-testing the research instruments before conducting the actual field data collection. For this study, a pilot study was conducted in the Idakho South Ward, whereby the survey questionnaire was administered to twenty ordinary community members, as a way of pretesting it and assessing other logistics relating to the actual study. The results from the pilot study were analysed and used to assess the feasibility of the study and to improve the survey questionnaire in a bid to ensure increased credibility of the findings that will be collected from it.

3.7 Validity and Reliability

3.7.1 Validity

Bryman (2016) denotes validity as the accuracy and quality of the data gathered in research activity. It reflects the extent to which the results measured what was intended in the study.

First, the content validity of this research was ensured by developing the research tools for the study in wide consultation with the thesis advisors and peers. The construct validity, on the other hand, was assessed by inspecting how well the outcome corresponds to existing knowledge and other measures of similar concepts and established theories of rural development (Drost, 2011).

Additionally, borrowing from the sentiments of Giddings and Grant (2009) the researcher ensured that the measurement techniques and research methods were credible and targeted to assess the dynamics of CDF as an instrument for rural development. Nevertheless, the usage of relevant sampling techniques to choose the study participants was integral in ensuring generalizable and valid research findings.

3.7.2 Reliability

Reliability in social research relates to the problem of whether the findings of a study are reproducible (Bryman, 2016). In the context of this study, the reliability of its findings was ensured by certifying that the research processes were credible thus yielding precise, stable, and repeatable outcomes. To guarantee the test-retest reliability and consistency of the study tools, the investigator ensured that the research approaches were used consistently across all the study participants throughout the study (Drost, 2011). Because the research used research assistants, the researcher ensured that they were adequately enlightened on the purpose of the study and were well trained on their roles, the data collection procedures, and the ethical considerations that they ought to adhere to during data collection.

3.8 Data Analysis and Management

Since the study used a mixed research methods approach where both qualitative and quantitative data were collected, the analysis of the data was done separately. To establish a

consistent data pattern, the data analysis process was informed and guided by the research objectives and questions. The quantitative data for the study were analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 24 to produce both descriptive and inferential statistics. Data was analysed using descriptive such as mean, mode, percentages, and frequency distributions.

The qualitative data from the open-ended survey questions were analysed thematically. The audio recordings from the KIIs and FGDs were transcribed and coded using MaxQDA to isolate repeatedly emerging themes. The qualitative data were analysed using a thematic analysis approach and consistent with the study objectives (Akinyode & Khan, 2018). The findings were presented using verbatim quotes. In terms of the management of the field data, the researcher organized and stored the data electronically, with restricted access to avoid data loss and/or duplication and optimize the efficiency of the entire research process.

3.9 Ethical and Logical Considerations

The research processes for this study involved human subjects. This implied that the researcher must undertake some specific steps to ensure that all processes adhere to the ethical principles and considerations for research. Upon receipt of approval of the research proposal by the Department of Sociology, Gender and Development Studies, the researcher sought approval to conduct the research from the Graduate school [see Appendix VII] and the Kenyatta University Ethical Review Committee [KUERC] [see Appendix VIII]. Additionally, a research permit was sought from the National Council for Science and Technology [NACOSTI] [see Appendix IX] and relevant authorities in Ikolomani Constituency. Before the actual data collection, the researcher sought suitable informed consent from the selected study participants [see Appendix I]. It was worth noting that participation in this study was exclusively voluntary and no person was forced to partake in it contrary to her or his wish. Most importantly, the confidentiality of

the research information and the anonymity of the study participants was maintained throughout the study.

CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a deliberation of the study findings. The first part presents a summary of the socio-demographic features of the participants in the study. The subsequent sections present the results of the study based on the research questions and objectives. The study sought to establish the extent of awareness and participation of local people in CDF initiatives in the Ikolomani Constituency; examine Constituency Development Fund utilization as an instrument of rural development; and assess the hindrances to CDF as an instrument of rural development in the Ikolomani Constituency. The data for the study was collected through a survey questionnaire from 372 participants against the targeted 384 participants, representing a response rate of 96.8 per cent. The participants were randomly drawn from eight sub-locations, four from each ward. Additionally, data was collected from eight key informants and four focus group discussions. Follow-ups were not used since this rate is within the acceptable response rates as outlined by Hendra and Hill (2019).

4.2 Social and Demographic Characteristics of the Participants

This section describes the study population by presenting their socio-demographic characteristics.

4.2.1 Distribution of the Participants

Table 2: Distribution of the Participants by Ward

Ward	Freq.	Per cent
Idakho North Ward	172	46.2
Idakho East Ward	200	53.8
Total	372	100

A majority (53.8%) of the participants in the study were from Idakho East Ward, with 46.2 per cent being drawn from Idakho North Ward.

4.2.2 Gender of the Participants

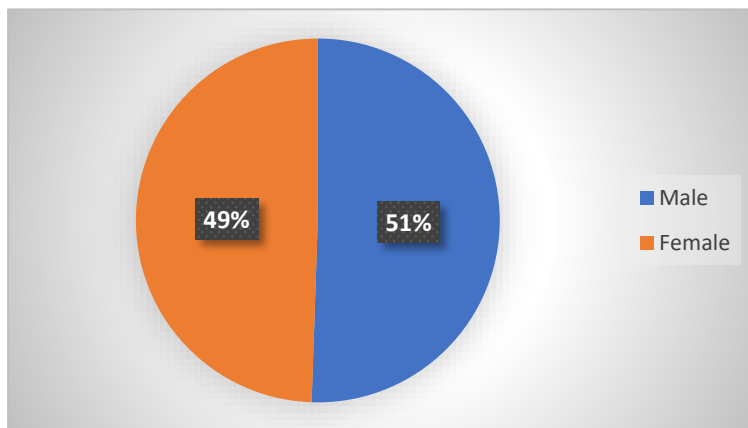


Figure 3: Gender of the Participants

As seen in Figure 3 above, slightly above half (51%) of the participants were male, with females representing 49 per cent of the population.

4.2.3 Age Distribution of the Participants

Table 3: Age distribution of the participants

Age distribution	Freq.	Per cent
18-35 years	171	46.0
36-55 years	149	40.1
Above 55 years	52	14.0
Total	372	100

As shown in Table 3 above, most (46%) of the participants were aged between 18-35 years, while 40.1 per cent were in the age category of 36-55 years. A minority (14%) were above 55 years old.

4.2.4 Marital Status of the Participants

Table 4: Marital status of the participants

Marital status	Freq.	Per cent
Single	108	29.0
Married	184	49.5
Divorced/Separated	41	11.0
Widowed	39	10.5
Total	372	100

Regarding their marital status, half (49.5%) were married, with the least (10.5%) being widowed. 29 per cent of the participants indicated that they were single while 11 per cent mentioned that they were divorced and/or separated.

4.2.5 Education level of the participants

Table 5: The education level of the participants

Education level	Freq.	Per cent
Primary	98	26.3
Secondary	155	41.7
College/University	119	32.0
Total	372	100

On their education levels, a majority (41.7%) of the study participants had attained secondary school education, with 32 per cent and 26.3 per cent attaining a college/university and primary education respectively.

4.2.6 Primary occupation of the participants

Table 6: The primary occupation of the participants

Occupation	Freq.	Per cent
Government employed	49	13.2
Private sector	63	16.9
Private business	70	18.8
Unemployed	190	51.1
Total	372	100

Notably, above half (51.1 %) of the study participants were unemployed. 18.8 per cent cited that they engaged in private businesses, with 16.9 per cent and 13.2 per cent indicating that they worked in the private sector and government sector respectively.

4.3 The Extent of Awareness and participation of Local People in CDF Initiatives in the Ikolomani Constituency

4.3.1 Awareness of the Existence of the CDF Fund and Development Initiatives

The participants in the study were asked about their awareness of the existence of the CDF fund, and those who were not aware of its existence were asked about their awareness of other development projects in their localities. The summary of CDF awareness among the study participants is shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Summary of the CDF awareness among the study participants in the Ikolomani constituency (n=372)

Statements	Yes	No
Are you aware of the existence of the CDF	314 (84.4%)	58 (15.6%)
Are you aware of other development projects in your locality? (For those who were not aware of CDF)	38 (65.5%)	20 (34.5%)

To begin with, a large majority (84.4%) indicated that they were aware of the existence of the CDF fund with only 15.6 per cent being not aware of its existence. For those who were not aware of CDF, a sizeable portion (65.5%) said that they were aware of other development projects in their locality.

These findings corroborate those from the focus group discussions whereby the discussants mentioned that they were aware of the existence of CDF and related development projects in the areas. As stated by a discussant,

“I understand CDF as a tool used in development within different communities. CDF is here in Ikolomani and I can say that CDF has helped in many ways like giving out bursaries, building schools and paying fees maybe some parents are disabled but when you go to school their children are studying.” [P1, FGD1, Idakho North Ward].

These findings imply that most of the constituents in Ikolomani have adequate awareness of community projects, both CDF projects and other development projects in the community. The findings are contrary to those of a study by Gekul (2014), whose findings from a study in Babati Constituency, Tanzania, revealed that most of the constituents had limited awareness of CDCF community projects since they do not take part in their identification, prioritization, and implementation.

Using a multiple-choice question, the study further sought to examine the awareness of CDF information disseminators among the participants. The findings are summarized in Table 8.

Table 8: Summary of CDF awareness information dissemination channels among the study participants (n=372)

CDF Information Dissemination Channels	Yes	No
CDF committee	71(18.9%)	301 (81.1%)
Fellow community members	139 (37.5%)	232 (62.5%)
Media platforms	103 (27.8%)	268 (72.2%)
Chief barazas	199 (53.6%)	172 (46.4%)
CDF Act	90 (24.3%)	281 (75.7%)

***Multiple-response question*

On CDF information dissemination channels, more than half (53.6%) of the participants noted that they learnt about the fund through chief barazas. Moreover, 37.5 per cent of the participants learned about the fund through fellow community members, 28.7 per cent through media platforms, 24.3 per cent through the CDF Act and the least (18.9%) through the CDF committee.

In the focus group discussion, a participant pointed out their participation through chief

barazas. He mentioned that

“In the chief barazas is where people meet to choose the projects ... I think the projects are being proposed when “Mheshimiwa” comes because when he comes there are meetings that are usually being held, so with us we can decide to say we lack water or maybe renovation of schools first and after that, he will take it on board because there is the board under CDF, and those board members are the representatives who were chosen by the community because, in the last board, I saw like every sub-location was to select one person to represent them because in general we have four locations/wards and every location was to give out one person to represent them.” [P5, FGD1, Idakho East Ward].

In reiterating the role of chiefs’ barazas as CDF information dissemination channels, a key informant, who is a chief in one of the sub-locations in the study area stated that:

“Yes, and it (chief’s baraza) is the only way and maybe the funerals because our people don’t have these smartphones, even if we technically improved in those sectors and therefore, it becomes the only way to reach the targeted group” [Asst. Chief, KII, Idakho North Ward].

These findings show that Chiefs’ barazas were the most common platforms through which members of the constituency learned about CDF and related projects. Interestingly, only 18.9 per cent cited the CDF committee as an information channel. They are consistent with those of a study by Nthiga and Moi (2021), who noted that there were high levels of civic involvement, and awareness of CDF initiatives among citizens from Makueni County, which was actualized through chiefs’ barazas and local group meetings.

In a further examination of the participants’ awareness of CDF activities in the area, it was revealed that a considerable proportion of the study participants were aware of the CDF initiatives and initiators (82% and 71.5% respectively). On the other hand, it was established that over four-fifths (85.2%) of the participants were not aware of the costs associated with CDF projects nor the amount of money disbursed by the CDF for these projects.

Table 9: Summary of awareness of CDF activities in the area among the study participants

Awareness of CDF projects/activities	Yes	No
Aware of any CDF project/activities (<i>n</i> =372)	305 (82%)	67 (18%)
Aware of CDF project/activities initiators (<i>n</i> =305)	218 (71.5%)	87 (28.5%)
Aware of CDF project/activities associated costs (<i>n</i> =305)	45 (14.8%)	260 (85.2%)
Aware of the amount disbursed by the CDF for the project/activities (<i>n</i> =305)	45 (14.8%)	260 (85.2%)

These findings reveal that most of the constituents in the Ikolomani Constituency are aware of the existence of the CDF projects and project initiators but are not aware of the monetary elements of the projects including associated costs and funds disbursed for the projects. The findings agree to an extent, with those of a study by Muusya (2019), which revealed that significant levels of unawareness were present among the local individuals in the constituency, particularly on the monetary aspects of CDF projects, since most of them held a strong belief that the CDF projects were facilitated by MP's money, liked to MP's cronies and it is only the legislator who has the authorities to assign the funds' officials and committee and to prioritize the projects.

4.3.2 Participation in CDF Initiatives in Ikolomani Constituency

The level of participation of the community members in CDF initiatives was also evaluated in the study. First, regarding their perceptions of community ownership of CDF projects/initiatives, a considerable proportion (64%) of the participants agreed that the community owned the projects as shown in Figure 4.

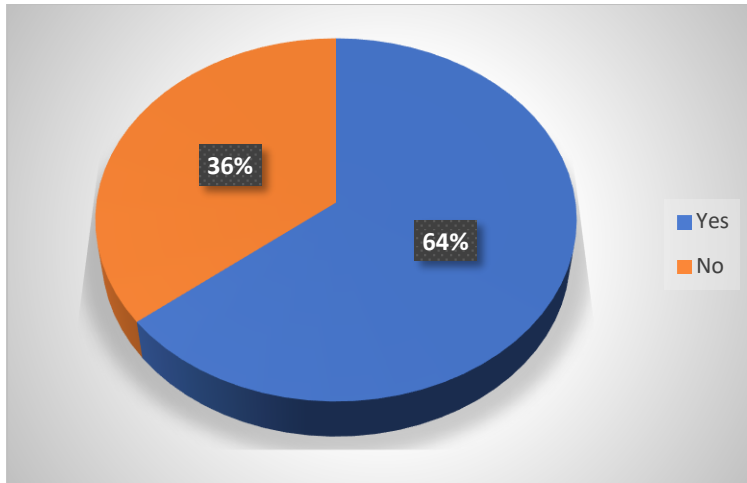


Figure 4: Perception of CDF project/initiative community ownership (n=372)

Furthermore, the participants were asked about community their participation in CDF projects as well as the overall participation of community members in CDF projects/activities. The findings are presented in Table 10.

Table 10: Community participation in development programs

Participation in CDF projects/activities	Yes	No
Aware of community participation in CDF projects/activities (n=372)	201 (54%)	171 (46%)
Respondent participating in CDF development projects/activities (n=368)	129 (34.6%)	243 (65.3%)

Slightly above half (54%) of the participants were cognizant of community participation in CDF projects/initiatives in the study area. Interestingly, while the majority of the participants indicated that they were aware of community participation in CDF projects/initiatives, only 34.6 per cent of the study participants showed that they participated in the initiatives against 65.3 per cent who cited that they did not participate. This finding implies that whereas the participants were aware of the presence of the fund, most of them were not participating in CDF development projects and activities in the area. This agrees with the findings of Matipa (2020) who argues that the extent of community participation in CDF is often restricted to being told what has previously been decided by other main stakeholders, thus implying “a passive participation” of the local beneficiaries by consultation. Furthermore, the outcome of this passive participation is projects that are unwanted, inappropriate, and unused by the targeted

community beneficiaries.

The participation of the participants in different stages of the CDF project/activities was further examined using a 5-point Likert Scale as shown in Table 11 below.

Table 11: Opinion on participation in different stages of CDF project/activities (n=372)

Stages of Community Participation	No (SD+D+I)	Yes (A+SA)
Participate in projects prioritization	255 (68.6%)	117 (31.4%)
Participate in the project selection process	235 (63.2%)	137 (36.8%)
Community consultation on what affects them	279 (75%)	93 (25%)
Frequent organization of community participation forums	282 (75.8%)	90 (24.2%)

***SD-Strongly Disagree, D-Disagree, I-Indifferent, A-Agree, SA-Strongly Agree*

Across all the categories of stages of CDF projects/initiatives, most of the participants indicated that they did not participate. For instance, a significant proportion (68.6%) of the participants indicated that they did not participate in project prioritization, with 63.2 per cent citing that they did not participate in the project selection processes. Moreover, three-quarters (75%) of the participants revealed that there was no community consultation when the projects were initiated, and just over three-quarters (75.8%) revealed that there were no community participation forums as far as CDF projects/initiatives were concerned. While the participants mentioned the chief’s barazas as a major channel for the dissemination of CDF-related information, their participation in the forums was passive.

These findings agree with the sentiments of the FGD participants. When asked if the members of the community are given a chance to participate in the CDF projects’ process, an FGD participant stated that it only happens a few times, with the parliamentarian, referred to as “*Mheshimiwa*” in the context of the study, coming up with the ideas of the different projects as well as playing a central role in the prioritisation of the projects. The participant said

“Of course, yes but only a few because at times you may find out that “Mheshimiwa” came with ideas but before doing anything they will involve the community to know those who for example might need water or the ones to be built for schools and many more then he/she will be the one to go and select the ones to start with because he can’t

manage to work on all of them at the same time and he will do this depending on the money available. I believe he knows how to plan this.” [P5, FGD2, Idakho East Ward]

Another participant added “...*Okay who gets involved in this is the member of parliament who appoints his/her members or team to work with.*” [P9, FGD2, Idakho East Ward]

Regarding the overall community participation in CDF initiatives, a majority (60%) of the participants perceived their participation as a passive one (Stamping what has already been decided by others) with only 40 per cent indicating that they actively participated in the projects as shown in Figure 5.

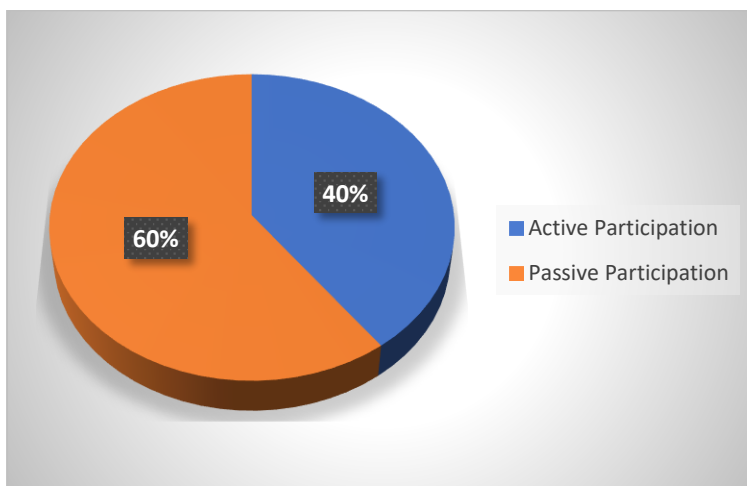


Figure 5: General community perception of participating in CDF projects/activities

Interestingly, passive participation of the community members in CDF projects has been associated with unwanted, unused and inappropriate development projects in the locality such as the case of a water project in one of the areas. According to a key informant,

“Recently there was a water project funded by the Canadian government in Kifingo, so people were complaining that that wasn’t their water. People were not involved so there is no ownership of the project. So, everything was not taken into consideration by the community because they were never involved, they used to call it Kifingo water, not their water.” [Asst. Chief, KII, Idakho North Ward]

To validate their prevalent passive participation, most of the participants in the study revealed that the community participated in CDF projects through chiefs’ barazas (63.5%) and local representatives (54.6%) as shown in Table 12.

Table 12: View on CDF project/activities community participation approaches (n=372)

Community participation approaches	Yes	No
Through local representatives	203 (54.6%)	169 (45.4%)
Through voting	95 (25.5%)	277 (74.5%)
Through local groups	115 (30.9%)	257 (69.1%)
Through chiefs' barazas	236 (63.5%)	136 (36.5%)

These findings on the dynamics of community participation in CDF projects and initiatives in the Ikolomani Constituency reveal that the local community is not wholly involved in the implementation, evaluation and monitoring of CDF projects as evidenced by the reported absence of community representation in CDF committees, limited of awareness of monetary aspects of the projects by the locals, and absence of consultative meetings with the local individuals to evaluate the projects that would be most beneficial for them. Seemingly, MPs are the ones who come up with the CDF projects to be implemented, with little consultation or involvement from the members of the community.

The findings are consistent with those of studies by Gekul (2014), Matipa (2020), and Mukuri and Wamitu (2020), whose findings unanimously conclude that the local community is not wholly involved in the implementation, evaluation and monitoring of CDF projects as evidenced by the reported absence of community representation in CDF committees, limited of awareness by the locals, and absence of consultative meetings with the local individuals to identify, prioritise and evaluate the projects that would be most beneficial for them.

Whereas the awareness and participation of the local communities have been perceived in the extant literature as an enabler of full access to benefits of development to beneficiaries, the findings of the study on the extent of awareness and participation of the community members in CDF projects reveal that level of local people's participation in the identification, prioritisation, implementation and evaluation of the projects was only in being informed of what is being planned by the CDF management team. This extent of participation, according to Matipa (2020) is weak and reflects the first stage in Wilcox's (1994), Ladder of Participation

Theory, in which the theorist argues that consultation and information dissemination are often wrongly perceived as participation. In conclusion and drawing from the findings of the study, the extent of participation of Ikolomani constituents in CDF projects is largely limited to what has been already decided by key players, especially the Member of Parliament, thus implying “passive participation” of the local beneficiaries. Perhaps, as revealed by a key informant, the outcomes of such passive participation include unwanted, unused, and inappropriate development projects for the targeted community beneficiaries.

4.4 Constituency Development Fund Utilization in Ikolomani Constituency

Data from the focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and descriptive statistics from the survey were used to understand the dynamics of constituency development fund utilization as an instrument of rural development in the Ikolomani Constituency. From the survey, three-quarters (72%) of the participants perceived that Ikolomani Constituency CDF is well utilized.

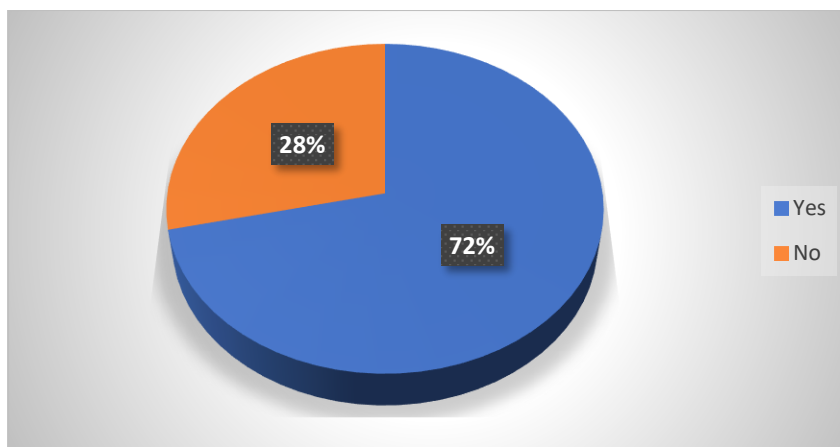


Figure 6: Perception on whether Ikolomani Constituency CDF is well utilized

The qualitative findings from the study show diverse ways in which CDF has been utilized for rural development across the Ikolomani Constituency. To the majority of the participants and key informants, CDF has been well utilized to bring development to the community. For instance, an FGD discussant acknowledged CDF as a tool used to bring about development within different communities, “I understand it as a tool used in development within different

communities” [P1, FGD1, Idakho East Ward]

First, it has been mentioned that CDF has been utilized in financing educational programs and school infrastructure in Ikolomani Constituency. In terms of educational programs, it was mentioned that the funds have been used to allocate bursaries and pay school fees for students from underprivileged families in the community. As stated by an FGD participant, “*CDF has helped in many ways like giving out bursaries, building schools and paying fees maybe some parents are disabled but when you go to school their children are studying.*” [P6, FGD2, Idakho North Ward.]

These sentiments are corroborated by those of a headteacher in one of the local schools in the study area who noted that.

“They have built the classrooms or generally they’ve participated in the development of infrastructures ... some schools have gotten water facilities through CDF unlike us. I would also say that students are benefiting in terms of school fees and even welfare because there is a period when they were distributing food to them.” [Headteacher, KII, Idakho East Ward]

Besides education, it emerged from the KIIs and FGDs that CDF funds in the constituency have been used to offer welfare and community aid, particularly through giving send-off funds to bereaved families. According to an FGD participant from Idakho East, “*CDF in my own opinion is a tool that helps the community, especially in schools and even in for those who are bereaved it helps in burial issues.*” [P10, FGD1, Idakho East Ward].

Moreover, it was mentioned that CDF has been used in the health sector to improve services and infrastructure in the sector. For instance, a community health worker (CHW) in one of the study areas mentioned that the CDF has been used to roll out NHIF covers for the neediest in the area. “*They’ve helped in supporting the needy people through NHIF*” [CHW, KII, Idakho North Ward]. This was validated by the response of a CDF officer interviewed in the study who mentioned, “*The MP pays for NHIF cards for the needy, disabled and the elderly within the community.*” [CDF Officer, KII, Idakho North Ward]

However, it emerged from the key informants that CDF has been more involved in educational

infrastructure in the area and less in health infrastructure. According to a nurse interviewed in the study,

“CDF is where the people within the community and constituency as a whole get help from its funds in different sectors more so in education, they are not that much involved in health care facilities because they say it’s devolved but we are asking them to come in because some of our facilities are bad and we need their support” [Nurse, KII, Idakho East Ward]

According to a key informant, CDF has brought development projects closer to the people in the community as opposed to the times when it was not yet implemented. He states that

“I agree with that because before they devolved these parts, we didn’t see the projects that were coming up, we used to wait for the national government from Nairobi to come a set up a project, meaning it was usually being done under one grass route but now they are devolved and we are okay with it because these are people who can easily reach out to and share with them what our needs are and what we want as a community.” [Chief, KII, Idakho East Ward]

Overall, the findings from the study reveal that funds have been used to create physical infrastructure such as electrification, health, sanitation, education, and transportation amenities among others. Below are selected quotes from the qualitative findings.

“Transportation has been made easy due to the construction of good roads” [Asst. Chief, KII, Idakho North Ward]

“I’m a social worker so, under research, electricity is under CDF, there is this electricity that is being passed under CDF, you can do your research to confirm that” [P9, FGD2, Idakho North Ward]

“One we’ve seen roads being constructed, schools are being built and students who can’t cater or their school fee are being paid for, water has been dug inform of boreholes even if it has not yet reached every household but I’m quite sure that Mheshimiwa is working on that, again we have to understand that not everything can be done at the same time within the same period and that’s why I was talking of the 80% and sure the remaining 20% will be done just with time.” [P7, FGD2, Idakho East Ward]

These findings agree with those of extant studies by Ngiri (2016), whereby the researcher reported that CDF has been used to facilitate development projects, which have positively influenced grassroots development in the North Mugirango Constituency. The findings revealed that CDF executed and expanded healthcare and educational facilities, as well as basic infrastructure, and has led to the overall improvement in the local community.

4.5 Hindrances to CDF as an Instrument of Rural Development

A 5-point Likert Scale was used to assess the perceived challenges facing CDFs in Ikolomani Constituency as shown in Table 13 below.

Table 13: Perceived challenges facing CDFs in Ikolomani Constituency

Perceived challenges	SD	D	I	A	SA
Low community participation	11 (3%)	72 (19.4%)	56 (15.1%)	75 (20.2%)	158 (42.5%)
CDF Funds embezzlement	6 (1.6%)	39 (10.5%)	91 (24.5%)	78 (21%)	158 (42.5%)
High levels of corruption and poor leadership	7 (1.9%)	50 (13.5%)	60 (16.1%)	76 (20.5%)	178(48%)

***SD-Strongly Disagree, D-Disagree, I-Indifferent, A-Agree, SA-Strongly Agree*

Most of the participants strongly agreed that low community participation (42.5%), embezzlement of CDF (42.5%) and high levels of corruption and poor leadership (48%) were the main challenges facing the constituency development fund in Ikolomani Constituency. From the focus group discussions and KIIs, various challenges including corruption, tribalism and systemic discrimination, lack of transparency, passive involvement of stakeholders, the inadequacy of the allocated funds, and political interference were pointed out.

In terms of corruption, the FGD participants mentioned that the criteria for selection of CDF bursary beneficiaries are often flawed and corrupt, hence the legitimate beneficiaries missing benefits from the funds. As put out by a discussant,

“The first is a challenge in the bursary sectors because at times you can fill the form and fail to get the response just like others who might even be more well off than you are while some forms are held back there, so we keep on wondering on the criteria being used the issuing of the bursaries. That person who is supposed to benefit on this is not benefiting while the person who is not to benefit benefits” [P4, FGD1, Idakho North Ward]

Tribalism and discrimination in sharing the CDF funds with the members of the community were also highlighted as a challenge, particularly in the disbursement of the CDF bursaries.

According to a participant,

“Another challenge is the issue of names, for example, I’m not of this tribe but I’m now married here meaning I now belong here, when the bursary forms come and my child fills the form, he fails to get the money simply because the name is not matching the

tribe.” [P6, FGD1, Idakho East Ward]

Additionally, the passive involvement of the key stakeholders (both community members and duty bearers) has been highlighted as another key hindrance to CDF as a tool for rural development in Ikolomani Constituency. According to a key informant,

“They are passively involved and I wanted them to improve on that because when the funds are being brought to your school you should be actively involved and even the community but you are a contractor coming with even the workers, so the community members are not involved in such therefore they don’t benefit from them, the worst part is you out that the project has not been done to its perfection and when you question the cause of such you find that it is how they have been handling the work and since you were never involved actively you just do the observations.” [Headteacher, KII, Idakho East Ward]

The key informant also cited a lack of transparency as a major challenge facing the CDF projects’ processes in the study area. She stated

“I’m not that familiar with the guidelines but I know that the fund is there because it has assisted us thrice or more but when it comes to transparency, I don’t think it’s very much there because we are only brought the contractors on sight then they start working and after them doing that yours is only appending the signature may be on the payments but the way they do their work you are not so much involved.” [Headteacher, KII, Idakho East Ward]

Lastly, political interference was also cited as a hindrance to CDF as an instrument for rural development in Ikolomani Constituency. It is stated that the change of regimes often affects ongoing projects that were initiated by the outgoing regimes. As stated by a key informant,

“When the members of parliament are doing their patrol today in the funds’ sector, if it is not successfully re-elected and then another person comes in, he will abandon what the other person was doing and it will come like a cost project because he will want to start his to make an aim.” [Chief, KII, Idakho East Ward]

The findings on the hindrances of CDF highlight passive involvement and low levels of community participation in CDF initiatives and projects, lack of transparency, tribalism and discrimination as well as political interference as the key hindrances facing the fund as an instrument for rural development in Ikolomani Constituency. These findings are consistent with those of a study by Samwel et al. (2015), which highlighted that although CDF has had a positive influence in the country, it has been faced with numerous hindrances that range from poor leadership, low community participation, corruption, poor implementation and

monitoring of CDF initiatives to unequal distribution of the funds within the constituency. They also agree with those of a study by Hussein (2018), where the author argued that the fund faces numerous implementation challenges that affect the effectiveness of CDF projects. The researcher argues that these challenges include a lack of collaboration and valuable trust among the stakeholders, substandard projects, embezzlement of CDF money, as well as selectively implemented projects that do not pay attention to the dire needs of the local constituents, hence the persistent of rural poverty and failure to realize the envisioned goal of local development.

4.6 Chapter Summary

In this chapter, the findings of the analysis were presented, discussed and linked to the research objectives, hence showcasing the reliability of the analysis approaches to the study's methodology. As aforementioned, the data for the study was collected through a survey questionnaire from 372 participants, who were randomly drawn from Idakho North and East Wards of Ikolomani Constituency. In addition, qualitative data were also collected using focus group discussions and key informant interviews. The study participants were adult men and women from the aforementioned wards of the constituency. The key themes emerging from this analysis summarize the extent of awareness and participation of local people in CDF initiatives, the dynamics of the utilization of the fund as an instrument for rural development, as well as the hindrances to the fund in Ikolomani Constituency, Kakamega County.

Based on Alexis de Tocqueville's "Decentralization Theory" (De Tocqueville, 1945), it is undebatable that CDF is one of the key mechanisms of fiscal decentralization in Kenya, which was implemented to enhance community participation in sustainable development, more so in rural development. The fiscal decentralization of CDF as a deliberate transmission of power and resources to lower units of the government aims at enhancing community participation in resource allocation and decision-making, fair and equitable access to major services, and accountability and transparency. The findings of this study, especially on the thematic areas of

drawbacks of stakeholder/community participation and the highlighted hindrances to the fund, reiterate the fact that the aims and successes of the devolved fund in bringing about rural development lie in adherence to its implementation, administration, and management modalities. In the subsequent chapter, a summary of the findings is presented, as well as the conclusions from the study, recommendations and suggestions of areas for further research.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The main objective of the study was to examine the dynamics of the Constituency Development Fund as an instrument of rural development in the Ikolomani Constituency. The study examined CDF with specific reference to its allocation and utilization, awareness and participation of local communities, and the related hindrances in its utilization. It is important to mention that the study attained all the research objectives. In this chapter, a summary of the findings is presented, as well as the conclusions from the study based on the decentralization theory, recommendations and suggestions of areas for further research.

5.2 Summary of the Findings

5.2.1 The Extent of Awareness and Participation of Local People in CDF Initiatives in the Ikolomani Constituency

There are two specific themes under this thematic area, namely awareness and participation. In terms of awareness, a large majority (84.4%) indicated that they were aware of the existence of the CDF fund. For those who were not aware of CDF, a significant portion (65.5%) said that they were aware of other development projects in their locality. Overall, both the qualitative and quantitative findings implied that most of the constituents in Ikolomani have adequate awareness of community projects, both CDF projects and other development projects in the community. Furthermore, in examining the awareness of CDF information disseminators among the participants, it was revealed that more than half (53.6%) of the participants noted that they learnt about the fund through chief barazas. Moreover, 37.5 per cent of the participants learned about the fund through fellow community members, 28.7 per cent through media

platforms, 24.3 per cent through the CDF Act and the least (18.9%) through the CDF committee. These findings show that Chiefs' barazas were the most common platforms through which members of the constituency learned about CDF and related projects.

Interestingly, it was established that most of the constituents in the Ikolomani Constituency are aware of the existence of the CDF projects and project initiators, but are not aware of the monetary elements of the projects including associated costs and funds disbursed for the projects. This finding can be linked to the assumption by many of the local people that the CDF projects were facilitated by MP's money, linked to MP's cronies and it is only the legislator who has the authority to assign the funds' officials and committee and to prioritize the projects. Regarding the level of participation of the community members in CDF initiatives, it was established that slightly above half (54%) of the participants were aware of community participation in CDF projects/initiatives in the study area. Interestingly, while the majority of the participants indicated that they were aware of community participation in CDF projects/initiatives, only 34.6 per cent of the study participants indicated that they participated in the initiatives against 65.3 per cent who cited that they did not participate.

The participation of the participants in different stages of the CDF project/activities was further examined and it was found that a significant proportion (68.6%) of the participants indicated that they did not participate in project prioritization, with 63.2 per cent citing that they did not participate in the project selection processes. Moreover, three-quarters (75%) of the participants revealed that there was no community consultation when the projects were initiated, and just over three-quarters (75.8%) revealed that there were no community participation forums as far as CDF projects/initiatives were concerned. Regarding the overall community participation in CDF initiatives, a majority (60%) of the participants perceived their participation as a passive one (Stamping what has already been decided by others) with only 40 per cent indicating that they actively participated in the projects.

In summary, the findings on the dynamics of community participation in CDF projects and initiatives in the Ikolomani Constituency reveal that the local community is not wholly involved in the implementation, evaluation and monitoring of CDF projects as evidenced by the reported absence of community representation in CDF committees, limited of awareness of monetary aspects of the projects by the locals, and absence of consultative meetings with the local individuals to evaluate the projects that would be most beneficial for them. Seemingly, MPs are the ones who come up with the CDF projects to be implemented, with little consultation or involvement from the members of the community.

5.2.2 The Utilization of Constituency Development Fund as an Instrument of Rural Development

Data from the focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and descriptive statistics from the survey were used to understand the dynamics of constituency development fund utilization as an instrument of rural development in the Ikolomani Constituency. It was established that nearly three-quarters (72%) of the participants perceived that Ikolomani Constituency CDF is well utilized. The qualitative findings from the study show different ways in which CDF has been utilized for rural development across the Ikolomani Constituency. To the majority of the participants and key informants, CDF has been well utilized to bring development to the community. Overall, the findings from the study reveal that funds have been used to create physical infrastructure such as electrification, health, sanitation, education, and transportation amenities among others.

5.2.3 Hindrances to CDF as an Instrument of Rural Development

Most of the participants strongly agreed that low community participation (42.5%), embezzlement of CDF (42.5%) and high levels of corruption and poor leadership (48%) were the main challenges facing the constituency development fund in Ikolomani Constituency.

From the focus group discussions and KIIs, various challenges including corruption, tribalism and systemic discrimination, lack of transparency, passive involvement of stakeholders, the inadequacy of the allocated funds, and political interference were pointed out.

These findings are consistent with those of a study by Samwel et al. (2015), which highlighted that although CDF has had a positive influence in the country, it has been faced with numerous hindrances that range from poor leadership, low community participation, corruption, poor implementation and monitoring of CDF initiatives to unequal distribution of the funds within the constituency. They also agree with those of a study by Hussein (2018), where the author argued that the fund faces numerous implementation challenges that affect the effectiveness of CDF projects. The researcher argues that these challenges include a lack of collaboration and valuable trust among the stakeholders, substandard projects, embezzlement of CDF money, as well as selectively implemented projects that do not pay attention to the dire needs of the local constituents.

5.3 Conclusions of the Study

The findings of this study illuminate the complex dynamics surrounding the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and its role in rural development within the Ikolomani Constituency. While the CDF has been instrumental in delivering essential services and infrastructure, its potential for maximizing impact is hindered by several factors. A notable finding is the disparity between awareness of the CDF and active participation in its governance. While most residents are aware of the fund's existence, their involvement in decision-making processes is limited. This passive role of the community undermines the principle of community ownership and control, essential for effective development initiatives.

Furthermore, the study revealed inconsistencies in the utilization of CDF resources. While some projects have undoubtedly contributed to improving the lives of rural residents, concerns about transparency, accountability, and equity in resource allocation persist. The potential for

misappropriation and political interference casts a shadow over the fund's effectiveness.

The challenges identified in this study are not unique to the Ikolomani Constituency but are likely representative of broader issues affecting CDF implementation across Kenya. To address these challenges, a multifaceted approach is required. Strengthening community capacity, enhancing transparency and accountability mechanisms, and promoting equitable distribution of resources are critical steps. It is imperative that the CDF evolves into a more participatory and inclusive platform that empowers communities to shape their own development trajectories. By fostering collaboration between government, civil society, and community members, the CDF can be transformed into a powerful tool for poverty reduction and rural transformation.

In conclusion, this study emphasizes the need for a paradigm shift in CDF management. By prioritizing community engagement, transparency, and accountability, it is possible to harness the full potential of the CDF to drive sustainable rural development and improve the lives of countless Kenyans.

5.3 Recommendations arising from the Study

Based on the study's findings, the following recommendations are proposed:

- i. **Enhance community participation:** Implement strategies to increase community involvement in all stages of the CDF cycle, including project identification, planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.
- ii. **Strengthen accountability and transparency:** Establish robust mechanisms for tracking and auditing CDF funds to prevent corruption and misuse.
- iii. **Capacity building:** Invest in capacity-building programs for community members to enhance their understanding of development processes and their role in CDF.
- iv. **Independent evaluation:** Conduct regular independent evaluations of CDF projects to assess their impact and identify areas for improvement.

- v. Policy review: Re-evaluate the CDF Act to ensure it adequately addresses the challenges identified in this study and promotes greater community ownership.

By implementing these recommendations, it is anticipated that the CDF will become a more effective tool for rural development and contribute significantly to improving the lives of residents in Ikolomani Constituency and beyond.

5.4 Suggested Areas for Further Research

The study makes the following suggestions on areas for future studies:

1. An in-depth and comparative study examining the factors that affect the performance of the constituency development fund across different constituencies in Kakamega County.
2. A comprehensive study that focuses on selected CDF projects to examine the extent of impact they have on poverty alleviation and local development in their various contexts
3. A further study to explore community participation in specific CDF development projects, including the opportunities they have in participation as well as the barriers, encountered.

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APPENDIX I: Participants' Informed Consent

My name is Jemima Butinyi Matete. I am a Master of Arts (Community Development) student from Kenyatta University. I am conducting research entitled “Constituency Development Fund as an Instrument of Rural Development in Ikolomani Constituency.” I hereby request you to partake in this study as your feedback and responses are fundamental in forming the subject of this study.

Email: jemmymatete@gmail.com

Mobile No: +254 702685947

Participant Selection and Purpose of the Study

You are requested to participate in this research, as a community member in this constituency. Before you decide to take part in the research, it is essential that you know why the study is being conducted and what it will encompass. Kindly read the following information prudently. If anything is not clear to you or you feel like you need more information, please contact the researcher through the contact info given above. Please take that your partaking in this study is voluntary and you may choose to partake or not. In addition, you are free to pull out from the study at any time. The purpose of this study is to understand how CDFs have been utilized in the constituency to aid in realizing improved outcomes for its rural communities through aspects such as infrastructural developments, social welfare, and job creation among others.

1 Study Procedure

You will be asked to take part in a survey, which will be made up of questions seeking your views on the issue. The survey questionnaire will take approximately 40 minutes and it will be a paper questionnaire.

2 Risks

The study process will be free from harm and any other risks. However, if you will feel

uncomfortable at any point in the progression of the interview, you are free to let me know or alert any person in our research team. You may also contact the persons whose contacts are given below. In this case, you may refuse to answer any or all questions and you may dismiss your participation at any time of your choice.

3 Paybacks

There will be no direct benefits/remunerations to you for partaking in this study. No payment or rewards of any form will be given for contributing to this study. Nevertheless, the findings of this study may help the CDF management committee in formulating strategies and frameworks that will ensure increased participation of local people in the CDF process, effective utilization of the fund, and overall sustainable rural development.

4 Confidentiality

Your replies to this study will be anonymous. Do not include any personal information on the questionnaire. In addition, contributor information will be kept confidential.

5 Contact

In case you will have any inquiries at any point about this research study, you may contact the researcher through the contact details provided on the first page. If you have queries concerning your rights as a study participant, or if difficulties arise that you will feel that you cannot discuss with the primary researcher, kindly contact Dr George Owino (0722618878) or Dr Jane Wangaruro (0729284987) or the Kenyatta University Ethical Review Committee Secretariat on chairman.kuerc@ku.ac.ke.

Participant's Statement

I have read and comprehended the information provided and have had the chance to ask questions. I recognize that my participation will be voluntary and that I will be free to pull out at any time, without giving a reason and devoid of any cost whatsoever. I also understand that I will be given a copy of this consent form. I voluntarily approve to take part in this study.

Participant's Signature _____ Date _____

Investigator's Statement

I, the undersigned, have explained to the volunteer in a language she/he understands, the procedures to be followed in the study, and the risks and benefits involved.

Name _____ of _____ research _____ assistant

Research assistant's signature _____

Date _

APPENDIX II: Survey Questionnaire

Serial No _____

Date and Place of Survey _____

The goal of this survey questionnaire is to collect data that will help the researcher in assessing the Dynamics of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) as an Instrument of Rural Development in Ikolomani Constituency. Kindly take note that this exercise is aimed at collecting research information that will help in understanding how CDFs have been utilized in the constituency to aid in realizing improved outcomes for its rural communities through aspects such as infrastructural developments, social welfare, and job creation among others. Therefore, your involvement in this research is important and you are kindly asked to provide the investigator with accurate and correct information. Please know that all answers are important. Your response will be treated as confidential.

Instructions

Kindly respond to the questions as honestly as possible and to the best of your knowledge. Please write your responses in the spaces provided. Mark with a tick [✓] where applicable. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Section 1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondent

1. Gender

Male [] Female []

2. Age

18-35 years [] 36-55 years [] 56 years and older []

3. Marital Status

Single [] Married [] Divorced [] Widowed [] Other []
(Specify)

4. Education Background

Primary [] Secondary [] College/University []

5. Occupation

Government employed Private sector Private business
Unemployed
 Other (specify)

6. Kindly indicate the ward of your residence in Ikolomani Constituency Idakho

North Idakho East

Section 2: Knowledge and Awareness of CDF

7. Do you know of the existence of a CDF fund in this ward?

Yes No

If **YES**, please go to number **9**

8. a. If **NO**, have you seen any projects being implemented in the ward over the past five years?

Yes No

b. How do you think these projects are being financed?

CDF Church Harambee NGOs Others
(specify)

9. How did you learn about the existence of CDF? (Indicate all that apply)

- Through a member of the CDF development committee
- I know of the existence of the CDF Act
- Through fellow community members
- On posters/Newspapers/Broadcasts
- Chief's Baraza
- Other, kindly specify

10. Are you aware of any CDF projects or activities in this ward or larger Ikolomani?

Yes No

If **NO**, please proceed to **question 12**

11. If **YES** in question **10 ABOVE**, please answer the following inquiries:

i. What are some of these projects?

ii. Do you know who initiated them? Yes [] No [] If YES, kindly mention who

iii. Do you know the cost of these projects? Yes [] No []

iv. Do you know how much money was disbursed for the project/s Yes [] No []

12. In your opinion, what is the general awareness of CDF among members of the rural community in this ward?

Very High [] High [] Low [] Very Low []

13. Do you feel that the CDF projects in this ward are community-owned?

Yes []. Please explain

No []. Please explain

Section 3: Community Participation

14. Are you aware of any community participation programs in this ward?

Yes [] No []

I have been consulted on different issues affecting the ward					
Community participation forums are held often					

20. How would you categorize your participation?

Active participation (Input was considered in the project undertaking) []

Passive Participation (Stamping what has already been decided by others) []

21. What do you think is the link between community participation and rural development?

22. How do you generally rate the level of community participation in CDF projects and initiatives in this constituency?

Very poor [] Poor [] Acceptable [] Excellent []

23. What Recommendations would you make towards enhancing the level of community participation in CDF Funded projects?

Section 4: Utilization of CDF

24. What are some of the key ways that CDF funds have been allocated and used in this constituency?

25. What do you know that has been funded using CDF?

26. In your opinion, is CDF well utilized in Ikolomani Constituency?

Yes [] No []

Please explain your response

27. Do you think CDF has been used for genuine rural development or for gaining political mileage?

28. Is the CDF being used to fund projects based on the needs of the community?

29. What have been some of the issues in the utilization of CDF in the Ikolomani Constituency?

30. Is there a relationship between CDF utilization and rural development?

31. How can the utilization of CDF be improved to ensure its effectiveness and sustainability and how best can CDF work for the people?

Section 5: Hindrances to Constituency Development Fund

32. This section seeks to gather information on the key hindrances to constituency development funds as an instrument of rural development in your area. Please tick appropriately. **Scale: Use 1-Strongly Agree; 2-Agree; 3- Indifferent; 4- Disagree; 5-Strongly Disagree**

	1	2	3	4	5
The CDF projects are faced with low levels of community participation					
There is embezzlement of CDF funds meant for development in my community.					
The CDF initiatives are hindered by high levels of corruption and poor leadership					

33. What are some of the other hindrances and challenges affecting CDF in your community? Please explain

34. What are the failures of CDF in your constituency? Please explain

Thank You for your Time and Responses

APPENDIX III: Key Informant Guide

This interview is aimed at gathering primary data on the dynamics of CDF as an instrument of rural development in the Ikolomani Constituency. The information you are going to provide is for academic purposes only and will be treated with absolute confidentiality. Ask about the key informant's role in the constituency.

1. Do you know the current policy and guidelines for CDF? (Probe for guidelines on governance and management of the fund; transparency and accountability; quality management strategies; public participation etc.)
2. Is it a good policy for rural development and rural poverty reduction? (Probe for reasons for the responses)
3. Is CDF adequate? (If yes, how?) (If not, probe for why it is not adequate and what should be done?)
4. Is CDF well utilized and does CDF work for the community? (Probe for reasons and examples of how the fund has been utilized)
5. What do you know that has been funded using CDF? (Probe for examples of projects or initiatives)
6. Are CDF projects based on the needs of your community? (Probe for reasons and examples of cases)
7. What role does the MP play in the selection of CDF projects or the disbursement of funds?
8. Are the local people involved in the selection and prioritization of the CDF projects? (If yes, probe for how they are involved) (If No, probe for reasons or hindrances to participation and involvement)
9. What role does your community play in the identification or selection of CDF projects? (Probe for the roles of leaders in the community and the roles of other members of the community including the youth)
10. Are the activities and outputs of the CDF consistent with its intended objectives? (Probe for reasons and examples)
11. Is there a relationship between CDF and rural/community development? (Probe for reasons and examples)
12. How can the implementation of CDF be improved to ensure its effectiveness and sustainability and how best can CDF work for the people?

13. What are the hindrances to CDF as a tool of rural development? What are some of its failures?

We have come to the close of our interview and I would like to thank you for partaking in this study.

APPENDIX IV: Focus Group Discussion Interview Guide

The goal of this focus group discussion is to assess the dynamics of CDF as an instrument of rural development in this constituency from your views and knowledge of CDF, your participation in CDF projects and initiatives as well as the influence of the fund on the welfare of your communities. The discussion will be audio recorded (seek their consent to record).

1. Introduction
 - i. Clarification of the purpose of the study to the members of the FGD
 - ii. Explanation of how the discussion will take place
 - iii. Members introduction
2. Who are the primary actors in CDF project identification, prioritization, and implementation? (Probe for the roles of each mentioned actor)
3. What are some of the sources of information for community members on CDF?
4. What is the role of the community members in CDF projects and initiatives?
5. Is CDF well utilized and does CDF work for the community? (Probe for reasons and examples of how the fund has been utilized)
6. Are the activities and outputs of the CDF consistent with its intended objectives? (Probe for reasons and examples)
7. Is there a relationship between CDF and rural/community development? (Probe for reasons and examples)
8. How can the implementation of CDF be improved to ensure its effectiveness and sustainability and how best can CDF work for the people?
9. What are some of the hindrances to CDF as an instrument of rural development?

APPENDIX V: Map of Ikolomani Constituency



Figure 2: Map of Ikolomani Constituency

APPENDIX VI: Study Work Plan

Time/Activity	Mar 2021	May 2021	June 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Dec 2021	Feb 2022	Aug 2022	Oct 2022	Dec 2022	Feb 2023
Literature Review											
Identifying the Research Topic and Title											
Development of Thesis Proposal											
Defence of Research Proposal											
Data Collection and Analysis											
Thesis Findings writing											
Preliminary Findings Presentation											
Final Thesis Submission											

Appendix VII: Research Approval – Kenyatta University Graduate School



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

E-mail: dean-graduate@ku.ac.ke

P.O. Box 43844, 00100
NAIROBI, KENYA
Tel. 020-8704150

Website: www.ku.ac.ke

Internal Memo

FROM: Dean, Graduate School **DATE:** 19th May, 2022
TO: Ms. Jemima Butinyi Matete **REF:** C50/27489/2018
C/o Department of Sociology, Gender &
Development Studies

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL

We acknowledge receipt of your Research Proposal after fulfilling recommendations raised by the Graduate School Board of 31st March, 2022.

You may now proceed with your Data collection, subject to clearance with the Director General, National Commission for Science, Technology & Innovation.

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

Thank you.

JOHN M. ODONGI
FOR: DEAN, GRADUATE SCHOOL



CC. Chairman, Department of Sociology, Gender & Development Studies

Supervisors:

1. Dr. Jane Wangaruro
C/o Department of Sociology, Gender & Development Studies
Kenyatta University
2. Dr. George Evans Owino
C/o Department of Sociology, Gender & Development Studies
Kenyatta University

JMD/2022

Appendix VIII: Ethical Approval – Kenyatta University Ethical Review Committee



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ETHICS AND SAFETY

Fax: 8711242/8711575
Email: chairman.kuerc@ku.ac.ke
Nairobi, 00100

P. O. Box 43844,

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Website: www.ku.ac.ke
Our Ref: KU/ERC/APPROVAL/VOL.1

Date: 27th /07/2022

Jemimah Butinyi Matete
P.O Box 43844, 00100
Nairobi.

Dear Ms.Matete,

APPLICATION NUMBER: PKU/2560/I1677- DYNAMICS OF CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND AS AN INSTRUMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN KAKAMEGA COUNTY, KENYA

This is to inform you that **KENYATTA UNIVERSITY ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE** has reviewed and approved your above research proposal. Your application approval number is **PKU/2560/I1677**. The approval period is **27th/07/2022 to 27th/07/2023**

This approval is subject to compliance with the following requirements;

- i. Only approved documents including (informed consents, study instruments, MTA) will be used
- ii. All changes including (amendments, deviations, and violations) are submitted for review and approval by **KENYATTA UNIVERSITY ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE**
- iii. Death and life threatening problems and serious adverse events or unexpected adverse events whether related or unrelated to the study must be reported to **KENYATTA UNIVERSITY ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE** within 72 hours of notification
- iv. Any changes, anticipated or otherwise that may increase the risks or affected safety or welfare of study participants and others or affect the integrity of the research must be reported to **KENYATTA UNIVERSITY ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE** within 72 hours
- v. Clearance for export of biological specimens must be obtained from relevant institutions.

- vi. Submission of a request for renewal of approval at least 60 days prior to expiry of the approval period. Attach a comprehensive progress report to support the renewal.
- vii. Submission of an executive summary report within 90 days upon completion of the study to **KENYATTA UNIVERSITY ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Prior to commencing your study, you will be expected to obtain a research license from National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) <https://research-portal.nacosti.go.ke> and also obtain other clearances needed.

To serve you better, researchers are kindly requested to access and complete a customer feedback form and sent it back online as you continue with research and upon completion of data collection found on the following website link; https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ytWefDwvvyz5h1oz_VIn0xbxg3uGdIDzMXFWNDsMrRPQ/edit?usp=sharing

Yours sincerely



Prof. Judith Kimiywe

Director: Centre for Research Ethics and Safety

Appendix IX: Research License- NACOSTI

 <p>REPUBLIC OF KENYA</p>	 <p>NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION</p>
Ref No: 825821	Date of Issue: 08/August/2022
RESEARCH LICENSE	
	
<p>This is to Certify that Miss. Jemima Butinyi Matete of Kenyatta University, has been licensed to conduct research in Kakamega on the topic: DYNAMICS OF CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND AS AN INSTRUMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN KAKAMEGA COUNTY, KENYA for the period ending : 08/August/2023.</p>	
License No: NACOSTI/P/22/19502	
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THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ACT, 2013

The Grant of Research Licenses is Guided by the Science, Technology and Innovation (Research Licensing) Regulations, 2014

CONDITIONS

1. The License is valid for the proposed research, location and specified period
2. The License any rights thereunder are non-transferable
3. The Licensee shall inform the relevant County Director of Education, County Commissioner and County Governor before commencement of the research
4. Excavation, filming and collection of specimens are subject to further necessary clearance from relevant Government Agencies
5. The License does not give authority to transfer research materials
6. NACOSTI may monitor and evaluate the licensed research project
7. The Licensee shall submit one hard copy and upload a soft copy of their final report (thesis) within one year of completion of the research
8. NACOSTI reserves the right to modify the conditions of the License including cancellation without prior notice

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