

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
PROCESS IN AWENDO SUB COUNTY, MIGORI COUNTY, KENYA**

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DECLARATION AND APPROVAL

This thesis represents my original research and writing. It has not been used before to earn a degree at any other institution.

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DEDICATION

I humbly dedicate this thesis to my beloved family: my cherished wife, dear son Chris, my precious daughters Ephy and Debora, and Valarie and Jefferson. Your unwavering support, boundless patience, and the promise you hold to mirror my dedication in the quest for academic excellence have been a source of profound inspiration and motivation throughout this journey.

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ABSTRACT

Public participation holds a crucial place in the Constitution of Kenya (2010), signifying its utmost significance. The Constitution mandates the establishment of comprehensive structures for fostering public participation within the governance processes at the national and county levels of government, outlining essential requisites for the legislative bodies at each level. The accentuation on women's engagement underscores a fundamental truth: electing representatives does not diminish the imperative for the populace to remain engaged in the multifaceted tapestry of governance proceedings. This study sought to explore the factors influencing women's public participation in the development planning process in Awendo Sub County of Migori County, Kenya. Specifically, the study sought to assess whether community awareness influences women's public participation in the sub-county development planning processes, examine whether the demographic factors influence public participation of women in development planning processes, assess whether behavioral factors influence public participation of women in development planning processes and to discover whether economic factors influence public participation of women in development planning processes. Callahan's effective community participation theory, which informed the conceptual framework, guided the study. Data was collected from 382 respondents from a target population of 57,724 women in the Awendo sub-county of Migori County, Kenya. Data collection sites were identified through the multi-stage sampling procedure, and a proportionate quota was assigned for each site. Respondents were randomly selected through the simple random technique. Data was collected from the main respondents using a questionnaire and from key informants using interviews. Quantitative data was analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics V22.0 software, and descriptive statistics were presented in Tables and graphs. Qualitative data was transcribed and reported according to emergent themes and narratives. All ethical considerations, including informed consent, anonymity, and confidentiality, were strictly followed. The study results showed that radio, local TV, and door-to-door campaigns were the most common tools to inform residents of public participation. Demographic characteristics influence the public participation of women. Behavioral and economic factors also influence the public participation of women. The study concludes that public participation highly depends on public awareness and vice versa; demographic characteristics influence women's public participation in the development planning process in Awendo Sub County. Behavioral factors influenced public participation in women's development planning processes. Economic factors affect the public participation of women in development planning processes in Awendo Sub County. This study's findings can develop policies and strategies for the national and county government to enhance public participation. The study recommends that a similar study be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the initiated citizen engagement measures in Migori County. Robust initiatives must be implemented to raise a general understanding of the development planning process to boost women's public participation. The development planning process needs to be tailored/modified to account for the changing nature of women's demographic features, such as marital status, education level, women's responsibilities in the family, and community culture. Coordinating government agencies need to inspire trust, fairness, clarity, and transparency (in their work) level of coordination and involvement in their work to enhance the public participation of women in public participation.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CBE	- County Budget Estimates
CDF	- Constituency Development Fund
CFSP	- County Fiscal Strategy Paper
CGA	- County Government Act
CIDP	- County Integrated Development Plan
COK	- Constitution of Kenya
CSO	- Civil Society Organization
DFRD	- District Focus for Rural Development
FMA	- Finance Management Act
LASDAP	- Local Authorities Service Delivery Action Plan
NGO	- Non-Governmental Organizational
PFM	- Public Finance Management
PP	- Public Participation
UN	- United Nations
UNDP	- United Nations of Development Programme
SPSS	- Statistical Package for Social Sciences
LAs	- Local Authorities
LATF	- Local Authority Trust Fund
COG	- Council of Governors
MODP	- Ministry of Devolution and Planning
ADP	- Annual Development Plan
MCAs	- Members of County Assembly
VAWG	- Violence Against Women & Girls

- GEWE - Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
- IEA - Institute of Economic Affairs
- CSO - Community Society Organisation
- OECD - Organisation for Economic Co-Operation & Development

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Public participation in governance entails the active participation of relevant stakeholders, directly or indirectly, in the decision-making processes of programs, policies, or plans, that are important to their vested interests through their chosen representatives. This study uses the term interchangeably with public engagement, citizen participation, public involvement, and community involvement. In the governance context, stakeholders encompass individuals, groups, or organizations with the potential to wield influence over or be impacted by policy decisions (as proposed by Freeman in 2010). These stakeholders may also assert demands on an organization's attention, resources, or outcomes, as articulated by Bryson in 2014.

The spectrum of purposes served by public participation is vast. These objectives span from meeting legal prerequisites and representing the tenets of democratic participation—embracing inclusivity and social justice—to enlightening the general populace, fostering comprehension of public issues, exploring, and engendering potential solutions, and engendering policies, plans, and projects characterized by heightened content quality (as outlined by Bryson et al. in 2013). Mbithi et al. (2014) contended that governments must incorporate public participation to engage the citizenry effectively and cultivate a more symbiotic relationship between government and citizens.

While public participation in the planning process may necessitate more resources and time compared to wholly "top-down" approaches, they offer various advantages. These advantages encompass reinforcing democracy, heightened accountability, improved procedural quality, effective management of social conflicts, mitigating externalities, augmentation of procedural legitimacy, and safeguarding business interests. The

integration of proactive planning that embraces meaningful public engagement augments the probability of achieving successful development outcomes, as attested by Stewart, Jennifer, and Sinclair in 2007. On a global scale, the pursuit of democratic governance is progressively aimed at establishing transparency and accountability, combating corruption, and fostering inclusive citizen engagement in decision-making procedures. Considering this objective, nations strive to amend constitutions and governance frameworks to ensure the inclusion of all citizens' perspectives, especially those from marginalized and distinct groups within societies (Kamlage, Jan-Hendrik & Nanz Patrizia, 2018). To materialize these transformations, governments that have implemented such changes incorporate provisions for public involvement within their policies and constitutions.

Public participation stands as a pivotal principle and cornerstone of democratic system (Ebbesson, 2012), serving to provide platforms for diverse segments of the public to voice their perspectives on matters of decision-making and governance. Women have historically encountered limited or partial inclusion in participation efforts within this context. This has prompted the advocacy and implementation of affirmative action to enhance women's involvement (Campbell, 2018). On a global scale, the statistics speak to this gap: merely 25.5% of parliamentary members are women (UN Women, 2021), and the count of female heads of state stands at a mere 30. Furthermore, only 18% and 34% of women, respectively, hold ministerial and managerial positions (World Economic Forum, 2022).

At the political level, policy efforts to correct inequalities in a democracy have mostly taken the form of electoral quotas and a form of deliberative democracy (Krook and Zetterberg, 2014; UN Women, 2015). The most common electoral quotas are gender

quotas, most of which date back to the late 1990s and draw inspiration from the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995, which encouraged United Nations (UN) member states to implement a 30 percent threshold for empowerment of women as decision-makers and organs at all levels of government (United Nations,1995). Gender quotas can mostly be grouped into three categories: thus, legislative quotas, reserved seats, party quotas, and. Zetterberg (2014) defines reserved seats as gender quota laws that seek to set aside certain political positions or constituencies exclusively for female candidates and party quotas as those which involve the voluntary designation of certain percentages of electoral seats by political parties in their strongholds to female candidates only.

Finally, legislative quotas are constitutional amendments or other law reforms that set a constitutional threshold for allocating a certain proportion of the assembly members to the minority gender (Bertholini, Pereira, & Renno, 2018). The discussion highlights how governments use gender quotas to institutionalize feminist participation in political spaces. However, this study aims to enlist women's participation, descriptively and substantively, in the decision-making process. While delving into the intricate dynamics of women's engagement, this study acknowledges a pertinent factor: within the context of Planned development that includes input from the public, women lack specific constituencies to which they are held accountable.

Participants in public participation fora are usually appointed by administrators in their areas of jurisdiction; for instance, five women are picked from a ward to represent the concerns of the ward residents in a forum. Some of these participants are usually poorly informed on the issues involved in public participation processes.

The ability to engage in the political process stands as a cornerstone of democratic societies, a principle of utmost significance. Scholars like Aulich (2009) and Kanyinga (2014) contend that public participation represents a fundamental ingredient of democracy, as the very bedrock of democratic governance is rooted in the concept of governance by the people. In this vein, public participation assumes an indispensable role in the dynamics of shaping communities, devising plans, and fostering development.

In world democracies, the public is presumed to be an essential stakeholder. Individuals can engage in public participation through direct or indirect engagement through elected representatives. This active engagement pertains to various stages, encompassing the creation, endorsement, and execution of laws and policies that impact their lives. Consequently, public participation stands as a pivotal facet within the public-government interaction matrix within democratic setups, a viewpoint asserted by scholars such as Roberts (2004), Jacobs et al. (2009), and Bryson et al. (2013). However, public engagement scope extends beyond this specific relationship. It enshrines a wider context, encapsulating formal and informal mechanisms governing decision-making and management across shared communal interest or concern realms. Kooiman (2003) and Bevir (2013) eloquently discuss this expanded perspective.

There are theoretical and practical debates about how to implement public participation, but these are met with obstacles. Critical issues in the realm of public participation encompass a range of pivotal considerations. These include deliberations on the attendees of public participation forums, the delineation of what qualifies as valid and valuable public engagement, the intricate interplay between inclusion, diversity, and representation, the characteristics, and acceptable functions of various forms of knowledge and skill in participatory processes, as well as the complex endeavor of

structuring participation mechanisms that harmoniously align with their contextual settings. These concerns underscore the multifaceted nature of fostering effective and meaningful public participation (Mostert, E. 2003).

The interaction of the public with institutions and policy processes plays a crucial role in defining and concretizing the concept of public ownership. Such interaction underscores the public's direct involvement in matters of public interest, imparting substance and form to public ownership. Such engagement bestows responsibilities upon the general populace and the State, thereby solidifying the abstract notion of public ownership within the collective awareness of individuals. Furthermore, this engagement bridges the frequently substantial gap between the State and society, ultimately narrowing the divide and fostering a more interconnected relationship between the two entities (Commonwealth Foundation and CIVICUS, 2018). In addition, this engagement yields tangible advantages by addressing the imperative for public voice, agency, and influence (Gaventa, 2013). Through active participation, individuals and communities can voice their opinions, exercise agency over decisions, and influence policies and outcomes. This not only enhances the democratic fabric of society but also contributes to more informed, inclusive, and responsive governance processes. This engagement takes collective action, where individuals jointly participate in governance processes.

Furthermore, it can be perceived as a mechanism through which individuals assert their rights rooted in the principles of equal and comprehensive citizenship within the modern State. This shift replaces traditional claims founded on norms, charitable actions, benevolence, or patronage (Kabeer, 2002). In this modern context, public engagement embodies a more direct and participatory approach to asserting and safeguarding individual and collective rights.

Numerous studies underline the moral significance of public participation, deeming it an essential component across various levels of governance—the core objectives of public participation pivot around bringing people's necessities closer to them. In Kenya, the roots of public participation and accountability can be linked to the country's efforts in decentralization. Prominent instances encompass initiatives such as the District Focus for Rural Development (DFRD) during the 1980s, which aimed to strengthen localized development efforts. Additionally, there was a subsequent rise in the allocation of funds to local levels during the late 1990s (Oyugi & Kibua, 2006). These undertakings marked significant strides in advancing public participation and nurturing accountability mechanisms within Kenya's governance framework.

Remarkably, the practice of involving the public in Kenya existed before the introduction of county governments, as illuminated by Lakin (2013). As early as 2001, before the introduction of county governments, local authorities introduced a formal mechanism known as the Local Authorities Service Delivery Action Plan (LASDAP) to facilitate public participation. This system was created to allow local authorities to receive funds from the national government through the Local Authority Transfer Fund (LATF). The qualification for these transfers necessitated direct involvement of the public in developing plans and budgets for a particular portion of the available resources focused on development projects. Following this approach, a designated portion of resources was allocated based on community input and priorities, ensuring a more community-centered allocation process.

This approach required local authorities to embrace the doctrine of participatory budgeting, a principle highlighted by Oyugi and Kibua (2006). Local authorities accessed essential services and debt management funding by adopting participatory

budgeting. They integrated the public's voice into the decision-making process regarding resource allocation and project planning. This marked an important step in fostering a more inclusive and participatory approach to governance and resource management within Kenya's local governance landscape.

In the year 2010, the Constitution of Kenya established citizen participation as a fundamental element within the nation's governance structure. Article 10 of the Constitution acknowledges public participation as a fundamental national value and a vital governance principle. Furthermore, Article 174(c) highlights that a primary goal of decentralization is to amplify the engagement of citizens in wielding state powers and influencing decision-making processes that affect them. Article 184 (i)(c) similarly stipulates the requirement to incorporate avenues for the participation of residents in national legislation pertaining to the administration and oversight of urban areas and cities.

To actualize these requirements, the Kenyan government, in collaboration with the Ministry of Devolution and Planning (MODP), the Council of Governors (COG), and other stakeholders, devised guidelines to bolster the structural implementation of public participation in Kenya. This approach aimed to bring decision-making authority closer to the local public through decentralizing service provision by the National Government of Kenya. This transfer of responsibilities – procurement, beneficiary identification, and local choices – from central ministries to county governments or community representatives was rooted in the belief that localized governance is more accountable to the people due to their ability to oversee local processes more closely.

The study focused on women's public participation in Awendo Sub-County, Migori, seeking to understand their engagement in significant decisions and identifying ways to incorporate their perspectives into crucial decision-making processes. Enacted in 2015, the National Government-Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) Act encouraged community engagement by facilitating project identification at local and constituency tiers. This approach is in line with the stipulations of the Constitution.

The County Budget Estimates (CBE), County Fiscal Strategy Papers (CFSP), and County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP) are firmly rooted within the framework of the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act of 2012. These documents are designed to align with the principles outlined in the Constitution of Kenya (2010) and subsequent legislations concerning devolution. These laws mandate and emphasize public participation and governance procedures, ensuring their implementation at the national and county levels. Active public involvement in policy formulation is highlighted in Article 232 (1) (d) of the Constitution. The core duty of a government is to ensure active participation by all community members in significant decisions that influence their daily lives. However, current circumstances reveal that county governments, particularly in the case of women, do not sufficiently provide such opportunities due to accountability lapses and a lack of proactive initiatives.

Participation is a cornerstone of democracy, integral to strengthening governance and societal development. The Kenyan government has sought to uphold this principle through legislative frameworks such as the Urban Areas and Cities Act (2011), Inter-Governmental Relations Act (2012), Public Finance Management Act (2012), and County Government Act (CGA) (2012). Despite these efforts, there have been instances

of ineffective implementation, as evidenced by complaints and concerns raised by civil society organizations and citizens.

In conclusion, while the Constitution of Kenya (2010) and subsequent laws have enshrined public participation as a central tenet, challenges persist in effectively embedding this principle into governance processes, especially concerning women's involvement and representation. Addressing these challenges requires technical adjustments, enhanced accountability, and proactive efforts from public institutions.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Recently, there has been a push to increase women's representation in political and economic spheres. This is reflected in various theoretical frameworks and policy initiatives that recognize the significance of involving women in shaping the direction of development at the local level. Despite these efforts, empirical evidence regarding women's effective engagement in public participation remains inconclusive and context specific. This study addresses the persistent challenge of Women's under representation in public forums involving development planning within Awendo Sub County of Migori County.

Officials from Migori County has made substantial efforts to enhance awareness among the local population about upcoming public participation meetings through intensive advertisements in local dailies and radio stations. However, an observable pattern has emerged, wherein women's attendance and active involvement in these meetings are significantly lower than their male counterparts. Despite the ongoing advocacy for increased women's participation and the theoretical foundations that underscore its

importance, the actual impact of key factors on women's engagement in development planning processes remains inadequately understood.

The unique context of Awendo Sub County, situated within Migori County, provides an opportunity to investigate the complex interplay of these factors on women's participation outcomes. Despite the concerted efforts to disseminate information, about public participation meetings, women's attendance remains disproportionately low, and the role of community awareness in this discrepancy requires thorough investigation.

Women's access to and interest in decision-making may be significantly influenced by demographic factors such as their socioeconomic status and level of education. Furthermore, behavioral factors, including cultural norms, social expectations, and historical biases, could significantly influence women's participation patterns. Similarly, the economic dimension cannot be overlooked, as financial constraints and economic dependence might limit women's ability to participate in meetings and discussions integral to development planning.

While existing literature examines women's participation in decision-making process, few studies have rigorously explored how factors of demographics, behavior, and economics, as well as public perception, directly influence women's empowerment, particularly within the context of devolved governments. Therefore, this study sought to explore the factors influencing women's public participation in the development planning process in Awendo Sub County of Migori County, Kenya, with implications for policy and programmatic interventions that aim to enhance gender-responsive governance and inclusive development in Awendo Sub County and beyond.

1.4 Purpose of the Study

This study sought to explore the factors influencing women's public participation in the development planning process in Awendo Sub County of Migori County, Kenya.

1.5 Specific Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives of this study were:

1. To assess the impact of community awareness on women's public participation in the development planning process.
2. To examine the impacts of demographic characteristics on women's public participation in the development planning process.
3. To determine how behavioral factors affect the public participation of women in the development planning process.
4. To establish the effect of economic factors on women's public participation in the development planning process.

1.6 Research Questions

The following questions guided the study:

1. How does community awareness affect women's public participation in the development planning process?
2. How do demographic factors impact women's public participation in the development planning process?
3. How do behavioral factors affect women's public participation in the development planning process?
4. How do economic factors affect women's public participation in the development planning process?

1.7 Justification of the Study

The present study seeks to address a crucial and timely concern in the Awendo Sub County of Migori County, Kenya: the factors influencing women's public participation in the development planning process. In recent times, there has been a growing emphasis on participatory development and inclusive decision-making, recognizing that diverse perspectives contribute to more effective and sustainable outcomes. However, a significant gender gap persists in terms of women's involvement in public forums and decision-making processes. This study's purpose is to shed light on the factors contributing to this disparity and provide insights that can lead to more equitable and inclusive development planning.

The importance of this study is underscored by several factors: First, initial data collected from the Economic Planning Office in Migori reveals a concerning trend of low women's attendance at public forums. This issue resonates with the broader challenge of gender inequality in decision-making spheres, highlighting the need for a thorough investigation into the underlying factors that contribute to this disparity.

Second, the study's focus on Awendo Sub County is well-justified. As one of the ten sub-counties within Migori County, it represents a microcosm of the broader county dynamics. Conducting the research in Awendo Sub County, which is the researcher's area of residence and workstation, offers logistical advantages and a nuanced understanding of the local context. Third, the preliminary data indicating similar trends across different sub-counties of Migori County suggests that the findings of this study could be replicated and extended to other areas, thereby contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by women in public participation across the region.

Moreover, the study's outcomes are expected to contribute to the empowerment of women by highlighting the critical role they play in public participation processes. Women's perspectives and insights are vital in shaping decisions that directly affect them and their communities. By revealing the barriers that hinder women's participation, the study aims to catalyze efforts to dismantle these obstacles and create an enabling environment for women to engage meaningfully. In addition, through its exploration of various factors impacting women's participation, such as community awareness, demographic characteristics, behavioral factors, and economic circumstances, the study has the potential to inform policy and programmatic interventions that foster more inclusive development planning. A more diverse range of voices in decision-making processes can lead to more accurate needs assessment, more responsive policies, and ultimately more effective development outcomes.

Further, the study aligns with the global trend of promoting civil engagement and accountability in governance. By addressing the factors that hinder women's participation, the study could inspire a broader dialogue on the importance of inclusivity in public decision-making processes and encourage both duty bearers and citizens to work collaboratively for the betterment of their communities. In conclusion, the present study's focus on understanding the factors influencing women's public participation in the development planning process holds significant implications for promoting gender equality, fostering inclusive decision-making, recognizing the potency of varied perspectives for fostering effective and sustainable outcomes.

1.8 Significance of the Study

This study is crucial as it addresses significant knowledge gaps regarding factors influencing women's public participation in the development planning process, particularly within Awendo Sub County of Migori County, Kenya. The study will generate new knowledge and insights to inform future interventions and promote meaningful and sustainable participation by examining the patterns, factors, and strategies related to children's participation. Devolved governments, including the County Government of Migori and the broader national government, can glean valuable insights from these findings. The study's results highlight the domains that require heightened resources, attention, and concerted efforts to firmly establish women's comprehensive engagement in decision-making and development planning. The research furnishes these governments with precise information to inform their policy-making endeavors by pinpointing areas that warrant enhancement.

This study adds to the knowledge surrounding women's participation in development planning. It contributes new insights and perspectives to this domain, thus expanding the collective understanding of the factors influencing women's involvement. Additionally, the study is a foundational point for future research endeavors, offering a steppingstone for further exploration and deeper analysis. The researcher hopes that this study unveiled valuable results that duty bearers would adopt in all sub-counties to engage women in public participation and the decision-making process actively. It also provides a basis for further research.

1.9 Scope of the Study

This study delved into women's public participation in decision-making and development planning processes, specifically within Awendo Sub County. The main objective of this

research was to dissect the factors influencing the degree of public engagement exhibited by women in the spheres of decision-making and development planning.

The study's scope encompassed various facets, including the political arena, administrative structures, demographic characteristics, behavioral patterns, and economic considerations, all play a pivotal role in influencing women's active engagement in development planning processes. Awendo Sub County was chosen as the focal point for this research due to the notable trend of low women's attendance in public participation activities. Even when women were present, their involvement in advocating for women's issues was relatively limited.

The study's theoretical framework revolved around key factors such as awareness, demographic dynamics, behavioral aspects, and economic factors. However, the research deliberately narrowed its focus within each category, showcasing specific factors from each domain to highlight their corresponding impacts. By implementing this targeted methodology, the study aspired to offer an all-encompassing perspective on the intricate interplay of various factors that converge to define women's participation in decision-making processes related to developmental planning.

1.10 Operational Definition of Terms

Behavioral Factors:	These are elements that influence an individual's behavior. They encompass physical factors like age, health, and illness, as well as Individual and emotional aspects encompassing elements such as personality traits, belief systems, anticipations, emotional responses, mental well-being, and life encounters, and contextual elements like environmental conditions (e.g., heat, light, noise, privacy, time).
Capacity Building:	This concept pertains to enhancing the abilities of individuals, governments, international organizations, and non-governmental entities to achieve measurable and sustainable developmental outcomes. It involves understanding and overcoming obstacles that hinder progress.
Community Mobilization:	This refers to engaging community members and groups to collectively identify community priorities, resources, needs, and solutions. The aim is to foster representative participation and inclusivity in decision-making.
Community Participation:	groups of individuals sharing common interests, expressing their problems and needs, and collectively taking action to address them. It involves collaboration between individuals, groups, organizations, and communities to improve living standards.
Development Planning:	At a macro level, development planning involves setting priorities and strategies to achieve growth and empowerment within a specific aspect or sector over a designated period. It focuses on enhancing various facets of a community's well-being and progress.
Involvement:	implies active participation in activities, discussions, or processes.

National Government:	The governing authority that controls a nation or country. It requires resources, a military, and the power to shape foreign policy and collect taxes.
Political Interference:	Refers to non-defensive actions taken by a nation, state, or other geopolitical entity to influence an economy or society either positively or negatively.
Public Participation:	Engaging stakeholders in decisions about policies, plans, or programs directly concerning their vested interests.
Service Delivery:	In this context, service delivery refers to the accessibility of necessities of community such as water, waste-management, education, healthcare, infrastructure, and security.
Stakeholders:	In this study, stakeholders are individuals or groups interested in the governance, decision-making, and development of a specific area. This includes residents, professional associations, community-based organizations, ratepayers, non-state actors, and others impacted by or involved in governance.
State Actors:	These refer to government officials or agencies legally obligated to facilitate public engagement in various aspects of decision-making. They play a role in fulfilling the responsibilities of governance and service provision.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1.Introduction

In this chapter, an exhaustive examination of available literature focused on various factors influencing women's participation in public activities. These factors were chosen to harmonize with the research inquiries introduced in the initial chapter. The factors encompassed community awareness, behavioral aspects, demographic attributes, and economic considerations.

2.2. Global Overview of Public Participation in Brief

Reports have consistently highlighted the sluggish progress and limited achievements in women's rights within politics and decision-making. This trend is evident in the national and local legislative bodies, where notable advancements have been elusive (Women in Politics, 2021). This lack of substantial progress poses challenges in effectively implementing policies and decisions to promote women's advancement in key spheres such as parliament, senior roles within the public sector, and local governance. These constraints create barriers to enforcing initiatives geared toward women's participation and leadership.

It is crucial to acknowledge that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a seminal document, underscores the urgency of women's empowerment and their equality of engagement across all sectors of society, especially within the decision-making processes and positions of influence. The United Nations (2015) emphasizes that women's active involvement and access to positions of power are not only pivotal for achieving gender equality but are also foundational elements for fostering overall development and peace. This declaration articulates the significance of ensuring women's

comprehensive engagement to drive progress, establish equality, and foster societal harmony.

Reports consistently demonstrate that despite the global push towards democratization, women continue to experience significant under representation across various sectors, including politics and decision-making. This disparity is noticeable at the national and local levels, illustrating limited progress in achieving gender parity in legislatures (UN Women, 2021). This lack of substantial progress presents challenges in implementing policies to advance women's representation in legislature, top government positions, and community-level governance. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of the United Nations (2015) emphasizes women's empowerment and equal engagement in decision-making, as these are foundational for realizing equality, growth, and harmony.

Various factors, including religious, socio-cultural, and economic dimensions, hinder women's meaningful participation in decision-making. These multifaceted challenges impede women's participation in constitutional development, politics, and effective decision-making. While conscious efforts have been made to enhance women's visibility in governance, the outcomes have fallen short of the expectations of the Beijing Declaration of 1995. For instance, women's representation in legislative bodies is less than 25.5%, and they are still notably underrepresented in executive roles (UN Women, 2021). The recent trend of women occupying key profiles in traditionally male-dominated areas like national security, defense, finance, revenue, and foreign relations reflects a limited positive change.

Africa's complex landscape comprises 54 countries, numerous ethnic groups, diverse cultures, and languages, with a significant youth population. Nevertheless, despite its cultural and natural wealth, Africa is still the world's most impoverished and least

developed continent (Ghosh, 2019). Women, in particular, bear the brunt of poverty and are underrepresented in decision-making processes. Recognizing these challenges, the African Union (AU) has established the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) strategy that promotes an inclusive, multi-sectoral approach. This strategy endeavors to tackle gender-related obstacles that impede parity and empower women to engage comprehensively in economic pursuits, political engagement, and societal initiatives (AU, 2023). The AU's GEWE strategy consists of four pillars, each targeting specific areas of improvement. Through judicious use of resources and top-notch instruction, pillar 1 maximizes potential and technological dividends. Ending violence against women and girls is emphasized in Pillar 2, which also focuses on ensuring their safety and empowerment. Pillar 4 focuses on leadership, voice, and visibility, calling for equal representation of women in all decision-making spheres, whereas Pillar 3 emphasizes the significance of effective laws, regulations, and institutions to defend women's rights (AU, 2023).

Despite the AU's best intentions, gender disparities still exist. The African Union's Constitutive Act promotes human and people's rights. However, many African countries violate and abuse women's human rights (Mutna, 2013). Despite certain countries' advances through gender quotas and legislative improvements, gender imbalances in women's visibility in decision-making continue to exist throughout the continent (Ilesanmi, 2018). Women's underrepresentation in government is reinforced by cultural conventions, stereotypes, and ideologies that fail to consider the differences between the males and females (Wedan & Sanyare, 2017).

Public participation holds a crucial place in the Constitution of Kenya (2010), signifying its utmost significance. Efforts have been made to ensure women's representation in

leadership, with Article 27 protecting gender balance in elective and appointive bodies. Despite progress, challenges such as family responsibilities, violence, and lack of confidence, limited awareness of leadership positions, resource constraints, and cultural norms persistently hinder women's participation in leadership roles. Initiatives like gender quotas have yielded positive results in some African countries, increasing women's representation in decision-making. Nonetheless, obstacles and differences in the visibility of women persist.

Kenya's experience with devolution and public participation has been mixed. Different counties vary in their approaches to fostering public participation, civic education, and engagement with civil society. While some counties have made strides in establishing enabling environments for informed and engaged citizens, challenges like inadequate funding for civic education persist. Therefore, fostering citizen ownership of governance processes is essential, with citizen interest groups playing a crucial role in contributing financial resources and driving development agendas.

In conclusion, despite efforts to enhance the representation of women in positions of authority, persistent gender gaps remain. Although obstacles like cultural traditions and gender insensitivity persist, The AU's GEWE strategy is a step in the right direction. The constitution and history of devolution in Kenya highlights the challenges of advancing women's representation at policymaking table. We must maintain our efforts over time to close these inequalities and guarantee women's equal representation and involvement in all areas of society.

2.3 Community Awareness and Public Participation.

The Constitution of Kenya in 2010 explicitly grants citizens the right to engage in public participation at various levels. According to the World Bank (2022), understanding rights, roles, and responsibilities is crucial for citizen participation to be effective. Community awareness and participation are pathways that enable stakeholders to gain influence over development endeavors, choices, and resources that have an impact on their daily lives and ways of making a living. This approach is valuable for improving community well-being, offering training for local administration, and expanding government influence through self-driven initiatives.

Community awareness and participation emerged in the early 1970s as part of the community movement in developing nations. These aspects have subsequently become essential for the success of projects (Eyiah-Botwe, Aigbavboa, & Thwala, 2019). This approach emerged in response to the inadequacies of top-down methodologies in addressing issues like poverty and environmental degradation. As a result, the focus shifted from externally driven technical solutions for community-based development that acknowledge local knowledge and skills, thereby fostering participatory programs. (Kruse & El Khoury, 2022).

Community participation offers manifold benefits, including empowerment, capacity enhancement, heightened project effectiveness, shared project costs, and improved ownership (Eyiah-Botwe, Aigbavboa, & Thwala, 2016). The degree of participation can span from information dissemination and consultation to decision-making and initiating action. The success of this concept is particularly evident when Members of the community and community-based organizations play an instrumental role instead of mere involvement through surveys and meetings (Eyiah-Botwe, Aigbavboa, & Thwala,

2016). Community-based organizations serve as conduits for disseminating information, enabling informed decisions.

Mayne and Geißel (2018) accentuate a critical aspect of successful devolution: the political consciousness of citizens. In a thriving devolved governance system, citizens must be cognizant of their rights, responsibilities, and avenues for their exercise. Beneficiaries of development initiatives must possess clear insights into their roles and obligations to ensure effective implementation.

Devolution involves transferring authority from central authorities to local governments or community units to enhance governance proximity to the populace. However, successful devolution necessitates politically conscious and actively engaged citizens. Political consciousness involves comprehending societal, and political dynamics, understanding one's rights, and knowing how to engage in decision-making. When citizens are politically conscious, they can hold elected representatives and local authorities accountable. They are also more inclined to contribute to community development.

Development initiatives thrive when beneficiaries grasp their rights, roles, and responsibilities. When people understand their entitlements and roles in project success, they actively engage, cooperate, and take ownership, amplifying sustainability, and impact. In essence, political consciousness is pivotal for successful devolution and development initiatives. Informed citizens can hold local authorities accountable and contribute substantively to community progress. In certain regions, the legal mandate ensures the right to public participation. Capacity-building programs to enhance rural women's involvement in public participation often fall short, hindering meaningful

engagement between people and governments (UN Women, 2016). Inadequate training, skills, and access to information prevent effective participation, particularly in rural areas. Empowering women to partake in meaningful discussions on public participation issues is crucial. Community awareness plays a role in women's participation, as evidenced in this discussion. The study seeks to confirm or challenge this finding within Awendo Sub-County.

2.4 Demographic Factors and Public Participation.

Age, gender, and level of education all play significant roles in determining whether women participate actively in governance and community development. Age emerges as a multifaceted factor that influences women's public participation. Younger women may infuse decision-making processes with fresh perspectives and energy, often adept at utilizing modern communication tools for digital participation. Meanwhile, older women might contribute valuable insights garnered from their extensive experience, relying on more traditional modes of engagement such as community meetings and direct interactions. Gender, a paramount determinant, profoundly affects women's involvement in public participation. Long-standing societal norms and gender roles have historically imposed obstacles within the structure that hinder women's involvement in decision-making domains. Overcoming discrimination, stereotypes, and biases is pivotal in opening pathways for women to actively participate in shaping their communities. Developing gender-responsive policies and challenging entrenched gender-based prejudices is imperative for fostering an inclusive environment that empowers women to engage robustly.

Education emerges as a pivotal catalyst in determining the level of women's effective participation in decision-making and development planning. Education equips women

with enhanced communication skills, critical thinking capabilities, and a heightened awareness of their rights. Educated women are often more confident in articulating their opinions and advocating for their viewpoints. Moreover, education empowers women to grasp complex issues and contribute substantively to policy deliberations. Through a nuanced analysis, the study scrutinizes how these factors interconnect and collectively shape women's capacity to partake in decision-making processes. It may uncover the distinct hurdles that older women possessing limited formal education face compared to younger, educated counterparts. Gender norms and traditional roles could potentially undermine the assertiveness and self-assurance of women across both age groups.

The research's findings could illuminate strategies to enhance women's public participation within Awendo Sub County. Recommendations may encompass tailored interventions to address the unique barriers arising from age, gender, and education. Initiatives might encompass skill-building and capacity-enhancement programs that bolster the confidence and competence of women across all age brackets. Furthermore, the study might advocate for implementing gender-sensitive policies and creating safe and inclusive spaces favorable to women's meaningful engagement in decision-making and developing development plans. In essence, comprehending how age, gender, and education intricately intersect to mold women's involvement in public participation is pivotal for devising effective, all-encompassing strategies that empower women to wield active influence in shaping the trajectory of their communities.

2.4.1 Age and Public Participation

Young women's participation in aid initiatives is crucial. Thanks to their youthful inspiration, skillsets, and creativity, they may be powerful catalysts for any country's pursuit of excellence-driven goals. The potential of young women is an invaluable

resource that can change the course of history. The political, social, economic, and cultural conditions in a given area determine whether young women have the potential to engage in governance and participate in political decision-making. However, young women face discrimination worldwide because of long-standing social conventions that limit their leadership opportunities (UNDP & IPU, 2013). Compelling evidence indicates that young women's involvement in official and structured political procedures is still lower than their elder counterparts worldwide. This discouraging fact threatens the political system's credibility and keeps young women from voting (UNDP, 2013).

According to a survey covering 186 nations and performed by the Institute of Statistics, young women's lack of access to meaningful participation in decision-making is a major obstacle they must overcome. Young women often feel excluded and marginalized because they lack access to significant platforms and opportunities to engage in inclusive decision-making processes. While the survey highlights the difficulty, it does not explain why young women have fewer chances than older women. The need to fill this hole and foster more trust between young women and institutional frameworks necessitates the development of participatory mechanisms. Closing these voids is crucial to the study's findings.

2.4.2 Gender and Public Participation

Over the past decade, the ideas of participation and gender have played essential roles in emancipatory rhetoric and actions. Supporters of these ideas argue that they provide doors for historically underrepresented groups like women and people experiencing poverty (Kibukho, 2021). The systematic exclusion of women from the public arena of politics and development is evident when reading philosophical, political, and historical books. Famous philosophers and political theorists, including Thomas Hobbes, John

Locke, Hegel, Aristotle, Plato, and Rousseau, spread the idea that women should stay home and care for the children. These theories held that women were better suited to homemaking and child rearing tasks, making it improper for them to participate in political and economic spheres (Khelghat-Doost&Sibly, 2020).

Women's under representation in economic growth, political power, and public policy making is a universal and historical concern. Men have always held and exercised disproportionate power in positions of strategic authority (Asuako, 2020). Despite progress like universal suffrage, improved education and economic status for women, and ongoing endeavors to increase their engagement in public affairs, women are still inadequately represented in critical decision-making roles across the globe.

According to Mutwiri (2016), a thorough examination and modification of current constitutional, political, legal, and regulatory frameworks is required to emancipate women and ensure their participation in democratic processes. One example is electoral systems that uphold discriminatory laws against women in leadership roles.

Distinctive elements like religious and cultural norms, economic disempowerment, the inefficacy of affirmative action, male predominance in political authority, relatively lower education levels among women, their multifaceted roles within the family unit, their perspectives on governance, the absence of self-assurance, and the demands of time and energy from local-level duties are identified by Hesanic's (2018) research as Obstacles to women's engagement in governance within Africa. In support of this view, Makalanga (2022) argues that excluding women from positions of power locally has far-reaching consequences for gender inequality in economic and political spheres. This fact of history squares with the attitudes that have prevented women's chances of gaining political power at the community local level.

Because local government is closely linked to women's daily life and their frequent exclusion from national-level government decision-making, Orisadare (2019) argues that democratic decentralization is crucial for women. The hierarchical setup of local government within local social frameworks creates obstacles for women to establish their autonomy as individual political participants, despite the common belief that local government provides an accessible entry point for women into politics and a steppingstone to national politics. Goetz (2007) agrees with this view but believes that women's continued representation in government depends on the conditions under which they are granted that participation. According to Akbari (2013), mobilization and organization at different levels with equal gender representation must incorporate the inclusion of women in local bodies and fostering their dynamic involvement in both local and national decision-making.

Women need guidance on how to make federal, state, and regional governments more sensitive to and responsible for their concerns. From what has been said, it seems likely that this situation was exacerbated by women's lack of political power and their reluctance to express themselves in the presence of men. Within the context of Awendo Sub-County, this research hopes to investigate and, if possible, substantiate this assumption.

2.4.3 Education and Public Participation

Educated, intelligent, and forceful citizens often demand more involvement in government activities because they have less faith in politicians and political institutions. Calls for increased citizen participation beyond periodic elections are one manifestation of this mindset (three or four years). According to Mbithi (2018), a strong link exists between a population's education level and civic engagement. Citizens' knowledge of and

participation in government activities is often increased through educational opportunities. Kasyula (2019) looked at six Sub-Saharan nations to investigate how education levels correlate with citizens' involvement in local governments. The research found that public participation in budget planning increased alongside community and citizen education levels. Hassan (2019) makes a similar case, arguing that education favors citizen participation in municipal government.

Citizens' ability to advocate for a government of, by, and for the people is correlated with their degree of education, according to Ronoh (2019). Ronoh counters that low levels of education, especially in historically oppressed communities, impede the spread of knowledge and ultimately reduce voter turnout. Ronoh adds that people who serve voluntarily on county governments' planning and development boards tend to have higher levels of education. Education, knowledge, and citizen involvement are all interconnected, according to Hassan (2019). Individuals with higher levels of education tend to possess a greater capacity to elucidate policy matters during discussions within budgetary planning forums.

According to Cherop (2022), women's representation in public roles that necessitate technical abilities is bolstered when they have access to higher levels of education. A lack of confidence in one's ability to make meaningful contributions in venues such as budget participation is posited. According to Kioko's (2016) analysis of data from South Africa and the Dominican Republic, increased citizen participation in budgetary processes and other civic duties was associated with higher levels of education, better petition articulation skills, and an understanding of technical budgetary language. Cherop (2022) agrees with Kioko's results, pointing out that a more educated populace is more likely to care about and actively shape policies that influence their daily lives.

To solidify the democratic ideas of public engagement in government, higher levels of education are crucial (KHRC, 2022). As citizens take a more active role in government, there is a greater emphasis on finding ways to save money and time. Hassan (2019) argues that limited educational attainment within decentralized entities are inversely related to citizen engagement. According to Reyntjens (2020), a connection exists between the educational level of the Kenyan population and their degree of involvement in democratic processes, such as contributing to the formulation of a national budget. Similarly, education's role in shaping informed public involvement is highlighted in the KHRC (2022) study. According to the study, uneducated women are less likely to participate in civic activities like budget development since they have a harder time processing new information.

However, Mutwiri (2016) argues that the educated sheer presence at budgetary fora does not guarantee their active participation in policy discussions. However, as Ronoh (2019) points out, it is challenging to translate understanding into effective articulation when self-interest is divorced from the true desire for public engagement, even while education increases comprehension and the capacity to engage in budgeting planning. In the budgeting process, citizens often rely on individuals with advanced education and strong communication abilities to advocate for their interests (Michels, 2012). Attendance at public meetings on county development budgets is typically skewed toward affluent individuals with narrow agendas rather than the broader public at large (Reyntjens, 2020).

According to Grossi (2017), the goals of devolution and democratization are to increase people's agency in decision-making about government. To increase public participation, he suggests that decentralized entities should provide all community members with

access to education, not only citizens. According to Grossi, a causal relationship exists between one's education level and civic engagement.

2.5 Behavioral Factors and Public Participation

Individuals' attitudes and levels of trust towards the process are intricately intertwined within public engagement in development planning. Women's agency in determining the course of community development in Awendo Sub County, Migori County, is profoundly influenced by the complex interplay of attitude and trust. Attitude, a powerful psychological determinant, is a crucial pivot upon which women's participation hinges. A positive attitude towards public participation emerges from a sense of agency, where women believe their voices hold weight in decision-making. When women perceive themselves as influential contributors, their motivation to engage heightens. On the contrary, a negative attitude can sprout from past experiences of marginalization or tokenistic involvement. The seeds of women's active or passive participation are sown within the delicate balance of these attitudes.

Trust, an indispensable element of any participatory process, plays a symphonic role in shaping women's willingness to participate. Trust signifies the faith women place in the integrity of the process, the inclusivity of decision-makers, and the receptiveness of their inputs. When women trust that their opinions will be genuinely considered and can influence outcomes, they are more likely to embrace participation. However, low levels of trust can instill skepticism, leading to involvement reluctance, driven by the notion that their contributions might be disregarded. The historical narrative and collective memory of past participatory experiences leave an indelible mark on attitudes and trust. Exclusion can breed skepticism, while instances of genuine influence can sow the seeds of positive attitudes. Cultural norms and societal expectations can also cast shadows,

with deeply ingrained gender roles sometimes discouraging women's engagement. Challenging these norms requires a multi-faceted approach that fosters awareness, education, and empowerment to reshape attitudes and elevate trust.

A comprehensive strategy is necessary to fortify the foundation of public participation. Cultivating positive attitudes demands highlighting success stories where women's inputs catalyzed positive change. Moreover, making the decision-making process more understandable and clarifying the immediate effects of participation can kindle positive perceptions. Concurrently, building trust necessitates fostering transparency, ensuring fair representation, and demonstrating that participatory outcomes resonate in the development landscape.

In the tapestry of Awendo Sub County's development, attitudes and trust are threads that weave together to enrich or hinder women's participation. By nurturing positive attitudes and fostering trust, the landscape of development planning can be transformed into an inclusive domain where women's voices echo with influence. The journey towards sustainable development in Awendo Sub County demands an unwavering commitment to shaping these attitudes and trust dynamics to empower women as architects of change.

2.5.1 Attitude and Public Participation.

Undoubtedly, the nexus between public attitudes and women's participation in local government activities is a terrain of considerable scholarly consensus. A prevailing notion among scholars underscores the significant influence of attitudes towards government in shaping the extent of women's engagement in local governance endeavors (Cherop, 2022). In the evolving landscape where the government's influence resonates more extensively in citizens' lives, the scrutiny of public attitudes toward it emerges as a linchpin for the success of future governmental initiatives and reforms.

Embedded within this exploration of public participation is the concept of attitude as a pivotal component of social behavior, a sentiment underscored by Kioko's perspective (2018). Wielded as a precursor to behavioral change, attitude is a rudder guiding individuals' inclinations and choices. In essence, attitude should the potential to steer the trajectory of women's involvement in local government activities, forming a bridge between personal predispositions and collective engagement.

Within this paradigm, a constructive attitude becomes the key that unlocks the doors to active participation. When women positively perceive their capacity to influence change, their motivation to contribute soars. This outlook, shared by Netshimbo (2017), underscores that citizens are more inclined to participate when they perceive the government's endeavors as beneficial to their community's welfare, aligning interests and resources for mutual gain.

The equilibrium of this participation equation rests on the fulcrum of trust. Siala (2015) propounded that trust underpins citizens' willingness to engage. When trust in local government is firm, it underpins a sense of security and commitment among women to partake in governance activities. This dynamic trust, as in a symbiotic relationship, thrives when the perceived benefits of interaction with the government outweigh the perceived costs, fostering a conducive environment for mutual growth.

Challenges arise when dissonance surfaces between benefits and costs, as elucidated by Muhingi, Mavole, and Nzau (2021). The interplay of performance, trust, and citizens' satisfaction molds attitudes and influences participation levels. A positive assessment of government performance catalyzes a virtuous cycle, bolstering trust and encouraging

greater participation among women, a perspective echoed by Xin (2022). Conversely, a gap between perceived performance and benefits can erode trust and quell participation. To foster a vibrant culture of participation, public officials must turn their gaze toward citizen attitudes. The lessons are drawn from studies in Iran (Madubwe & Ivaro, 2018), the UK (Rajadesingan, Panda & Pal, 2020), and beyond, accentuating the pivotal role of transparent decision-making and meaningful outcomes. A tapestry of positive attitudes weaves the fabric of women's participation in local governance, empowering them as stakeholders and architects of change.

Women's involvement is a testament to the power of perception and trust in the intricate interplay between attitudes and participation. Within these attitudes, the potential for transformation is seeded, guiding the trajectory of women's engagement in local government activities, and ultimately shaping the contours of inclusive development.

2.6 Trust and Public Participation

Mulinge (2020), a prominent sociologist and political scientist, advances a compelling argument on the imperative role of organizations and institutions in nurturing trust, solidarity, and cooperation among their members. He underscores that trust forms the bedrock of individuals' inclination to accept and support decisions made by the State. He argues that individuals tend to engage in politics when they perceive potential personal benefits from their involvement.

Within the discourse of trust and participation, the scholarly landscape is marked by a chorus of voices advocating cultivating trust as a catalyst for robust public involvement in local governance. Konyango (2019) positions trust as the linchpin of all transactions, while Browning (2017) underscores its role in safeguarding our existential security.

However, the global trajectory paints a nuanced picture, with a notable decline in public trust in governments over the past decade across developed democracies such as the USA, Canada, and EU member states (Seimuskane & Vorslava, 2014). This erosion of trust poses a significant challenge that researchers and public administrators grapple with.

Mutwiri (2016) asserts that trust is the cornerstone of the authorities' legitimacy. Mulinge (2020) amplifies this notion by asserting that trust fosters a sense of willingness and preparedness among individuals to embrace and adhere to state decisions. However, the intricate interplay between trust and participation is not always linear. Zmerli (2011) discerns a complex and often weak link between the two, contingent on contextual factors specific to individual countries. Wang (2016) delves deeper, revealing a multi-dimensional relationship wherein trust burgeons when participation yields desired quality services and ethical conduct from public administrators. The role of ethical behavior emerges as a key pillar, with public officials' integrity and moral leadership fueling trust and facilitating participation.

The interdependence of trust is a bilateral affair, highlighted by Zhao's (2018) 'missing link' concept, emphasizing that trust should be reciprocal. Keshine (2016) artfully weaves the essence of trust as a relational notion, bridging the gap between individuals, organizations, and events. The trust that public officials extend to their citizens is equally consequential. It molds the foundation for the legitimacy of state action and bolsters citizens' confidence in the machinery of governance.

The nexus between trust, satisfaction, and attitudes further elucidates the complex dynamics. Beshi and Kaur (2022) expose the symbiotic relationship between citizens' satisfaction and trust in local authorities. A strong correlation emerges between citizens'

contentment and trust in these authorities. However, this interaction is not universally uniform, as regional nuances lead to varied outcomes in different local authorities. Keshine's (2016) contextual view of trust as inherently linked to both the object and subject of trust adds depth to the discourse.

Carreira, Machado, and Lia (2016) extrapolate these notions into policy formulation and implementation, asserting that governments must garner citizen trust to achieve effective governance. The tripartite dimensions of trust—cognitive, relational, and behavioral—unfold as cornerstones influencing decision-making. Alazmi and Alazmi (2023) explore the multifaceted facets of trust, ranging from competence to fulfilling fiduciary responsibilities, underscoring their role in shaping the degree of trust that citizens have in the government.

Uslaner and Brown (2016) draw attention to trust within the context of societal inequality. They discern a reciprocal relationship between trust and equality, positing that higher trust levels and greater equality pave the way for increased participation. Inequality can stifle participation by making the marginalized feel powerless and unheard. Uslaner and Brown further propose that economic equality underpins trust, fostering a shared sense of destiny among diverse segments of society.

A complex mosaic emerges in the intricate interplay of trust, participation, and governance. Trust becomes the adhesive that binds citizens and government, propelling participation and forging the path to inclusive and effective governance. As researchers and practitioners navigate this dynamic terrain, they unlock mutual growth and development potential by nurturing trust, reinforcing ethical behavior, and establishing participatory avenues.

2.7 Financial resources and public participation.

The influence of income levels and financial literacy on women's public participation in development planning processes is a complex and significant topic. Income levels can impact women's ability to engage in civic activities, as those with higher incomes may have better access to resources for participation. However, lower-income individuals can also be committed to community development. Financial literacy, the knowledge to manage finances and understand economic principles, plays a crucial role in women's participation. Financially literate women can better contribute to resource allocation and development priorities discussions. The connection between income, financial literacy, and participation highlights the need for targeted efforts to empower women. Local factors shape this relationship in the Awendo Sub County, Migori County context. Customized strategies are important to enhance economic empowerment and financial literacy among women, enabling them to actively participate in shaping their community's development.

2.7.1 Income levels and public participation

One's financial status has traditionally played a pivotal role in determining one's value in conventional societies. Personal income is a key indicator of economic status and a measurement of the amount to which regular people are involved in development programs. As defined by Schmalbeck (2010), personal income encapsulates the market value of consumption rights and changes in property rights over a given period. Procházka (2009) echoes this sentiment, defining individual income as the maximum value one can consume while maintaining their initial well-being.

The Calvert-Henderson Income Indicator highlights the significance of changes in household income as an indication of rising or falling living conditions. This metric

looks at how changes in hourly earnings have affected the income levels and distribution of families in the United States since 1947. Changing wealth distributions are examined with the rising income gap that has persisted since 1973. The Income Indicator is a fascinating tool for analyzing the economy's success in improving people's living standards throughout the '90s economic boom.

Mading's findings (2013) unearth a significant concern, highlighting that the participation of marginalized and impoverished individuals in rural development has not experienced substantial improvement. Instead, intermediaries and opportunists have garnered more access to these projects, reaping their rewards. This scenario underscores a common belief that legal safeguards are the only means by which the interests of the marginalized individuals can be protected within an unjust societal framework.

Quick and Bryson (2016) propose that just as economic participation occurs in the marketplace, political and civic engagement can be seen as modes of participation. They draw parallels between economic participation and political and civic engagement, highlighting the importance of both. According to this theory, people's willingness to work and engage in economic activity responds to their financial situation.

In politics, there is a correlation between wealth and involvement. Kioko (2018) presents an intriguing angle by suggesting that political engagement, like a hobby, might yield intrinsic pleasure. Kioko (2018) further posits that society's affluent and educated strata are more active in public participation. This is attributed to their deeper understanding and appreciation of political and social dynamics. The wealthier segments are often more vested in government affairs and possess the knowledge and motivation to voice their concerns effectively.

Mutwiri (2016) aligns with this notion and expands on it by contending that members of higher socioeconomic backgrounds frequently dominate participation forums and committees. The scarcity of participation among low-income groups is underscored by scholars such as Feng et al. (2020), who argue that involving such individuals in civic activities is challenging due to their primary focus on providing necessities for their families, leaving little time for meetings. Although income level undeniably influences an individual's engagement in decision-making processes, the situation is multifaceted. Other factors, including the local context and the awareness of avenues for engagement, also influence the level of participation. This study aspires to corroborate these dynamics within the context of Awendo Sub-County, Migori County.

2.8 Theoretical Framework

The research study will adopt the Effective Community Participation Model originally proposed by Callahan (2007). This model aligns with a participatory and humanistic approach, challenging the conventional modernization paradigm perpetuating a development approach characterized by top-down decision-making, ethnocentrism, and a paternalistic perspective. Callahan and colleagues argued against the modernization paradigm, asserting that it endorsed a development vision rooted in Western notions of progress (Waishbord, 2001). The Effective Community Participation Model addresses these shortcomings and provides a more inclusive framework for development initiatives.

The model will be formulated using the categories and themes that emerge from the verbal and written responses provided by the study participants. The identification and interrelation of these categories and themes will be achieved through an extensive process of qualitative data analysis. The central idea behind the Effective Community

Participation Model is to place project beneficiaries and facilitators on an equal footing. The community is involved in the project from the very beginning, when an idea is first conceived and continues throughout the project's lifecycle, encompassing successes and setbacks. This iterative process ensures that lessons learned from each phase are integrated into future planning.

The study's central hypothesis posits that community participation in development projects can be effective when local individuals are involved across all four stages of the model: Initial Engagement and Planning (IEP), Implementation and Coordination (ICM), Ownership, and Feedback. Each stage comprises elements derived from the participants' perspectives, opinions, and insights. While different stages demarcate these elements, they often exhibit interconnectedness and mutual influence in practice. For instance, seeking input from local stakeholders is relevant during the IEP and Feedback stages. Similarly, identifying a knowledgeable resource person during the ICM stage may necessitate consultation with the community.

Overall, the Effective Community Participation Model encourages people to take part in the outcomes of the model's defined phases. By allowing individuals meaningful participation throughout these stages, the model strives to foster an environment conducive to effective community engagement in development projects. This approach acknowledges the dynamic interplay between the stages and elements, thus providing a holistic and comprehensive understanding of how community participation can be maximized.

2.9 Conceptual Framework

Figure 2.1 serves as the conceptual framework employed for this analysis. It visually demonstrates the interconnected relationships between the different components under scrutiny in the study.

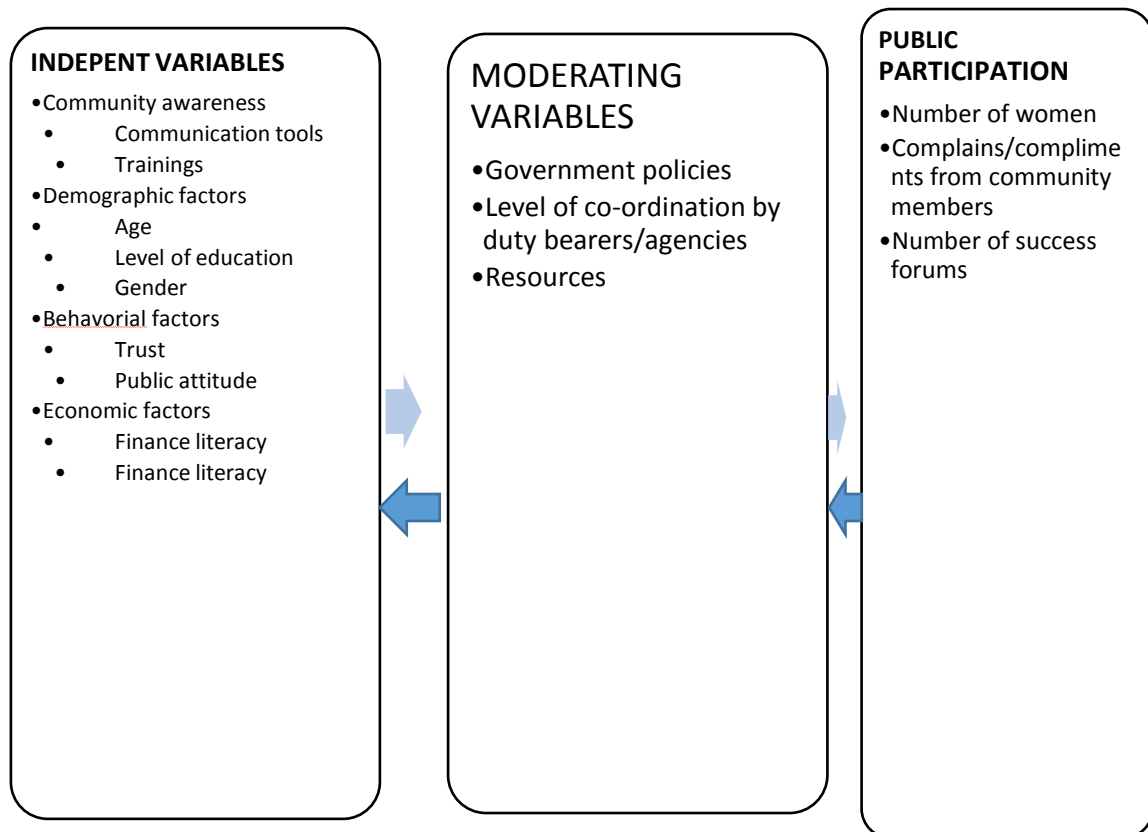


Figure 1: *A Conceptual Framework*

Source: Cathe Callahan [2007]

The conceptual framework presented in this study guides the exploration of factors that either empower or constrain women's agency in shaping their community's developmental trajectory. The independent variables at its core—community awareness, demographic factors, behavioral tendencies, and economic circumstances—form the foundational blocks that constitute the mosaic of factors driving women's active

engagement. The level of community awareness intricately weaves the fabric of knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions that influence women's participation. Concurrently, demographic factors unfurl as threads of diversity, reflecting the various dimensions of age, education, marital status, occupation, and household composition that color women's roles in development planning. Behavioral factors, a realm of intricate human action and intention, underpin the participation narrative, encompassing the willingness, drive, and role perception that define women's contributions. Finally, the economic dimension, characterized by access to resources and financial empowerment, lends depth to the framework, accounting for the reality of women's agency being intertwined with their economic standing.

However, this framework acknowledges the subtlety of its construction—a recognition that the impact of these independent variables is not absolute but is shaded by the moderating forces that shape their influence. Government policy emerges as a conductor of change, a catalyst that can catalyze women's participation through supportive legislation or stifle their voices through neglect. The level of coordination, resembling an intricate ballet, orchestrates the harmony between stakeholders, determining whether women's participation finds resonance in a collaborative symphony or is stifled by discord. Moreover, the availability of resources, as varied as the colors on an artist's palette, can fuel the fire of women's involvement or extinguish it through lack of opportunity.

At the nexus of this intricate network resides the dependent variable—women's public participation in development planning processes. It is the essence around which the study orbits, embodying the desired outcome of an empowered and engaged female demographic actively shaping the developmental contours of Awendo Sub County.

By forging these linkages, this conceptual framework heralds a journey—exploring how the dance of variables intertwines to shape women's engagement. It aspires to illuminate the myriad ways in which community dynamics, individual attributes, and external factors conspire to determine the extent of women's involvement. As the study embarks on this odyssey, it seeks to decipher the whispers of the variables, unveil the stories they tell, and craft a narrative that echoes the importance of gender-inclusive development for Awendo Sub County.

2.10 Summary of the Literature Review and Research Gaps

This chapter presents the results of an extensive literature review on factors influencing women's public participation in the development planning process. This research aimed to understand better why women are not more involved in formulating plans. There were several primary goals for this study. First, researchers wanted to see how much increased public consciousness may affect women's involvement in development planning. This factor aimed to learn if women's involvement in development planning is influenced by their knowledge of their rights, responsibilities, and possibilities for participation. The study's authors wanted to understand better the role that community education and information dissemination play in encouraging women to take an active role in determining the future of their communities by examining this aspect.

Second, demographic characteristics affecting women's involvement in development planning were examined. This included thoroughly examining the potential effects of age, education level, and gender dynamics on women's openness to and competence in making decisions. The study's demographic components were analyzed to provide insight into any trends or patterns explaining why particular subsets of women are more or less likely to participate.

The possible impact of behavioral factors on women's involvement in development planning was another key aspect investigated in the literature study. In this area, we examined how women and their communities view and approach decision-making and how those views may encourage or discourage women's participation. This research set out to identify structural barriers that prevent women from actively engaging in development planning at the strategic level.

The study also explored the role of economic considerations in encouraging women to participate in development planning. This research aimed to determine whether women's access to economic possibilities or constraints in the Awendo Sub County environment significantly impacted their ability to participate in decision-making processes. The goal of this metric was to shine an emphasis on the need for economic independence for women to have an active role in community decision-making.

The study's overarching goal was to illuminate the complex elements impacting women's engagement in development planning within Awendo Sub County through an in-depth examination of four crucial dimensions. The studies were conducted from a feminist point of view to hear women's perspectives better and get insight into the obstacles and openings that influence their participation in these crucial processes. This literature study prepares the way for an empirical inquiry, which will allow for a comprehensive and in-depth examination of the dynamics of women's public engagement in the development planning of Awendo Sub County.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter comprehensively details the research methodology employed to conduct the study. The chapter elaborates on the procedures, techniques, and tools to gather and analyze the necessary data. The chapter outlines the research methodology and provides a clear roadmap for how the study was designed and executed, ensuring transparency and replicability in the research process.

3.2 Research Design

The research design selected for this study was a cross-sectional study design. In a cross-sectional survey, data is collected from a specific population all at once to understand and draw conclusions about different characteristics or variables. For this study, the data collection concentrated on evaluating the involvement of women in the development planning processes within Awendo sub-county.

The cross-sectional survey is often likened to taking a snapshot of the population at a particular moment, providing a snapshot of the prevailing conditions, behaviors, attitudes, or characteristics. It is important to note that cross-sectional surveys can be conducted as standalone or repeated periodically to track changes or trends over time. However, in the case of a repeated cross-sectional survey, the same individuals from the initial survey are not intentionally sampled again for subsequent surveys.

As elucidated by Mohajan (2020), the primary purpose of descriptive studies, like the cross-sectional design used here, is to provide information and insights into the natural behaviors, attitudes, or characteristics of specific individuals or groups. In essence, these

studies aim to describe the existing state of affairs in relation to the variables or conditions under investigation.

Adopting a cross-sectional survey design aligns with the study's goal to collect, summarize, present, and interpret data to understand the level of women's participation in development planning processes within the Awendo sub-county. Hall (2020) highlights research design as a structured arrangement of conditions aimed at facilitating data collection and analysis. In this case, the cross-sectional design was chosen to suit the study's objectives, allowing the researcher to collect pertinent information and present it to facilitate clarification and interpretation.

Speklé and Widener (2018) emphasize that in a cross-sectional design, researchers do not exert control over variables but rather focus on reporting the observed phenomena. This approach was aptly applied in this study, where the researcher sought to uncover and explain variables beyond direct control, aiming to elucidate the factors influencing women's participation in development planning processes.

In conclusion, the cross-sectional survey design was well-suited to this research, enabling the collection of information about the prevailing state of women's participation in development planning processes. By adopting this design, the study aimed to generate new insights directly from the respondents and provide a comprehensive understanding of the factors in the Awendo sub-county.

3.3 Study Area

The study was carried out in Awendo Sub County, which is situated in Migori County, located in the Southwestern region of Kenya. Migori County is known for its varied

population and covers an area of 262 km². As per data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) in 2009, the county had a population of around 108,913 people.

Awendo Sub County, the focus of this study, is divided into four distinct wards: North Sakwa, Central Sakwa South Sakwa, and West Sakwa. These wards collectively constitute the administrative subdivisions within the sub-county. This spatial distribution is illustrated in Figure 3.2, which visually depicts the geographic layout of the sub-county's four wards.

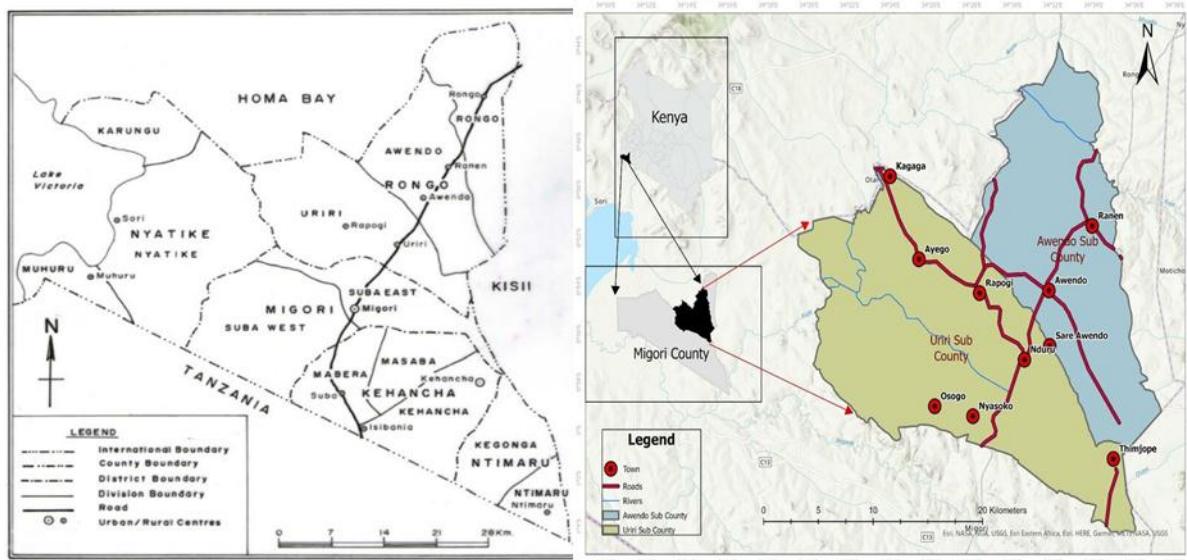


Figure 3.2: Map showing Migori County and Awendo sub-county.

Awendo Sub County is predominantly inhabited by the Luo community, constituting around 90% of the sub-county's population. This demographic composition reflects the cultural and social fabric of the area, with the Luo community serving as the primary ethnic group shaping the local identity. Agriculture serves as the primary driving force behind the economy of the sub-county, representing the main source of livelihood for the community. The fertile lands and suitable climate have facilitated agricultural activities that sustain the residents.

Although the Luo community forms the majority, Awendo Sub County is not exclusively inhabited by this group. Other communities, such as Indians, Luhyas, Somalis, and Kisiis, also contribute to the demographic tapestry of the sub-county. These communities are engaged in various capacities, including business ventures and employment opportunities, contributing to the area's overall economic and social dynamics.

A significant factor that contributes to the area's development and connectivity is its relatively well-developed road network. This road network connects Awendo Sub County to the surrounding areas of Migori County, essential for the movement of agricultural goods and commerce. A well-developed road system is essential to smoothly running businesses and distributing goods and services.

However, data from the Economic Planning Department shows that in Awendo Sub County, especially compared to the rest of Migori County, women's involvement in public participation forums has been quite low. This pattern underscores the necessity for further research to investigate the underlying reasons for women's limited involvement in these crucial public engagement settings. Given the significant role of public participation in democratic decision-making processes and community development, it is imperative to understand the reasons behind the limited engagement of women in Awendo Sub County. This study aims to delve into these factors, examining the potential challenges and barriers that hinder women's active involvement in public participation forums, despite the relatively conducive environment and opportunities within the sub-county.

The selection of Awendo Sub County as the study area is strategic, as it provides a microcosm for investigating the factors influencing women's participation in development planning processes. The unique characteristics and demographics of the

sub-county offer valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities women encounter in engaging with such processes. By focusing on a specific sub-county within Migori County, the study can narrow its scope and delve deeply into the local dynamics that impact women's participation. The geographical context of Awendo Sub County, along with its distinct wards, serves as a pertinent backdrop for the research and facilitates a more nuanced understanding of the factors at play.

3.4 Target Population

The total population of Awendo Sub-County, which amounts to 108,000 individuals, provides the context within which the study is conducted. However, for this research, the study population was narrowed to focus specifically on women in the study area. This targeted population consists of 57,724 women, the primary subjects of interest in the study.

As Gall, Borg, and Gall (2018) emphasized, establishing a clear target population is a foundational step in research. It enables researchers to define their study's scope and select participants relevant to the research objectives. This approach helps ensure the validity and reliability of the study's findings by focusing on a specific group that holds relevance to the research questions. By delineating the study population to women within the four wards of Awendo Sub County, the research aims to obtain a focused and meaningful understanding of the factors influencing women's participation in development planning processes. This population selection facilitates determining which cases are eligible for inclusion in the study and align with the research objectives.

3.5 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

Using a formula devised by Krejcie and Morgan (1970), 382 participants were included in the study. The formula states:

Formula for determining sample size

$$s = X^2 NP(1 - P) + d^2(N - 1) + X^2 P(1 - P)$$

s = required sample size.

X^2 = the table value of chi-square for 1 degree of freedom at the desired confidence level (3.841).

N = the population size.

P = the population proportion (assumed to be .50 since this would provide the maximum sample size).

d = the degree of accuracy expressed as a proportion (.05).

Source: Krejcie & Morgan, 1970

The formula yields a sample size of 382 participants, which was deemed sufficient to represent the population of interest in the study.

Researchers used a simple random sampling method to guarantee that the study's sample was objective and representative. This method ensures that every member of the target population has a fair shot at making it into the sample. This method reduces the impact of any possible selection bias and improves the study's capacity to generalize its findings to the population at large.

3.6 Research Instruments

This study utilized a mix of research tools, encompassing questionnaires and interview schedules, to collect data and offer insights into the research questions. A total of 354 questionnaires and 28 interview schedules were utilized to collect information from

participants, aiming to comprehensively understand the factors influencing women's public participation in the development planning process in Awendo Sub County. The instruments were carefully designed to address the research objectives and capture quantitative and qualitative data.

3.6.1 The Questionnaire

The primary selection of the questionnaire as the primary research instrument stems from its advantageous attributes of efficiency in terms of time and energy during administration, coupled with respondent anonymity. Consequently, concerns regarding the potential victimization of participants are alleviated while facilitating enhanced comparability due to the predominantly closed-ended questions in this study. The employed methodology encompassed a meticulously structured questionnaire, ensuring uniformity in question formulation, wording, and sequence across all respondents. This uniformity in questionnaire design engenders standardized responses, enabling robust comparative analyses across datasets and mitigating inconsistencies. Moreover, the adopted questionnaire format ensures methodological consistency and is economically viable for implementation across the expansive research domain. In the questionnaire, the questions were skillfully structured according to the Likert scale format, utilizing a scale of 1 to 5, which corresponds to levels of agreement: "Strongly Disagree," "Disagree," "Neutral," "Agree," and "Strongly Agree."

3.6.2 Interview Guide

As elucidated by Coleman in 2019, the interview is a pivotal technique for collecting qualitative data, entailing direct verbal interaction between the researcher and the participants. This method involves a structured series of inquiries, often supplemented by open-ended questions encouraging respondents to delve deeper into their responses,

yielding additional insights. The deliberate design of this approach serves the dual purpose of allowing participants to elaborate on their answers and enabling researchers to delve further into the specifics of the issues under investigation, all while remaining focused on the relevant subjects of inquiry.

In the present context, the researcher opted for interviews to extract nuanced and comprehensive data, drawing directly from the participants' language and expressions. Such an approach facilitates the revelation of intricate aspects like emotions, motivations, and meanings that might be obscured through other data collection methods. This study embraced the interview method due to its inherent flexibility, which accommodates the dynamic nature of interactions between the researcher and the participants, wherein roles and perspectives can evolve throughout the study.

A total of twenty-eight women were engaged in interviews for this study. This group encompassed four women ward representatives, four chiefs/assistant chiefs, and twenty women church leaders, all hailing from the four distinct wards within Awendo Sub-County. This strategic selection of interviewees reflects a diverse cross-section of the community, thus enriching the data collection process and fostering a comprehensive understanding of the research area.

3.7 Validation of the Research Instrument

In anticipation of the primary data collection phase, the researcher undertook a pilot study to perform a preliminary assessment of the research tools. This step was executed immediately prior to the commencement of actual data gathering. The primary purpose of the pilot study was to unveil any potential limitations within the design of the

proposed research, thereby enabling necessary adjustments and refinements before the formal study was executed.

The research instrument's validity was paramount; a comparison was drawn between the instrument's content and the research objectives to achieve this. If the content aligns with the research objectives, the validity of the research instrument is upheld. To establish this alignment, the researcher sought the expertise of a supervisor, who examined the questionnaire items and identified those that necessitated rephrasing or removal from the study. This expert input enhanced the research instrument's alignment with its intended purpose.

Consequently, a pilot study was conducted to perform a trial run of the research instrument before the data collection process commenced. The main aim of this pilot test was to detect any potential ambiguities in the research instrument, facilitating their resolution before the commencement of formal data gathering. The same instrument was employed together data from respondents who were part of the sample under consideration to ensure the pilot study's utility in determining the research instrument's suitability. This approach facilitated meticulous scrutiny of the questionnaire, unveiling any duplicated questions or unclear phrasings. The insights derived from this pilot exercise served as an essential checkpoint before the ultimate revised version of the questionnaire was administered to the targeted respondents.

3.8 Reliability of the Instrument

To ensure the questionnaire's consistency and reliability, a thorough testing procedure was conducted. The study employed a method known as the test-retest technique to gauge reliability. This technique involved administering the same set of questions to the

study participants on two separate instances, with a gap of three weeks between the administrations. The data collected during these two instances were then carefully examined to assess whether they exhibited high similarity and consistency.

Reliability was evaluated by comparing the information gathered from respondents during the two test-retest sessions. If the responses demonstrated a significant resemblance and alignment with the previous set of results, the research instrument exhibited a dependable level of consistency. To quantitatively measure this consistency, Pearson's product-moment correlation formula was utilized. This formula yielded a correlation coefficient ("r") that indicated the intensity and direction of the connection between the two sets of scores.

In line with established guidelines (as referenced by Mugenda and Mugenda in 2003), a correlation coefficient of 0.70 or higher indicated a substantial level of reliability in the data. A coefficient of this magnitude was an indicator of the consistency between the responses obtained from the two instances of questionnaire administration. This methodology served as a critical step in affirming the questionnaire's reliability, adding a layer of robustness to the gathered data and bolstering the overall quality of the research outcomes.

3.9 Data Collection Procedure

Before embarking on the data collection process involving the sample population, a meticulous set of preparatory steps was undertaken to ensure ethical and procedural integrity. The researcher diligently acquired a formal introductory letter from the Rongo University Postgraduate Studies Department, signifying institutional support and affiliation. Additionally, an authorization letter was secured from the National Council of

Science and Technology, further affirming the study's compliance with established ethical and regulatory standards. Subsequently, the necessary clearances for the research endeavor were obtained from the County Commissioner's Office and the County Director of Planning within Migori County.

To facilitate the collection of the desired information, a combination of questionnaires and interview schedules was employed as data-gathering tools. These instruments were meticulously designed to elicit relevant insights from the participants. The principal investigator and a research assistant administered the questionnaires and interview schedules to the respondents. Detailed instructions were provided to the participants to ensure a uniform approach to data completion.

A conscientious effort was made to engender mutual understanding between the researcher and the participants. This was achieved by preemptively communicating the research's purpose and logistics to the respondents. Accompanying the questionnaires with explanatory letters further reinforced the intended objective of the study, thereby fostering a cooperative engagement with the research process.

Within the data collection phase, 354 women participated by completing the questionnaires in alignment with the proportional distribution among different wards. Additionally, 28 key respondents, including ward women representatives, administrators, and church leaders, contributed to the research through structured interviews. Participants were provided with sufficient time to interact with the questionnaires and interview schedules to ensure the credibility and depth of responses. During this process, efforts were made to thoroughly explain the research objectives to the respondents, and any queries or uncertainties were addressed through comprehensive clarifications.

Interview sessions with the women representatives, chiefs, and church leaders were conducted with an average duration of approximately 20 minutes each, allowing for meaningful insights to be gathered while respecting their time constraints. Once the data collection phase was completed, the duly filled instruments were collected for subsequent data analysis. An atmosphere of trust and openness was fostered by assuring the participants that their responses would be kept anonymous and confidential.

3.10 Data Analysis

The analysis of the collected data followed a dual approach, with quantitative analysis applied to the questionnaire data and qualitative analysis utilized for the interview data. The researcher opted for IBM SPSS Statistics V22.0 software to handle the extensive volume of quantitative data. This choice was driven by SPSS's capacity to accommodate large datasets and its comprehensive array of statistical procedures, rendering it an efficient tool for analysis.

Quantitative findings were discussed using frequencies and percentages, enabling a comprehensive overview of the outcomes. The presentation of data was facilitated through various visual aids such as tables, pie charts, and bar graphs. To enable the computation of descriptive variables, numerical values were assigned to the responses of the quantitative questionnaire items. The data were then analyzed to generate descriptive statistics and frequency distributions. These results were subsequently organized into tables and figures to communicate the study findings effectively.

Qualitative data derived from interviews and open-ended questionnaire responses underwent a distinct analytical process. The first step involved meticulously transcribing the interviews and rendering the open-ended responses in a detailed written format. This

facilitated a comprehensive review of the textual data. Subsequently, a coding process was employed per the methodology outlined by Robson in 2002. Codes were generated based on emergent themes from the existing literature and recurring patterns observed in the data collected during the fieldwork.

The coding process allowed for identifying key themes and patterns in the qualitative data, thereby extracting meaningful insights and interpretations. The codes were tools to categorize and organize the textual content, facilitating subsequent analysis and interpretation. This rigorous qualitative analysis ensured a deep exploration of the rich insights from the interviews and open-ended questionnaire responses, contributing to a holistic understanding of the focus of the study.

3.11 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations are paramount to ensuring that the research is conducted with integrity, objectivity and protecting participants' privacy and rights. In line with these ethical principles, the researcher in this study undertook several steps to uphold the rights and confidentiality of the participants. The research began with acquiring an introduction letter from Rongo University and an authorization letter from the National Council of Science and Technology, signifying adherence to institutional and regulatory standards. The study's purpose was communicated to all participants through an information sheet to maintain transparency. This document detailed the researcher's role, the study's activities, and the collected data's intended use.

Informed consent from the participants was sought, ensuring they were fully aware of their involvement in the study and its implications. Measures were put in place to safeguard the confidentiality and security of the data. Physical copies of information

were securely stored under lock and key, while passwords protected digital copies. The researcher maintained confidentiality by refraining from disclosing any shared information to other institution members. To ensure anonymity, pseudonyms were employed, preventing participants and schools from being identified by name in the research report.

The study adhered to the criteria of Nowell (2017) and Creswell (2013) to establish trustworthiness in the research findings. The notion of credibility, transferability, dependability, and conformability was addressed through meticulous planning and rigorous standards at every stage of the research process. Techniques such as prolonged engagement, persistent observation, and triangulation were utilized to enhance the validity of the findings. Reflective journals were maintained, contributing to the transparency and accountability of the procedures in this study.

The principal investigator collaborated closely with the University adviser throughout the research journey to maintain high credibility, accuracy, and adherence to ethical standards. This collaborative approach helped ensure the study's design, execution, and reporting aligned with established ethical principles and rigorous research methodologies.

CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION, AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter unveils the outcomes of the study. The findings are structured in alignment with the study objectives. The chapter commences with an overview of the questionnaire responses, followed by an account of the participants' characteristics. Subsequently, the results are presented, explained, and examined for each research objective.

4.2 Questionnaire Return Rate

The study sought to ascertain the questionnaire response rate, a crucial metric that indicates the extent to which the collected data can be deemed suitable for generating reliable and meaningful analyses. By evaluating the proportion of participants who actively engaged in the research activities, assessed the representativeness and robustness of the collected data, thereby determining its potential for yielding accurate and insightful findings. The Questionnaire Return Rate is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: *Questionnaire Return Rate*

	Questionnaires Administered	Questionnaires filled & returned	Percentage
Respondents	382	279	73.04

Out of 382 copies of the distributed questionnaire, 279 were filled and returned, resulting in a response rate of 73.04%. This response rate was considered satisfactory, as it reflected a substantial portion of the targeted population, thus rendering the collected data sufficiently representative. Drawing upon the insights of Mugenda and Mugenda (2018), who established response rate benchmarks, the obtained response rate exceeded

the threshold for excellence. According to their categorization, a response rate of 50% is deemed adequate for analysis and reporting, 60% is considered good, and a rate surpassing 70% is characterized as excellent. Given that the study achieved a response rate of 73.04%, it surpassed the criteria for excellence in participant engagement. This level of participation underscores the robustness of the collected data and lends confidence to the study's ability to draw meaningful and reliable conclusions.

4.3 Respondents' Demographic Information

The study aimed to investigate the demographic characteristics of the respondents who took part in the survey. This data was considered essential to determine whether the respondents constituted a representative sample of the target population, thereby allowing for the generalization of the study outcomes. An inquiry was made to ascertain the highest level of education completed by the respondents. The outcomes detailing the participants' educational accomplishments are presented in Table 2 as follows:

Table 2: *Level of Education*

Level of Education	Frequency	Percent
KCPE	57	20.43%
KCSE	95	34.05%
College Diploma	75	26.88%
Bachelors' Degree	47	16.84%
Masters	5	1.80%
PhD	0	0.00%
Total	279	100%

The analysis of the findings revealed a diverse distribution of educational achievements among the respondents. Notably, 34.05% of the participants reported that their highest

level of education was the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE), while 26.88% indicated that they held a College Diploma. Additionally, 20.43% of the respondents had completed their education up to the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) level. A proportion of 16.84% had obtained a bachelor's degree, while a smaller percentage of 1.80% had achieved a master's degree. Notably, none of the respondents indicated having attained a Ph.D. as their highest level of education.

These findings collectively indicate that the respondents in Awendo Sub County exhibit a range of educational attainments. While a significant portion have completed secondary education (KCSE) and hold college diplomas, there is also representation from the KCPE level and higher education, such as bachelor's and master's degrees. The absence of respondents indicating a Ph.D. suggests that the study population does not comprise individuals with this advanced level of academic achievement. In summation, the outcomes highlight a moderate level of education among the respondents in Awendo Sub County, capturing a diversity of educational backgrounds.

The research also aimed to ascertain the age categories of the respondents, a significant indicator of one's knowledge and life experiences. In this study, age is a crucial factor that can shed light on the factors influencing the extent of women's involvement in the development planning process within Awendo Sub County of Migori County. By understanding the age distribution of the respondents, the study can gain valuable insights into how different age groups contribute to, and are influenced by, the public participation dynamics in the context of women's involvement in development initiatives.

Table 3: Age of Respondent

Age category	Frequency	Percent
20 to 30 years	90	32.25%
31 to 40 years	111	39.80%
41 to 50 years	54	19.35%
Above 51 years	24	8.60%
Total	279	100%

Examining research findings unveiled a diverse distribution of respondents across various age categories. The largest portion, accounting for 39.80% of the participants, fell within the age range of 31 to 40. Subsequently, 32.25% of the respondents indicated an age bracket of 20 to 30 years. A notable proportion of 19.35% were aged between 41 and 50 years, while 8.60% of the participants were above 51.

These findings collectively suggest that the study participants primarily belong to mature age groups. Respondents across various ages signify a diverse representation, encompassing individuals at different life stages. The maturity of the respondents implies that they possess a certain level of life experience and decision-making capacity, which is pivotal in understanding their perspectives and potential influence on matters of public participation and women's involvement in development planning processes.

4.4 Community Awareness

The study sought to establish the effects of community awareness on women's public participation in the development planning process in Awendo Sub County. By examining the this, the study aimed to shed light on the dynamics between awareness and participation in this specific context. This investigation can potentially uncover the factors that either facilitate or hinder women's active involvement in shaping the development initiatives within the study area. The findings are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: *Community Awareness Effects on public Participation of Women*

Opinion	Frequency	Percent
Yes	142	50.91%
No	137	49.09%
Total	279	100%

Table 4 displays the distribution of respondent opinions regarding the influence of community awareness on the participation of women in the development planning process within Awendo Sub County. Notably, a slight majority, accounting for 50.91% of the participants, held that community awareness impacts the extent of women's participation in this context. In contrast, 49.09% of the respondents held the opposing viewpoint, suggesting that community awareness did not substantially influence women's engagement in the development planning process.

This balance of opinions underscores the complexity of the correlation between community awareness and participation of women, warranting further exploration and analysis to unveil underlying factors and insights that contribute to these divergent viewpoints.

4.4.1 Measures Used to Encourage Public Participation of Women and Awareness

The study sought to identify how the Awendo Sub County Government has raised public awareness and encouraged women to participate in the development planning process. By examining the specific mechanisms and strategies utilized for this purpose, the study aimed to uncover the proactive initiatives by the government to engage women in the process of shaping local development initiatives. This investigation provides valuable insights into the various avenues through which the County Government endeavors to

foster awareness and active involvement among women, contributing to more inclusive and participatory development planning processes. Table 5 presents the results.

Table 5: *Measures used to Encourage Public Participation of Women and Awareness*

Sensitizations tool	Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Local radio station	Yes	238	85.30%
	No	41	14.70%
	Total	279	100%
Short message service	Yes	119	42.65%
	No	160	57.35%
	Total	279	100%
TV stations	Yes	191	68.46%
	No	88	31.54%
	Total	279	100%
Posters	Yes	163	58.42%
	No	116	41.58%
	Total	279	100%
Local Barazas	Yes	233	83.51%
	No	46	16.49%
	Total	279	100%
Door-to-door campaigns	Yes	90	32.46%
	No	189	67.74%
Total		279	100%

Table 5 summarizes the approaches the County Government took to increase public knowledge of, and women's involvement in the Awendo Sub County development planning process. According to the data collected, 85.30% of respondents felt that the local administration used local radio stations to boost citizen involvement and educate female listeners. Additionally, 42.65% of the participants acknowledged using a short message service (SMS). Further insights indicated that local TV stations played a role, with 68.46% of respondents recognizing their use in promoting awareness and participation. Posters were identified as another tool, with 58.42% of the participants acknowledging their deployment. The utilization of local "barazas" (community meetings) emerged as a significant measure, garnering support from 83.51% of the respondents. Other strategies were also highlighted, including the engagement of local

religious institutions such as churches and mosques, public campaigns, and the utilization of county websites. Door-to-door campaigns were identified by 32.46% of the respondents.

These actions show how serious the County Government is about increasing women's voices and influence in Awendo Sub County's development plans. Involving women in setting local development objectives is a multi-pronged effort by strategically using various communication channels, community events, and collaborations.

4.4.2 Level of Community Awareness and Participation of Women in Respect to Development Planning Processes in Awendo Sub County

The research undertaking was directed towards evaluating the level of consensus among respondents in relation to statements concerning the influence of community awareness on women's involvement in the developmental planning processes within the study area. The outcomes of this assessment have been summarized and presented in Table 6, providing a comprehensive overview of the perspectives and opinions expressed by the participants. This analysis elucidates the varying viewpoints and insights surrounding the role of community awareness in influencing women's engagement in local development initiatives.

Table 6: *Level of Community Awareness and Participation of Women in Development Planning Processes*

Construct	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Moderate	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	Std Deviation
Community members are always informed of upcoming opportunities to provide input at public forums in their areas.	4.2%	9.7%	7.5%	38.1%	40.5%	4.20	1.05
The level of community awareness determines their public participation in the development planning process.	16.4%	9.6%	5.2%	36.0%	32.8%	3.82	1.67
Community members play an active role in all phases of the planning process.	0%	7.4%	3.2%	46.8%	42.6%	4.22	0.87
If communities are aware of participation programs, they can have a say in how they turn out.	16.3%	0%	6.5%	43.5%	33.7%	3.89	1.36

Table 6 provides an in-depth summary of how public awareness influences public engagement in the development planning process. According to the data, the vast majority of respondents agree with the following claims: First, the data shows that residents of the Sub County participate actively in the various phases of the development planning process, with a mean score of 4.22 indicating this. This further supports the idea that locals are actively participating in directing development projects.

Secondly, the study highlights that community members consistently receive notifications regarding public participation forums within their respective regions, with an agreement indicated by a mean score of 4.20. This observation reflects a proactive effort to keep the community well-informed about opportunities for engagement. Third, the data suggests that interested communities can impact the planning process outcomes thanks to the visibility of participation initiatives, which had an average score of 3.89.

This highlights the importance of education in equipping locals to participate in decision-making processes actively. Ultimately, participants concurred, as evidenced by a mean score of 3.82, that community members are consistently informed about public engagement forums in their localities. This consistent notification underscores the commitment to transparency and inclusivity in community involvement.

Collectively, these manifestations highlight the significance of public awareness in encouraging citizen engagement throughout the development planning process. These results indicate that the residents of Awendo Sub County are actively shaping the development agenda because they are well-informed and have the authority to do so.

Women representatives, members of the County Assembly (MCAs), religious leaders, and opinion leaders were interviewed to gauge the success of the County government's awareness-creation methods for boosting women's engagement in Awendo Sub County. The responses were diverse, with a majority of 18 respondents indicating that the strategies were "fairly effective," 6 respondents considering them "very effective," and four respondents expressing they were "less effective."

Among those who deemed the strategies fairly effective, their explanations highlighted the positive impact these initiatives have had on fostering awareness. The strategies successfully raised awareness among citizens about the significance of their participation in development planning processes. The County government's training seminars and workshops for its sub-county residents, which facilitated citizens' understanding of the importance of their role in development planning, were credited with this success. Awareness creation improved public engagement during meetings, particularly among women. Respondents observed that more community members, having gained

awareness, now actively partake in coordination efforts within the Sub County. Additionally, the awareness campaigns enhanced participants' familiarity with their rights, ultimately leading to better-coordinated activities within the Sub County.

Conversely, some respondents believed that the effectiveness of awareness creation was limited. They believed that the exercise had not been executed optimally and efficiently, failing to acquaint respondents with their roles in development planning processes fully. These individuals advocated for adopting more suitable approaches to public awareness, expressing the need for improved methods to ensure a broader understanding of participation opportunities.

A prevailing sentiment emerged during the interviews with various respondents concerning the effectiveness of the County government's awareness-creation strategies to encourage women's participation in the development planning process. A consensus among the participants was that the seminars and training sessions organized were limited in frequency and scope. They remarked that these sessions are infrequent throughout the year, characterized by brevity, and suffer from inadequate publicity, resulting in a lack of awareness among most citizens.

Across all the interviews, there was a unanimous agreement regarding the potency of vernacular radio broadcasts as a highly effective method for disseminating awareness among citizens. The respondents perceived this medium as a powerful tool for reaching the wider community and facilitating informed engagement.

However, a notable concern voiced by the participants centered on Sub County staff's perceived lack of commitment toward effective awareness creation and capacity-building. Some respondents expressed suspicion that this could be due to personal

agendas. The sentiment was expressed that an uninformed population is easier to control. Additionally, the participants highlighted instances where technical language was employed during awareness forums, rendering the communication process confusing and vague. This approach was criticized for obstructing the delivery of comprehensive information to the public sphere.

Nevertheless, some noted the effectiveness of the strategies. Many people, according to the respondents, are now more aware of the part they play in development planning. They emphasized that the strategies have contributed to keeping the public informed about ongoing development projects within the Sub County. Furthermore, these strategies were acknowledged for amplifying the voices and perspectives of community members, fostering an environment where opinions and viewpoints are genuinely heard.

The interviews revealed a spectrum of opinions regarding the efficacy of awareness-creation strategies. While some respondents perceived the strategies as fairly effective due to the positive impact on participation and awareness, others pointed out areas for improvement, suggesting exploring more targeted and efficient approaches to enhance public engagement and understanding participation roles in development planning processes. The interviews also underscored a common perspective among respondents that while certain strategies are deemed effective, challenges persist in frequency, clarity, and overall commitment by the Sub County staff. Vernacular radio broadcasts were widely lauded as a potent means of raising awareness. However, the need for enhanced efforts, transparency, and clarity in communication strategies was consistently expressed to foster informed and inclusive participation in the development planning process.

4.5 Demographic Characteristics

The study investigated the potential influence of demographic characteristics on women's public participation in development planning process within Awendo Sub County. The outcomes of this investigation have been meticulously compiled and are presented in Table 7.

Table 7: *Effect of Demographic Characteristics on Public Participation of Women in the Development Planning Process*

Opinion	Frequency	Percent
Yes	150	53.76%
No	129	46.24%
Total	279	100%

Based on data in Table 7, it becomes evident that a significant portion of the respondents—namely, 53.76%—believe that demographic characteristics indeed influence the public participation of women in the development planning process within Awendo Sub County. In contrast, 46.24% of the participants expressed a contrary perspective. This dichotomy of responses underscores the nuanced nature of the relationship between demographic factors and women's involvement in the development planning process. The results suggest that demographic characteristics significantly impact the extent of public participation in integrated development planning initiatives at the county level.

4.5.1 Influence of Demographic Characteristics on Public Participation of Women in Development Planning Processes

The study sought to explore perceptions of the influence of demographic Characteristics on Public Participation of Women in Development Planning Processes in the study area. Table 8. serves as a comprehensive summary of the responses, allowing for an insightful

overview of the prevailing sentiments among the participants regarding the interplay between demographic attributes and the extent of women's engagement in the county's development planning initiatives.

Table 8: *Effect of Demographic Characteristics on Public Participation of Women in Development Planning Processes*

Construct	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Moderate	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std deviation
Awendo Sub County's low public participation rate is partly attributed to the region's low literacy rates.	11.5%	13.2%	12.7%	30.7%	31.9%	4.33	0.79
In Awendo Sub County, young women's involvement in planning and development is lower than that of older residents.	0%	4.2%	10.0%	42.7%	43.1%	3.70	1.39
Young people are discouraged from taking part in development planning because they feel marginalized in their societies.	2.3%	6.4%	12.8%	45.8%	32.7%	4.32	0.77
Citizen needs to inspire Awendo Sub County community involvement in planning and development.	13.0%	9.6%	14.0%	35.0%	28.4%	4.05	0.96
Women in Awendo Sub County are underrepresented in development planning due to their low levels of education.	0%	0%	0%	61.9%	38.1%	4.43	0.55
Women in Awendo Sub County are underrepresented in development planning because of their many responsibilities within the home.	0%	12.9%	12.9%	43.5%	30.8%	4.38	0.48
Those with advanced degrees (a diploma or higher) are encouraged to participate in enriching discussions about Awendo Sub County's future.	0%	7.3%	13.3%	40.6%	38.8%	3.93	1.22

The data presented in Table 8 offers a comprehensive view of how demographic factors intricately shape women's involvement in the development planning process within

Awendo Sub County. The findings highlight the collective agreement among a significant majority of respondents on several crucial points: First, it emerges that the multitude of responsibilities that women typically fulfill within the family structure is a constraining factor, impeding their active participation in the development planning process. This observation is underscored by a notable mean score of 4.38.

Additionally, the link between education levels and participation becomes evident as the study unveils that women with limited educational backgrounds are less likely to participate in the development planning process, as evidenced by a mean score of 4.33. This pattern extends to the broader context of local communities, where lower educational attainment among women is associated with reduced engagement, as indicated by a mean score of 4.43.

Moreover, the sentiments of exclusion experienced by young individuals, both men, and women, within their respective societies emerge as a discouraging factor that affects their enthusiasm for participating in the development planning process. This sentiment of exclusion is reflected in a mean score of 4.32.

The notion of an active and demanding citizenry emerges as a positive influencer, fostering greater community participation in the development planning process. This sentiment is captured by a mean score of 4.05. Additionally, it is suggested that individuals with higher levels of education, specifically at the Diploma level and above, play a pivotal role in enriching the discourse surrounding development planning. This aspect is highlighted by a 3.93 mean score.

The findings unveil that the education level of women is a pivotal determinant of their participation in the development planning process. Notably, women with advanced

education levels are more inclined towards active involvement than those with lower educational attainment. Furthermore, the research underscores age as a factor influencing participation, with older women exhibiting higher levels of engagement in development initiatives. These insights collectively emphasize the intricate interplay between demographic characteristics and the level of women's participation in development planning processes.

The research conducted through interviews with women opinion leaders sheds light on several critical factors hindering women's public participation in the development planning process within Awendo Sub County. The participants highlighted various demographic and structural challenges that contribute to this issue.

One prevalent theme that emerged from the interviews was a confusion among respondents regarding roles and responsibilities of different offices and departments within the county. This lack of clarity hindered individuals' ability to address their concerns or engage with the appropriate channels effectively. For instance, a participant shared her dilemma over approaching the Chief/Assistant Chief, MCA, lands department, or the police for a land issue. This confusion illustrates a broader problem of inadequate information dissemination and understanding local governance structures.

Moreover, participants expressed skepticism about the intentions behind participation forums organized by the Sub County. Many perceived these gatherings as avenues for leaders to benefit financially rather than platforms for genuine citizen engagement. This sentiment points to a lack of trust in the leadership and a perception that public participation is exploited for personal gain rather than contributing to meaningful development outcomes.

The issue of nepotism and favoritism also emerged from the interviews. Participants noted that individuals appointed to development committees often had close affiliations with existing leaders, which raised concerns about the transparency and inclusivity of decision-making processes. This trend further eroded trust in the system and hindered diverse representation in development planning initiatives.

The interviews also highlighted a common frustration with the priorities of elected leaders. Participants felt that leaders focused more on their interests than significant matters affecting citizens. Leaders seemed to prefer channels that directly benefited them, neglecting those that could enhance citizen involvement and influence in governance matters. This disconnect between leaders and citizens underscores the need for formalized procedures that facilitate public input and feedback mechanisms.

The inaccessibility of Sub County leaders was another obstacle raised by participants. This lack of approachability hindered open dialogue and hindered citizen engagement. The preference for channels that directly benefit leaders was again reflected in their limited availability for interactions with the public.

Civic education emerged as a potential solution to these challenges. Although its use was not widespread, participants recognized it as an useful tool for stimulating awareness and promoting involvement in development planning and governance. Examples were provided where cooperation between MCAs and citizens facilitated improved participation and ward level decision-making processes.

This study's findings align with previous research, emphasizing the significance of community awareness and participation in enhancing local governance, welfare, and development outcomes. The study's recommendations include improving communication

networks, utilizing various media platforms for awareness campaigns, and fostering collaboration between leaders and citizens through tailored approaches to public participation.

Demographic characteristics were also identified as influential factors in women's participation in the development planning process. Women's multiple roles within the family and low levels of education were cited as limitations. Similarly, low education levels within local communities, particularly among young men and women, contributed to decreased participation. The findings are consistent with global trends suggesting that youthful people's involvement in official political processes is generally lower than older citizens.

Interestingly, the study found that higher education levels correlated with richer debates on development planning, yet young people's participation remained comparatively lower. This suggests that while education is important, other factors may inhibit young people's engagement. In conclusion, the interviews with women opinion leaders provided valuable insights into the demographic and structural barriers to women's participation in the development planning process within Awendo Sub County. The study highlighted the need for clear information dissemination, trust-building measures, improved communication, and tailored approaches to enhance community involvement in local governance and development initiatives.

4.6 Behavioral Factors

The study sought to establish whether behavioral factors influence women's public participation in the development planning process in the study area. Results are as shown in Table 9.

Table 9: *Do Behavioral Factors Affect the Public participation Of Women*

Opinion	Frequency	Percent
Yes	181	64.87%
No	98	35.13%
Total	279	100%

The results from Table 4.8 indicate that most respondents, approximately 64.87%, expressed the view that behavioral factors influence women's public participation in the development planning process within Awendo Sub County. In contrast, about 35.13% of the respondents held the contrary opinion, suggesting that they did not see behavioral factors as significant influencers in women's participation.

These findings suggest that a notable portion of those surveyed believe that behavioral factors play a substantial role in shaping women's involvement in the development planning process. However, it is valuable to delve deeper into the study or context to understand the specific behavioral factors that were considered, how they were defined, and how they were perceived to impact women's participation. This outcome opens up opportunities for further exploration into the nature of these behavioral factors in the next sub-section.

4.6.1 Influence of Behavioral Factors on Public Participation in Development Planning Process in Awendo Sub County

The study sought to assess the degree of agreement among participants regarding statements addressing behavioral factors' impact on women's involvement in the development planning processes. The findings are presented in Table 10.

Table 10: Influence of Behavioral Factors on Public Participation in The Development Planning Process

Construct	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Moderate	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std deviation
Awendo Sub County women's involvement in development planning directly relates to how they feel about their local government.	0%	12.1%	10.7%	42.5%	34.7%	3.96	1.00
In Awendo Sub County, women's participation in development planning is limited due to a lack of confidence from the general public.	0%	15.1%	0%	47.9%	37.0%	4.07	0.95
In Awendo Sub County, women's involvement in development planning is constrained by their negative perceptions of the political process.	0%	0%	0%	65.3%	34.7%	4.44	0.49
More women in Awendo Sub County are active participants because of the community's supportive attitude toward local government and its initiatives, such as development planning.	0%	30.8%	10.9%	33.6%	24.7%	3.73	1.20
The perceived benefits of county-wide development initiatives influence citizens' willingness to participate in development planning.	0%	12.9%	4.2%	62.1%	20.8%	3.99	0.83
Women in Awendo Sub-County are encouraged to participate in the development planning process when officials act in the local community's best interests.	0%	30.6%	8.7%	30.3%	30.3%	3.5	1.23
Women want to balance the social costs of interacting with local government and the benefits they receive from doing so.	0%	10.9%	8.5%	52.2%	28.4%	4.03	0.92
Women's engagement in Awendo Sub County's development planning process can be bolstered by allocating funds to issues that matter to locals.	0%	0%	12.1%	56.4%	31.4%	4.14	0.63
Those in Awendo Sub County who have more faith in the development planning formulation process are more likely to participate actively.	0%	7.4%	4.2%	45.8%	42.6%	3.94	1.06

Table 10 presents a comprehensive overview of the influence of behavioral factors on women's public participation in the development planning processes within Awendo Sub County. The responses from the participants shed light on various behavioral aspects that impact women's involvement in these processes. The findings indicate that most respondents agreed that women's attitudes toward the governance process significantly limit their participation in development planning processes. This sentiment is reflected in the mean score of 3.96, suggesting that negative attitudes or perceptions can act as barriers to women's engagement in local governance and development initiatives.

Allocating resources to support matters of importance to citizens was identified as an encouraging factor for community participation in development planning processes. The mean score of 4.14 indicates that Citizens are more likely to participate actively in the planning process when they believe their concerns are being heard and adequate resources are being allocated to meet their needs.

Lack of confidence among women due to societal perceptions emerged as another notable factor hindering their participation in development planning. With a mean score of 4.07, this finding underscores the importance of addressing social norms and building confidence among women to empower their meaningful participation.

Citizens' hopes for reciprocal interactions with their municipal government and the need to strike a balance between social costs and interaction were cited as important drivers of change. The mean score of 4.03 suggests that when citizens perceive a fair and balanced interaction with local authorities, they are more inclined to participate in development planning processes.

Citizens' engagement in development planning was affected by the perceived benefits of Sub County development initiatives. This indicates that when citizens perceive tangible benefits from these initiatives, they are more motivated to engage actively. The mean score of 3.97 emphasizes the significance of linking development outcomes to citizen participation.

Women's attitudes toward local government were identified as a determining factor in their participation in development planning. The mean score of 3.73 suggests that positive attitudes toward local government can foster greater engagement among women in the planning process.

Effective participation was found to be proportional to the degree to which people trusted the development planning formulation process. The mean score of 3.94 suggests that higher levels of trust among citizens can enhance their willingness to participate in shaping development plans.

A positive attitude toward local government and citizen support for government initiatives was associated with higher participation rates in the development planning processes. The mean score of 4.14 underscores the role of positive perceptions and community support in encouraging active involvement.

Furthermore, the study indicated that favoring the interests of the locals encourages both women and the broader community to participate in the development planning process. This insight is reflected in the mean score of 3.55.

Notably, none of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statements related to behavioral factors. This could be attributed to a potential misunderstanding between

"strongly disagree" and "disagree." This underscores the general agreement among participants that these behavioral factors shape women's participation in development planning processes.

Table 10 provides a nuanced understanding of the behavioral factors that influence women's participation in development planning processes within Awendo Sub County. These study findings highlight the complex interplay between attitudes, perceptions, trust, and perceived benefits in shaping citizen engagement in local governance and development initiatives. In addition, through interviews with opinion leaders, MCAs, and Ward Administrators, a prevailing belief emerged that regions with a history of embracing Western education and lifestyles experienced fewer cultural barriers and lower levels of illiteracy. This perception, however, contrasts with the complex behavioral and socio-cultural factors that significantly influence public participation. Respondents highlighted the following factors that shape the involvement of women in the development planning processes within the study area.

One striking observation from the interviews was the prevalence of semi-literacy among most women, which hindered their ability to comprehend bulletins and notices distributed by the Sub County. It was also difficult for the elderly to get to Sub County offices or government-sponsored meetings. A participant from Awendo town noted, "When it comes to political, social, or economic events, many of us married, non-working women need our husbands' blessing and financial support to participate."

Language barriers also emerged as a significant obstacle. Most meetings and Sub County forums were conducted in English or Kiswahili, languages many women did not

comprehend and were uncomfortable speaking fluently. This linguistic divide discouraged their participation, as they felt excluded due to language constraints.

Furthermore, the financial benefits associated with participation seemed to be distributed unevenly. Respondents indicated that leaders and planners mostly told and invited people they knew and trusted, such as family, friends and political allies to forums that offered financial gains, thus perpetuating a cycle of exclusion based on favoritism.

During the interviews, participants from different areas provided valuable insights into the challenges and barriers that impact public participation, particularly concerning women, in various local communities. One participant in the Ulanda shopping center shared that her meeting attendance is subject to her husband's approval. This highlights the influence of traditional gender roles and power dynamics within households, where women's participation in public affairs is contingent upon the consent of their husbands. From the Mariwa area, another participant highlighted the gender imbalance in attendance at sub-county forums. This was attributed to the migration of men to major cities for work, leaving women, kids, and the senior citizens predominantly present in rural communities. This situation underscores the need to address gender-specific challenges in rural areas and ensure equitable participation opportunities for all demographics.

In the same context, it was noted that many of the elderly individuals present in rural areas were often too sickly and weak to actively engage in sub-county matters actively, further exacerbating the gender imbalance in participation. Language barriers also emerged as a recurring challenge throughout the interviews. The use of languages such

as English or Kiswahili in official meetings excluded individuals who were not fluent in these languages, creating a barrier to their effective participation.

Ward Women representatives and opinion leaders shared additional insights. They pointed out that men often discourage their wives from participating, viewing such engagement as a waste of time better spent on household chores. Concerns were also raised about the trustworthiness of meeting organizers, indicating a broader issue of skepticism and lack of faith in the process.

Participants provided constructive suggestions when asked about ways to improve public participation in governance. These included initiating development projects and job creation to alleviate poverty, conducting more public awareness campaigns and seminars, using local languages or interpreters to bridge the language gap, and ensuring the effective communication between MCAs and constituents. Recommendations were also made to address social barriers like sexual discrimination through education and awareness programs.

MCAs, Women representatives, and Women opinion leaders emphasized the importance of accountability among Sub County Officers. Improved accountability was seen to encourage women's participation in government activities. They also suggested utilizing local media channels and billboards for informative outreach, organizing programs to solicit and address public concerns, and avoiding the dismissal of issues brought up during these workshops.

In summary, the interviews highlighted a divergence between the perception of regions with educational advancement and the multifaceted challenges women face in participating in development planning processes in Awendo Sub County. Factors such as

limited literacy, cultural norms, language barriers, and unequal distribution of financial opportunities collectively shape the dynamics of public participation, particularly for women. The interviews provided diverse perspectives on the challenges and potential solutions related to public participation, particularly concerning women, in various regions. The insights highlight the need to address traditional gender roles, language barriers, trust issues, and other socio-cultural factors to foster more inclusive and effective public engagement in local governance processes.

The findings indicate that, indeed, behavioral factors have a significant impact on women's participation in this process. Several key insights emerged from the study in relation to these factors. Firstly, women's attitudes toward the governance process were found to have a limiting effect on their participation in development planning. This study observed that negative attitudes among women could hinder their active engagement in shaping local development initiatives. Allocating resources to address issues of importance to women was identified as a facilitative factor in community participation. This finding suggests that tangible efforts to address women's concerns positively influence their involvement in development planning processes.

Additionally, the study noted the influence of confidence on women's participation—a lack of confidence, fueled by societal factors, limited women's engagement in development planning. The expectation of mutual interactions with local government and balancing social costs and interactions were identified as influencing factors. When these elements are met, more people in the community will be involved in the development planning process. Perceived benefits from development initiatives were also linked to women's participation. When women perceive that their involvement can lead to meaningful outcomes, they are more motivated to engage actively. Citizens' attitudes

toward local government were found to influence their level of participation in the development planning process. Similarly, higher levels of trust in the development planning process correlated with more effective participation. Positive attitudes toward local government and acting in the best interests of local people were also highlighted as factors encouraging women's participation.

In support of these findings, the research aligns with previous studies that emphasized the role of education levels, multiple roles of women, attitudes, and confidence in influencing public participation in governance processes.

From the interviews, various behavioral factors influenced women's participation in the development planning process. Poverty, insecurity, a lack of time and interest, difficulties in communication, a lack of self-assurance, and the inability to attend seminars during the week were all contributing factors. Participants expressed feeling excluded from decision-making processes and lacking confidence in county leadership. These behavioral factors collectively contribute to hindering women's active involvement.

Moreover, the behavioral factors of MCAs and opinion leaders were also identified as affecting public participation in the development planning process. Self-interest, nepotism, a perception of being sidelined in decision-making, and a lack of trust in leaders were some of the hindering factors mentioned. Respondents expressed concerns about being used as rubber stamps for political agendas and lacking confidence in leaders' handling of county finances.

In conclusion, the study's findings underline the multifaceted nature of behavioral factors that impact women's participation in the development planning process in Awendo Sub

County. Attitudes, confidence, perceived benefits, interactions with local government, and issues like poverty and communication barriers collectively shape the dynamics of public engagement. These insights highlight the need for targeted interventions to address these behavioral factors and create an environment conducive to the inclusion of women in decision-making at the community level and in development planning.

4.7. Economic Factors

This study also sought to establish whether economic factors influence women's public participation in the development planning process in the study area. Results are shown in Table 11 below.

Table 11: *Do Economic Factors Affect the Public Participation of Women*

Opinion	Frequency	Percent
Yes	176	63.08%
No	103	36.92%
Total	279	100%

The study's findings reveal a clear consensus among the respondents regarding the influence of economic factors on women's involvement in the development planning process. Most participants, 63.08%, believed economic factors impact women's engagement in development planning. In contrast, 36.92% of respondents held the contrary opinion. This overwhelming percentage of respondents who acknowledge the impact of economic factors on women's participation implies that economic considerations play a significant role in shaping women's involvement in the development planning process. The participants' collective opinion reinforces the

understanding that financial circumstances and economic challenges can act as incentives or barriers to women's active participation in local governance initiatives.

The study's results highlight the prevailing consensus that economic factors influence women's participation in the development planning process in Awendo Sub County, as most respondents recognized the role of economic considerations in shaping the dynamics of public engagement.

4.7.1 Influence of Economic Factors on Public Participation in Development Planning Process in Awendo Sub County

The research sought to assess the perception of respondents pertaining to the impact of economic factors on the involvement of women in the development planning processes within Awendo Sub County. The outcomes of this investigation are presented in Table 12.

Table 12: *Influence of Economic Factors on Public Participation in the Development Planning Process*

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Moderate	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std deviation
Their perceptions of economic factors influence women's involvement in Awendo Sub County's development planning process.	0%	0%	11.9%	70.1%	18.0%	4.07	0.59
In Awendo Sub County, higher-income people are more likely to participate in the development planning process actively.	0%	15.0%	17.0%	35.0%	33.0%	3.99	1.03
Most people in Awendo Sub County participate in the rudimentary stages of budget planning.	0%	3.2%	0%	42.5%	54.3	4.48	0.72
Trust in government officials partly rests on the openness with which public funds are managed.	0%	0%	0%	57.9%	42.1%	4.49	0.52
The economic benefits citizens anticipate from county development projects motivate them to get involved.	0%	0%	13.0%	40.5%	46.5%	4.30	0.69

Findings in Table 12 underscore the crucial role that economic considerations play in shaping women's involvement in these processes. Several key observations emerged from the study's examination. Firstly, most respondents displayed a significant level of agreement (indicated by a mean score of 4.48) regarding the active participation of residents in the budget formulation at a fundamental level. This finding suggests that community members actively engage in basic budgeting activities, implying a notable economic connection at the grassroots level. Second, the significance of transparent management of public resources was prominently highlighted, as participants strongly concurred (as shown by the average score of 4.49) that public officials should ensure the

transparent management of public resources. This viewpoint underscores the intricate link between trust in governance and the transparent handling of resources.

Third, participants strongly acknowledged (indicated by a mean score of 4.30) that perceived economic benefits arising from local development projects positively influence elevating the aspirations of citizens, including women. This acknowledgment underscores how economic incentives play a motivating role in encouraging active participation. Furthermore, the study indicated that participants widely agreed (a mean score of 4.07) that perceived economic factors influence the level of women's participation in the development planning process. This finding amplifies the crucial role that economic considerations play in shaping the extent of women's engagement.

Lastly, the study's analysis identified that individuals with higher income levels exhibit more effective participation (indicated by a mean score of 3.99). This suggests a correlation between individuals possessing greater financial resources and their increased propensity to engage in development planning processes actively.

The study's outcomes concur with existing research, substantiating the notion that economic factors significantly influence the participation of women and other citizens in the development planning process within Awendo Sub County. In summary, Table 12 provides a comprehensive overview of how economic factors intricately impact the participation of women in the development planning process. The agreement among respondents regarding budget formulation, transparent resource management, perceived economic benefits, and income levels collectively underscores the pivotal role of economic considerations in motivating and shaping active public engagement in local governance and developmental initiatives.

The results obtained from this investigation unequivocally indicate that economic factors play a pivotal role in shaping public engagement in sub-county development planning. The study uncovered several key findings that highlight the complex relationship between economic considerations and participation of women. First, it was found that residents participate in budgeting on a very fundamental level, emphasizing the grassroots engagement in economic aspects of development planning. Second, the importance of transparent management of public resources emerged as a critical factor. Public officials ensuring transparent resource management was viewed to inspire trust among the public, underlining the significant link between transparency and public engagement.

Third, the perceived economic benefits stemming from county development projects were found to uplift citizen aspirations and, in turn, encourage their active participation. This insight underscores the role of economic incentives in motivating public engagement. Furthermore, Women's involvement in the planning process for their sub-county was found to be influenced by their perceptions of economic factors. This study found that individuals with higher income levels exhibit a more effective level of participation. This correlation between economic status and participation aligns with existing research, which has also demonstrated that individuals with higher income levels tend to engage more actively in development planning processes.

From the interviews, many economic factors that influence public participation emerged. These included issues such as the corruption, poverty, and uneven distribution of resources or inefficiency among certain stakeholders. Additionally, lack of responsible leadership, leaders' inaccessibility during times of crisis, self-serving representatives who prioritize campaigning over performance, women being prevented from participating by

their husbands, illiteracy, poor health, language barriers, clannish, nepotism, insecurity, poverty, representational biases towards men, too few non-governmental organizations, leaders pursuing personal interests, and unemployment were all identified as significant economic factors that hinder public engagement.

The study's findings underscore the substantial influence of economic factors on women's public participation in the sub-county development planning process in Awendo Sub-County. The exploration of economic dynamics in this context brings to light a range of factors that either encourage or impede public engagement. This insight underscores the need for holistic strategies that address economic challenges to foster inclusive and effective public participation in local governance and development planning.

4.8 Public Participation at the Ward Level

Respondents were asked to evaluate the extent of women's involvement in the development planning process within their respective wards in Awendo Sub County.

Table 13: *Public Participation in the Development Planning Process at The Ward Level*

Level public participation (Ward)	Frequency	Percentage
Very Poor	57	20.43%
Poor	88	31.54%
Do not Know	54	19.35%
Good	59	21.15%
Very Good	21	7.53%
Total	279	100%

The data presented in Table 13 shed light on respondents' perspectives concerning the efficacy of involving the public in shaping local development plans. Regarding positive

sentiment, a modest 21.15% of respondents indicated that public participation in the ward-level development planning process was classified as "good." A smaller fraction, 7.15%, deemed this participation level "very good." While these percentages denote a minority with favorable perceptions, they indicate that some respondents find the current state of public engagement satisfactory.

Conversely, a substantial portion of respondents, accounting for 31.54%, believed that public participation in the development planning processes was of "bad" quality. An additional 20.34% conveyed an even bleaker assessment, classifying the level as "very bad." These figures underscore a notable degree of dissatisfaction and discontentment regarding the extent and effectiveness of citizen involvement in shaping local development initiatives.

One intriguing revelation from the findings pertains to the uncertainty surrounding the participation of women. A noteworthy 19.35% of respondents expressed their lack of awareness regarding whether women were adequately engaged in the development planning process at the ward level. This ambiguity suggests potential gaps in communication or transparency, possibly indicating that efforts toward gender-inclusive participation require further attention and clarification.

It becomes apparent that the overall perception of public participation within the development planning processes in Awendo Sub County is predominantly unfavorable. The amalgamation of limited positive feedback and the prevalence of critical feedback paints a picture of a populace generally dissatisfied with the current mechanisms for engaging citizens in influencing local development plans.

Beyond the statistical breakdown, the study uncovers several noteworthy trends and patterns that illuminate the state of public participation and community involvement within the development planning context. Firstly, the research highlights a noticeable upswing in negative commentary pertaining to citizen engagement. This suggests a growing willingness among the community to vocalize their dissatisfaction with the prevailing state of public participation. The increasing complaints might indicate a rising sentiment that community voices are not being adequately heard and addressed. Secondly, a decline in support for development projects is evident. The study points to reduced community members endorsing the ward government's initiatives. This decline in public support signifies a decreasing level of trust and confidence in the ability of these projects to cater to the societal expectations and hopes.

Last, a notable trend is a decline in the active involvement of local community members. The research underscores fewer community individuals participating in the development planning process. This decline could stem from various factors, including a lack of motivation, inadequate communication channels, or a perception that their inputs hold minimal sway in shaping planning decisions.

The findings encapsulated in Table 13 underscore a prevailing sentiment of inadequate public participation within the development planning processes at the ward level in Awendo Sub County. The coalescence of meager positive sentiment, considerable negative sentiment, and the identified trends of heightened complaints reduced community support, and waning participation collectively stress the urgency of enhancing transparency, inclusivity, and responsiveness within local development planning. Addressing these concerns can foster more effective, participatory, and community-aligned development outcomes.

4.8.1 Extent of public participation in development planning processes

The research sought to determine the extent of public participation in the county-integrated development planning process in the study area. Table 14 presents the findings.

Table 14: *The Extent of Public Participation in the Development Planning Process*

Construct	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Moderate	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std deviation
More people in the community are actively participating in improving the situation.	2.8%	7.9%	17.2%	44.8%	28.3%	3.97	0.88
County government-initiated development projects are being well-managed by members of the local community.	3.3%	10.0%	10.0%	44.4%	32.4%	3.87	1.07
Residents have been less likely to voice displeasure with county-level development initiatives as of late.	2.6%	6.4%	5.4%	57.8%	28.8%	4.29	0.57
There has been a rise in public backing for county government-led development projects.	2.9%	7.6%	10%	45%	34.5%	4.27	0.66
The county government has received more compliments from the public on its efforts to involve its residents.	3.5%	3.8%	14.3%	38.1%	40.3%	4.27%	0.75

The research findings presented in Table 14 reveal several important trends and perceptions of women's involvement in shaping local development plans. Firstly, the research highlights that a significant majority of respondents agree that The Sub County and County governments have received more positive feedback on citizen engagement. The calculated mean of 4.27 suggests that the public sentiment towards these levels of government has become more favorable in terms of engagement. This could indicate an improved perception of transparency, responsiveness, and inclusivity in the development planning processes.

Secondly, the findings show that There has been a decline in citizen complaints about development initiatives in Awendo Sub County. The mean of 4.29 further underscores this trend, suggesting that the community's grievances have diminished. This decline in

complaints might reflect an enhanced alignment between community needs and the initiatives undertaken by the local government. Furthermore, the research indicates that Sub-County and County governments have seen an uptick in the number of residents who back their development projects. With a mean of 4.27, this finding highlights a growing level of endorsement and backing from the community for these development projects. This increase in support may indicate a greater perception of the projects' relevance and potential benefits.

Additionally, residents of Awendo Sub County, Kenya, have become more involved in the development planning process. The calculated mean of 3.97 suggests a positive trend, indicating that more community members are actively engaging in the planning of local development initiatives. This heightened participation could signify an evolving culture of citizen involvement and empowerment. Lastly, the research findings point out that County government-initiated development projects are being well-managed by members of the surrounding community. The mean of 3.87 underscores this perception, indicating a reasonable level of confidence in the capability of the local community to manage and oversee these projects effectively. This positive assessment speaks to the potential effectiveness of involving the community in project implementation.

The study findings in Table 14 collectively depict a positive trend regarding increased positive comments, decreased complaints, heightened community support, greater community participation, and a perception of efficient project management by the local community. These trends suggest that efforts to involve women and the wider community in the development planning process have yielded positive outcomes, fostering a more participatory and collaborative approach to local development initiatives.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This section provides a concise overview of the most important findings. It also provides a summary of findings and suggestions for future study and practice.

5.2 Summary of Findings

This study sought to explore the factors influencing women's public participation in the development planning process in Awendo Sub County of Migori County. Upon assessing whether community awareness influences women's public participation in the sub-county development planning processes, the study examined whether the demographic factors influence public participation of women in development planning processes, assessed whether behavioral factors influence public participation of women in development planning processes, and found out whether economic factors influence public participation of women in development planning processes.

5.2.1 Community Awareness

This study found that the extent of community consciousness plays a pivotal role in shaping women's involvement in developmental planning procedures. The investigation also observed that to bolster awareness and active engagement of women in developmental planning processes, Awendo Sub County adopted various strategies. These strategies encompassed utilizing short message services, leveraging local radio and TV stations, disseminating information through posters, making house-to-house visits, collaborating with nearby churches and mosques, orchestrating targeted awareness campaigns, and leveraging county and sub-county online platforms.

5.2.2 Demographic Characteristics

This research confirmed that demographic attributes, such as age, educational attainment, marital status, and the various roles women undertake within the family structure, emerged as significant determinants affecting the extent of female involvement in the developmental planning process within Awendo Sub County. The study proposes a targeted approach for enhancing women's engagement in the development planning process, which should incorporate considerations for their diverse roles, age groups, marital statuses, and educational levels. This approach aims to foster a more inclusive and comprehensive participation of women.

5.2.3 Behavioral Factors

The investigation unveiled that behavioral elements, such as the effectiveness of policies governing citizen engagement, women's perspectives toward local governance, and the degree of trust women place in governmental authorities and the participatory procedure itself, collectively wielded a significant influence on the degree of women's involvement in the planning process within Awendo Sub County. The study ascertained that certain leaders, responsible individuals, and local administrators had exhibited behaviors that did not align with anticipated standards, resulting in a deficit of trust.

5.2.4 Economic Factors

This study uncovered that economic considerations, including the perceived advantages in terms of economics derived from Sub County development initiatives, the projected timeline for revenue generation, personal income levels, and awareness surrounding alternative economic prospects stemming from specific projects, collectively shaped the extent of women's engagement in the developmental planning process within Awendo Sub County. The study established a correlation between higher income levels and

increased participation among women, indicating that those with higher incomes were more likely to be involved than those with lower incomes. Moreover, the research indicated that women exhibited higher participation rates in programs and projects that promised swift profitability.

5.3 Conclusions

The primary objective aimed to investigate the impact of community awareness on the extent of women's participation in the developmental planning processes. This study concludes that fostering awareness among the public, particularly women was pivotal in encouraging their active engagement in the development planning phase. Additionally, the study highlighted that the effectiveness of public participation in these processes hinged on the populace's awareness of the participation initiatives and the proficient utilization of diverse public platforms. Ultimately, the study concluded that the level of community awareness significantly influenced public participation.

The secondary objective aimed to assess how demographic characteristics influenced women's involvement in developmental planning procedures. The findings revealed a disparity in participation levels between younger and older women across the sub-county, with the former exhibiting relatively lower engagement rates. Moreover, a positive correlation emerged between public participation and demographic aspects, indicating that factors such as gender, educational attainment, marital status, community culture, and belief systems collectively shaped women's participation in the development planning processes. In conclusion, the study determined that demographic attributes significantly impacted the extent of women's participation.

The study sought to discern the influence of behavioral factors on women's engagement in the developmental planning processes. The research confirmed that women's attitudes and trust towards governance and leadership held sway over their participation in decision-making and development planning within Awendo Sub County. Consequently, the study concluded that behavioral factors, encompassing trust levels and community perception of the participatory process, substantially influenced women's participation in the development planning processes.

The quaternary objective focused on establishing the effects of economic factors on women's participation in the developmental planning processes within Awendo Sub County. The investigation revealed that economic factors indeed played a role in influencing women's engagement in these processes. Hence, the study concluded that economic considerations, including perceived benefits from sub-county development projects, individual income levels, and awareness about other income-generating opportunities stemming from specific projects, collectively influenced women's participation in the development planning processes.

Furthermore, the study reached additional conclusions that demographic factors, including socio-economic status and education, were identified as impediments to women's participation in the development planning process. Similarly, behavioral-related factors hindered women's involvement, particularly negative attitudes, and lack of confidence in county leadership. Lastly, economic factors such as income levels, perceived economic benefits, and knowledge about alternative income-generating initiatives shaped women's participation in developmental planning.

5.4 Recommendations

The research highlighted that a lack of sufficient public awareness played a significant role in contributing to the inadequate participation of women in the developmental planning process. To address this, it is imperative to implement robust measures to enhance public awareness among women. These measures should focus on educating women about the significance of participating in public forums related to development planning. This could involve implementing strategies that effectively communicate the importance of their involvement and inform them about the relevant processes.

Moreover, the investigation revealed that demographic factors, including socio-economic status and education, influenced women's participation in the development planning procedures. In light of these findings, it is recommended that the development planning processes be tailored to accommodate the evolving demographic characteristics of citizens. For instance, conducting interviews with women in their homes to raise awareness and educate the community about the value of women's participation could prove beneficial. Organizing civic education initiatives can also help sensitize the community, thereby encouraging greater involvement of women, even within marital contexts.

The study also identified the level of trust as a crucial factor in determining women's engagement in the development planning process. To improve this aspect, the study proposes that the county government enhance its public relations efforts, communication of policies, and reporting mechanisms. Positive leadership conduct at the local level is vital for instilling trust, fostering positive attitudes, and inspiring confidence among women in the community.

Furthermore, the research underscored the significance of perceived economic benefits derived from sub-county development initiatives, women's income levels, and knowledge about income-generating projects in influencing the levels of public participation in development planning processes. Consequently, the study concludes that developmental planning strategies should prioritize projects benefiting local communities economically. By focusing on initiatives that offer tangible economic advantages, the involvement of women and the wider community is likely to increase. The study emphasizes the need to promote public awareness, consider demographic dynamics, nurture trust through effective communication, and prioritize economically beneficial projects to foster greater and more meaningful participation of women in the development planning processes.

5.5 Recommendations for Further Research

The research aimed to examine the various factors that impact the extent of women's involvement in the developmental planning processes within Awendo Sub County. Based on the findings, it is recommended that a similar study should be carried out to evaluate the efficacy of the citizen engagement measures that the sub-counties in Migori County have implemented.

Conducting a follow-up study would provide valuable insights into the outcomes and effectiveness of the citizen engagement initiatives undertaken by sub-counties in Migori County. By assessing the impact of these measures on women's participation in the developmental planning processes, the study could offer a comprehensive understanding of the improvements made and the areas that still require attention.

This follow-up research would contribute to evidence-based decision-making, allowing for the refinement and optimization of citizen engagement strategies. It could identify best practices, challenges, and areas that require further development, ultimately leading to more informed policy-making and enhancing the overall participation of women in development planning processes in Migori County.

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Local Barazas		
Door-to-door campaigns		

6. What are the other county's efforts to increase public knowledge of and input into the Sub County Development Planning process?

.....

7. Rate the following statement on community awareness concerning public participation in the county development planning process according to how much you agree or disagree with it. (key 1= strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3 moderate 4 agree 5= strongly agree.)

	1	2	3	4	5
Regular announcements are made to the community about upcoming public participation forums.					
The degree of public involvement in the development planning process is directly related to the level of community awareness.					
Throughout the development planning process, community members have been actively engaged.					
Communities actively engaged in the Participation Awareness program have a voice in shaping its direction.					

8. In what other ways does public participation in the development planning process benefit from increased community awareness of the importance of public input?

.....

Section C: Demographic Characteristics

9 Is there a correlation between population characteristics and people's willingness to weigh in on development plans?

Yes [] No []

If yes, please explain

.....

10. The following statement evaluates the impact of demographic characteristics on public involvement in the development planning process; please indicate your level of agreement. (key 1= strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3 moderate 4 agree 5= strongly agree.)

	1	2	3	4	5
Community members' lack of education has hindered their participation in development planning.					
Compared to older citizens, the percentage of young women involved in countywide planning and development is low.					
Men and women under 30 are discouraged from participating in society's development and planning because they feel they have no place there.					
A more engaged and involved populace results from a more demanding citizenry.					
A high level of trust in political institutions can facilitate community participation in development planning.					
People are less likely to get involved in development planning because they have less faith in politicians.					
Women's low education levels prevent them from participating in development planning.					
Due to their many responsibilities within the family, women are less likely to participate in development planning.					
people with advanced degrees (Bachelor's and higher) to add to the quality of discussions about development planning					

11 Please explain how other demographic factors affect community involvement in the development planning process.

.....

	1	2	3	4	5
The level of citizen involvement in development planning is directly related to citizens' perceptions of their local governments.					
Women are underrepresented in development planning because of widespread doubt in their abilities.					
One barrier to women's participation in development planning is their perception of the political process.					
Support for government initiatives, including development planning, and a general public attitude that is positive toward local government					
The citizens' perceived benefits of county development initiatives influence participation in development planning.					
Actions that are in the best interest of residents promote community involvement in development planning.					
Citizens want a fair distribution of the social costs associated with their interactions with their local government.					
Community participation in development planning is facilitated when resources are allocated to support issues of importance to the citizens.					
Those who have faith in the Integrated Development Planning Formulation Process are more likely to take part in its creation actively.					

Section D: Behavioural Factors

12. Does the public's behavior impact the development planning process?

Yes [] No []

If yes, please explain

.....

13. Please rate this statement on how true behavioral factors influence public participation in the development planning process. (key 1= strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3 moderate 4 agree 5= strongly agree.)

14 Please explain how other behavioral factors affect community involvement in the development planning process.

.....

Section F: Economic Factors

15. The extent to which the economy affects people's willingness to participate in planning for future development is explored.

Yes [] No []

If yes, please explain

.....

16. To what extent do you agree with the following statement? (key 1= strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3 moderate 4 agree 5= strongly agree.)

	1	2	3	4	5
People are more likely to get involved in the development planning process if they believe economic factors are a priority.					
Greater participation is seen among those with higher incomes.					
Most citizens are involved in the budgeting process, albeit at a very simplistic level.					
In order to gain the public's trust, public servants should keep the public informed of how their tax dollars are being spent.					
Citizens' hopes are raised by the prospect of material gain from county development projects, increasing their likelihood of involvement.					

17 Please provide examples of how other aspects of the economy affect community involvement in the planning process.

.....

.....

18 How would you rate the involvement of the general public in your constituency?

	Very Bad	Bad	Do not Know	Good	Very Good
How would you rate the involvement of the general public in your constituency?					

19 To what extent do you agree with the following statement evaluating public involvement in the development planning process? (key 1= strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3 moderate 4 agree 5= strongly agree.)

	1	2	3	4	5
There has been a general rise in community members actively participating in local affairs.					
Local volunteers are doing a great job of overseeing the county government's development projects.					
Residents have been less likely to voice displeasure with county-level development initiatives as of late.					
There has been a rise in public backing for county government-led development projects.					
The county government has received more positive feedback on its efforts to engage its citizens.					

APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

1. Assessing community awareness of Public Participation in the development planning process.

i. Do you know that County Governments coordinate Public Participation?

Yes[] No []

ii. When was the last time you went to a public forum?

Yes[]No[]

iii. Who arranged for the public meeting?

iv. Please share your ideas on increasing female participation in the Public Participation Forum.

2. Analyzing the Role of Socio demographic Variables in Women's Political Engagement

i. How common is it for women to take part in public forums? Yes[]No[]

ii. How many women in what age range typically attend public participation forums?

Yes[]No[]

iii. How old do most of the female participants typically be? Old[]Young[]

iv. How many ladies show up to Public Stakeholder meetings? Many[]Few[]

v. If your number of answers to (iv) is low, please explain.

Public participation forums tend to attract only highly educated women. Yes[] No[]

vi. Please elaborate on why you answered yes to (vi) above.

3. Analyzing the Impact of Women's Behaviour on Their Political Engagement

- i. Have you ever participated in one of the County Government's public participation forums? Yes [] No[]
- ii. If so, please rate the forum. Good[] Bad[]
- iii. I was wondering how the planners fared. Liked [] Disliked[]
- iv. Please explain why if you answered "disliked" to (iii) above.

- v. Can you put your faith in the Public Participation forum's hosts? Yes[] No[]
- vi. Given another opportunity to attend, will you attend the Public Participation forum? Yes[] No[]
- vii. If you answered no to (vi) above, please explain why:

4. Analysis of Women's Economic Involvement in Politics.

- i. Which ladies show up at those Public Participation meetings? Rich[]Poor[]
- ii. Explanation of 4(i) above answer

APPENDIX III: AUTHORIZATION LETTER



OFFICE OF THE DEAN
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Tel. 0771349741

P.O. Box 103 - 40404
RONGO

Our Ref: **MPP/6001/2015**

Date: Friday, May 22nd, 2020

The Chief Executive Officer,
National Commission for Science, Technology & Innovation,
off Waiyaki Way, Upper Kabete,
P.O Box 30623-00100,
Nairobi-KENYA.

Dear Sir,

RE: RESEARCH PERMIT FOR MR. OKOTH JOHN OKELO-MPP/6001/2015

We wish to inform you that the above person is a bona fide graduate student of Rongo University in the School of Arts and Social Sciences pursuing a Masters degree in Public Administration and Policy. He has been authorized by the University to undertake research titled; **“Public Participation: A Feminist perspective in Awendo Sub County, Migori County, Kenya”.**

This is, therefore, to request the commission to issue him with a research permit to enable him proceed for field work.

Your assistance to him shall be highly appreciated.

Thank you.

Dr. Edward Anino
DEAN, SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Copy to: Vice Chancellor
Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and Student Affairs).
Dean, School of Arts and Social Sciences
HoD, Social Sciences



APPENDIX IV: RESEARCH PERMIT

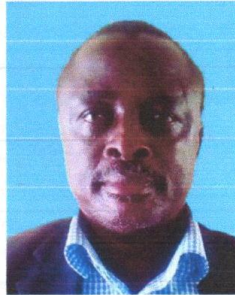


**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION**

Ref No: 957884

Date of Issue 18/June 2020

RESEARCH LICENSE



This is to Certify that Mr.. John Okoth Okelloof Rongo University, has been licensed to conduct research in Migori on the topic: **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE IN AWENDO SUB COUNTY, MIGORI COUNTY, KENYA** for the period ending : 18/June/2021.

License No: NACOSTI/P/20/5267

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APPENDIX V: KREJCIE, R.V. & MORGAN, D.W., SAMPLE SIZE TABLES

Table for Determining Sample Size from a Given Population

<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>
10	10	220	140	1200	291
15	14	230	144	1300	297
20	19	240	148	1400	302
25	24	250	152	1500	306
30	28	260	155	1600	310
35	32	270	159	1700	313
40	36	280	162	1800	317
45	40	290	165	1900	320
50	44	300	169	2000	322
55	48	320	175	2200	327
60	52	340	181	2400	331
65	56	360	186	2600	335
70	59	380	191	2800	338
75	63	400	196	3000	341
80	66	420	201	3500	346
85	70	440	205	4000	351
90	73	460	210	4500	354
95	76	480	214	5000	357
100	80	500	217	6000	361
110	86	550	226	7000	364
120	92	600	234	8000	367
130	97	650	242	9000	368
140	103	700	248	10000	370
150	108	750	254	15000	375
160	113	800	260	20000	377
170	118	850	265	30000	379
180	123	900	269	40000	380
190	127	950	274	50000	381
200	132	1000	278	75000	382
210	136	1100	285	100000	384

Note.—*N* is population size.
S is sample size.

Source: Derived from; Krejcie, R.V., and Morgan, D.W. (1970). Determining sample size for Research activities. *Educational and Psychological Measurement* 1970, 30, 607-610.

APPENDIX VI TABLE: DATA OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN MIGORI COUNTY GOVERNMENT

	YEAR	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
YR	SUB COUNTY	INVITES	% TURN UP	INVITES	%TURN UP	INVITES	%TURN UP	INVITES	% TURN UP	INVITES	%TURN UP
	NYATIKE	Men 24 Women 11	90 40	24 11	85 30	24 11	90 50	24 11	75 30	24 11	86 45
	RONGO	Men 73 Women 07	95 35	13 07	90 40	13 07	86 45	13 07	90 40	13 07	95 35
	AWENDO	Men 13 Women 07	100 60	13 07	96 40	13 07	95 45	13 07	90 50	13 07	94 40
	URIRI	Men 17 Women 08	96 80	13 08	94 50	13 08	90 40	13 08	95 60	13 08	90 55
	SUNA EAST	Men 13 Women 07	100 90	13 07	97 75	13 07	90 70	13 07	95 60	13 07	100 70
	SUNA WEST	Men 13 Women 07	90 45	13 07	90 82	13 07	80 70	13 07	85 60	13 07	90 70
	KURIA WEST	Men 17 Women 08	90 45	24 11	84 42	24 11	70 50	24 11	70 45	24 11	80 50
	KURIA EAST	Men 17 Women 08	84 40	17 08	80 55	17 08	70 40	17 08	75 40	17 08	70 46

Source: Researcher, 2023