

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL STUDIES

Community Participation on the Sustainability of Socio-Economic Empowerment Projects in Mukuru Informal Settlements: A Case Study of Starehe Sub-County in Nairobi

Mahamba Kambale Jacques

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Department of Development Studies
Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Kenya

Dr. Emily Okuto

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Department of Development Studies
Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Kenya

Abstract:

The conception of community participation gained prominence in development discourse in the seventies and since then literature on the subject has grown dramatically. The purpose of the study was to assess the role of community participation on the sustainability of socioeconomic empowerment projects operating in Mukuru informal settlements. The objectives of the study included: To establish the role of community participation in the design of socioeconomic empowerment projects in Mukuru informal settlements, to examine the community participation in the implementation of the socioeconomic empowerment projects in Mukuru informal settlements, to analyze the community participation in monitoring and evaluation of the socioeconomic empowerment projects in Mukuru informal settlements. The study was anchored on the Participatory development theory that aims to increase the involvement of socially and economically marginalized peoples in decision-making over their own lives. The study used a descriptive research design. The target population for this study was staff members working in projects operating in Mukuru informal settlements, local authorities of Mukuru informal settlements, stakeholders of projects in Mukuru and residents from Kayaba, Fuata Nyayo, Mariguine, Commercial slums and Kisii village. The sample size for this study was 80 respondents. Purposive sampling was used to select the representatives of the population being studied. A semi-structured questionnaire used to collect primary data from respondents. Information was sorted, coded and put into the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) for production of tables, graphs and descriptive statistics. The findings indicated that the community participation in the creation, content and conduct of the project designed to change their lives, is crucial and requires recognition and use of local capacities. There were consultations, involvement of the community in meetings, preparations and formulation of goals before establishment of socioeconomic empowerment projects in Mukuru informal settlements. That community participation influenced the direction of the projects, decision making and their implementation. The involvement of the community in the management of development projects makes people own, sustain, sponsor and protect the empowerment projects. That monitoring and evaluation improves the implemented projects and highlight the best practices leading to replication. The study concludes that it is crucial to involve the community in the creation, content and conduct of the project designed to change their lives. It was concluded that communities that are well empowered and involved in the implementation stage get a chance to identify their need and prioritize the projects that should be implemented in the area. Monitoring and evaluation creates confidence and improves the quality delivery of the projects, and fosters transparency and accountability. It boosts the effectiveness and efficiency of the projects. The study recommends that the stakeholders as well as development projects educate the beneficiaries of projects to break the dependency mentality, encourage good leadership, and monitor the use and misuse of funds.

Keywords: *Community capacity building, Community participation, Informal settlements, socioeconomic empowerment projects*

1. Background to the Study

Mukuru informal settlements are located in Starehe Sub County/Nairobi County which is one of the 47 counties in the Republic of Kenya. It borders Kiambu County to the North and West, Kajiado to the South and Machakos to the East. The County is divided into nine sub-counties namely; Starehe, Kamukunji, Kasarani, Makadara, Embakasi, Njiru, Dagoretti, Lang'ata

and Westlands. In 2012, the County population was projected to be 3,517,325 and was expected to rise to 3,942,054 in 2015 and 4,253,330 in 2017 (County Annual Development Plan, 2017).

The aspect of community participation occupies a central role in development thinking and practice. It establishes the necessary sense of ownership of various projects by the local communities. A majority of multi-lateral development organizations including World Bank and the International Monetary Fund point out that development cannot be sustainable and long-lasting without people's participation (World Bank, 2002). Globally, community participation has greatly contributed to the sustainability of development initiatives, strengthened local capacity, given a voice to the poor and marginalized and linked development to the people's needs. In Africa, community participation is growing as countries and nations are involved in the activities that enhance people's conditions of living. The African tradition believes in unity and the power of the community. Cultures value the importance of solidarity and solving issues as a community. Ejizu (2000) asserts in his study that for traditional Africans, is both a society as well as a unity of the visible and invisible worlds; the world of the physically living on the one hand, and the world of the ancestors, divinities and souls of children yet to be born to individual kin-groups. Community participation in local projects therefore, has the potential to influence, challenge, change, and modify local village economy for the benefit of all. In particular, if projects targeting the local poor are appropriately planned and effectively managed and implemented, they are likely to benefit and move from a level of dependency to that of self-reliance with the resultant effect of scaling down poverty (Barasa, 2013). On the other hand Theron (2005) argues that if the process is well managed, the members are likely to take ownership of the projects that are to be implemented. However the lack of enthusiasm to participate by the community members and lack of faith, illiteracy, and lack trust in local leaders are some of the factors that lead to poor community participation. Scholars have confirmed that community participation enables communities to contribute towards designing acceptable and user friendly projects and makes communities develop an interest in the operation and maintenance of projects. Community participation can therefore be enhanced by addressing barriers to participation while at the same time taking the necessary steps to promote the principles of sustainable participation.

1.1. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to assess the role of community participation on the sustainability of socioeconomic empowerment projects operating in Mukuru informal settlements. The specific objectives included:

- To establish the role of community participation in the design of socioeconomic empowerment projects in Mukuru informal settlements.
- To examine the community participation in the implementation of the socioeconomic empowerment projects in Mukuru informal settlements.
- To analyze the community participation in monitoring and evaluation of the socioeconomic empowerment projects in Mukuru informal settlements.

2. Literature Review

The concept of community participation originated about 40 years ago out of the community development movement of the late colonial era in parts of Africa and Asia. To colonial administrators, community development was a means of improving local welfare, training people in local administration, and extending government control through local self-help activities. However Lombard (2005) states that community development can be regarded as the process of increasing the strength and effectiveness of communities, improving people's quality of life and enabling people to participate in decision making to achieve greater long-term control over their lives. Therefore sustainable community development programs are those that contribute to the community's long-term development needs and priorities and ensure a fairer distribution of the costs, benefits, risks and responsibilities.

Globally, community participation empowers the primary beneficiaries of development programmes or project by helping them to break away from a dependency mentality. It promotes self-confidence and self-awareness. Kakumba and NSingo (2008) argue that community participation lies on the involvement of citizen in a wide range of administrative policy-making activities, including the determination of levels of service, budget priorities, and the acceptability of physical construction projects in order to orient government programmes towards community needs, build the entire public support, and encourage a sense of cohesiveness and humanity within the society. Study by Barasa and Jelagat (2013) asserts that Community participation is an active process by which beneficiaries or groups influence the direction and execution of a development project with a view to enhancing their well-being in terms of income, personal growth and self-reliance. Community members must own and control the process by making decisions as to its progress and design activities that will subsequently enable them achieve the desired goal. What gives real meaning to popular participation is the collective effort by the people concerned to pool their resources to attain their objectives. In this regard, participation is viewed as an active process in which the participants take initiatives and actions that are stimulated by their own thinking and by deliberations over which they exert effective control.

Today, many development initiatives in developed and developing countries promote the participation of all stakeholders, at the relevant level, not only for the sake of efficiency and equity of the programmes, leverage of donors and demands of local communities, but also for sustainability of these initiatives (Ribot, 2004). Community participation is

expressed essentially in a series of activities by means of which the citizen, either as an individual or in association with others, whether directly or through representation, contributes to the cultural, economic, political and social life of the civil community to which he/she belongs. Participation is a duty to be fulfilled consciously by all, with responsibility and with a view to the common good (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, 2004). Studies by Barasa & Rensburg, (2013) indicate that beneficiary community participation, apart from enhancing cost-effectiveness for project implementation and resources distribution to a wider coverage of weaker sections of the society, is a crucial strategy of ensuring that responsibility and benefits trickle to the beneficiaries too. Theron (2005) argues that the United Nations sees community participation as the creation of opportunities to enable all members of a community to actively contribute to and influence the development process and to share equitably in the fruits of development. Community participation is a complex mechanism. Hence, community participation means empowering people by developing their skills and abilities so that they can negotiate and make their own decisions in terms of their development needs and priorities.

According to Thwala (2009) community participation generally is more successful when the community takes on much of the responsibility, as compared to situations in which higher level public agencies attempt to assess consumer preferences through surveys or meetings. In order for community participation to work, projects must include special components that address it directly. The objectives of community participation as an active process are: empowering the residents, building beneficiary capacity and trust, increasing project effectiveness, improving project efficiency and sharing of project costs. Mulwa (2010) conceptualizes empowerment as a process of enabling people to gain strength, confidence and vision to work for positive changes in their lives, individually and collectively, with others. People become empowered by their own efforts, not by what others do for them. He adds when development programs are not based on people's own efforts to work for change, their empowerment may be disempowering. Theron (2005) argues that issues of community participation and empowerment in the planning process for service delivery are central to sustainable development.

Kumar (2002) emphasizes that community participation leads to the sustainability of projects. It is good to note that the development projects operating in Mukuru informal settlements are either funded by the government or by donor agencies. Experience has shown that some development projects failed to sustain the required level of development activity once the funds were withdrawn by the funding agencies. Most of them collapsed and failed to achieve their goals and activities. Community participation is regarded as an essential prerequisite for the community activities. The involvement of local communities and use of local resources generates a sense of ownership over development interventions to the community. This sense of ownership is essential for the sustainability of the projects even after external funds cease to flow (Kumar, 2002). Raniga and Simpson, (2002) argue that Community participation ensures that projects are developed according to the needs of the people. This can improve the outcomes of projects through cost sharing, increasing efficiency and effectiveness. Kumar (2002) asserts that through community participation, resources available for development projects will be used more efficiently and fewer costs will be incurred if people themselves are responsible for the project

International and regional agreements, as well as popular pressure to open up governmental decision-making processes are encouraging governments to take steps to improve transparency, participation and accountability. Theron (2005) holds the view that the public participation process should adhere to and apply the seven International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) principles and core values. The International Association for Public Participation promotes and seeks to improve the practice of public participation in relation to individuals, governments, institutions, and other entities that affect the public interest in nations throughout the World. FrancaisEspagnol (2007) points out that the IAP2 by virtue of being an international leader in public participation has developed the "IAP2 core values for public participation processes". He further explains that the core values were developed over a two-year period with broad international input to identify those aspects of public participation which cut across natural, cultural and religious boundaries. The international association for public participation core values include: People who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process. It promises that the public's contribution will influence the decision. The IAP2 emphasizes that community participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.

In the Constitution of Kenya (2010), the importance of community participation is captured in Article 10 (2) (a) which states that the national values and principles of governance include patriotism, national unity, sharing and devolution of power, the rule of law, democracy and participation of the people. The Government in Article 69 is obliged to encourage public participation in the management, protection and conservation of the environment. (Creco, 2014). County Assemblies are required to conduct their business in an open manner and hold its sittings and those of its committees in public and facilitate public participation in the legislative and other business of the assembly and its committees (Article 169). The involvement of citizens in policy making and implementation is important to strengthen and deepen democratic governance. It is through active public participation that evidence based policy making and responsive service delivery can take place.

3. Research Methodology

The research was conducted in Mukuru informal settlements that are located in Starehe Sub County/Nairobi County. The target population included staff members of socioeconomic empowerment projects, the authorities of Mukuru informal settlements, stakeholders and the residents from Kayaba, Fuata Nyayo, Mariguine, Commercial slums and Kisii village. The study utilized a descriptive research design. The respondents were selected using purposive sampling. In each informal

settlement mentioned above, the researcher selected randomly 10 households to participate in the research. Further, 30 respondents were purposively selected as key informants. This gave us a total population of 80 respondents. Self-administered questionnaires were used to collect data. Data was also gathered from the published sources such as text books, various reports and articles and from unpublished sources such as theses and dissertation about community participation. Both quantitative and qualitative approaches were used for data analysis. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to run and produce descriptive statistics such as frequency and percentages and graphs and tables. The qualitative data generated from open ended questions were categorized in themes in accordance with research objectives and reported in narrative form. Quantitative data is presented in tables, narrative bar graphs and pie charts to show comparisons, trends and clarity for better understanding of the findings.

4. Research Findings and Discussion

This section presents and discusses the research findings.

4.1. Response Rate

A total of 90 questionnaires were given out to the respondents, 75 were duly filled and returned to the researcher. This translated to 83% response rate. 15 questionnaires were not returned. This translated to 17%.

4.2. Respondent's Demographic Factors

4.2.1. Distribution of Respondents by Gender

According to the research findings out of the 75 respondents who participated in the research 49% were male while 51% were female. This indicated that more female participated in the research than male.

Level of education

The research findings revealed that the respondents who participated in the study had attained different levels of education. Majority 34.7% had diploma, 24% had secondary school education, 20% were certificate holders, and 17.3% had degrees while 1.3% had a Master's degree, only 2.7% did not indicate their level of education. According to the findings, majority 34.7% of the respondents had diploma certificates while only 1.3% who had a Master's degree which was the highest level of education among respondents. The level of education among the respondents is an indication that they are qualified to perform different duties.

4.2.2. Area of Specialization

The study set out a question to investigate the areas of work specialization of the respondents. The findings revealed that, 22.7% of the respondents were specialized in community work, 20% specialized in community development, the rest 9.3% were in project development. Only 8% of the respondents did not indicate their area of specialization. A significant number of respondents, 40% revealed that they worked in the following areas, counselling, teaching, Finance, information Technology, Clinic, dressmaking, pastoral, administration, carpenters, dressmaking, while a small number indicated they were students.

A majority of the respondents that is 69.3%, indicated that they worked in the same area of their specialization in the projects and organizations operating in Mukuru informal settlements while 21.3% did not work in the same area of specialization, 9.3% did not indicate where they work.

Residence

According to the findings 33.3% of the respondents stay in Kayaba which is part of the Mukuru informal settlements while, 32% of the respondents indicated that they stayed in other areas not listed in the questionnaire. Others stay in Fuata Nyayo 14.7%, Mariguine 8%, Kisii village 6.7% and Commercial village 5.3%. Other respondents confirmed that they stayed in South B, Ziwani, Kariokor, Bahati, Balozi, Kasarani South C, River Bank, Umoja, LungaLunga, and Tassia.

The findings revealed that 68% of the respondents resided in the informal settlement and worked in development projects operating in Mukuru informal settlements. Those who do not stay in Mukuru reside in the vicinity as indicated by the respondents. This is an indication that organizations or projects in Mukuru informal settlements have employed the locals to work on the various projects. Majority of the respondents had stayed in Mukuru informal settlements for over 5 years. According to the findings 30.7% have stayed in Mukuru for 11 years and above, 29.3% have stayed for 5-10 years, 17.3% have stayed for 2-5 years, 5.3% have stayed for 1 year and 2.7% have stayed below one year. Only 14.7% who do not stay in Mukuru.

4.3. Community Participation in Planning, Design of Socioeconomic Empowerment Projects/Organizations

This study sought to establish whether communities in Mukuru informal settlements participated in planning and design of socioeconomic empowerment projects/organization. Figure 1 shows the opinions of the respondents on the issues regarding community recognition in projects being implemented, community consultation and community involvement in socioeconomic empowerment projects in Mukuru informal settlements.

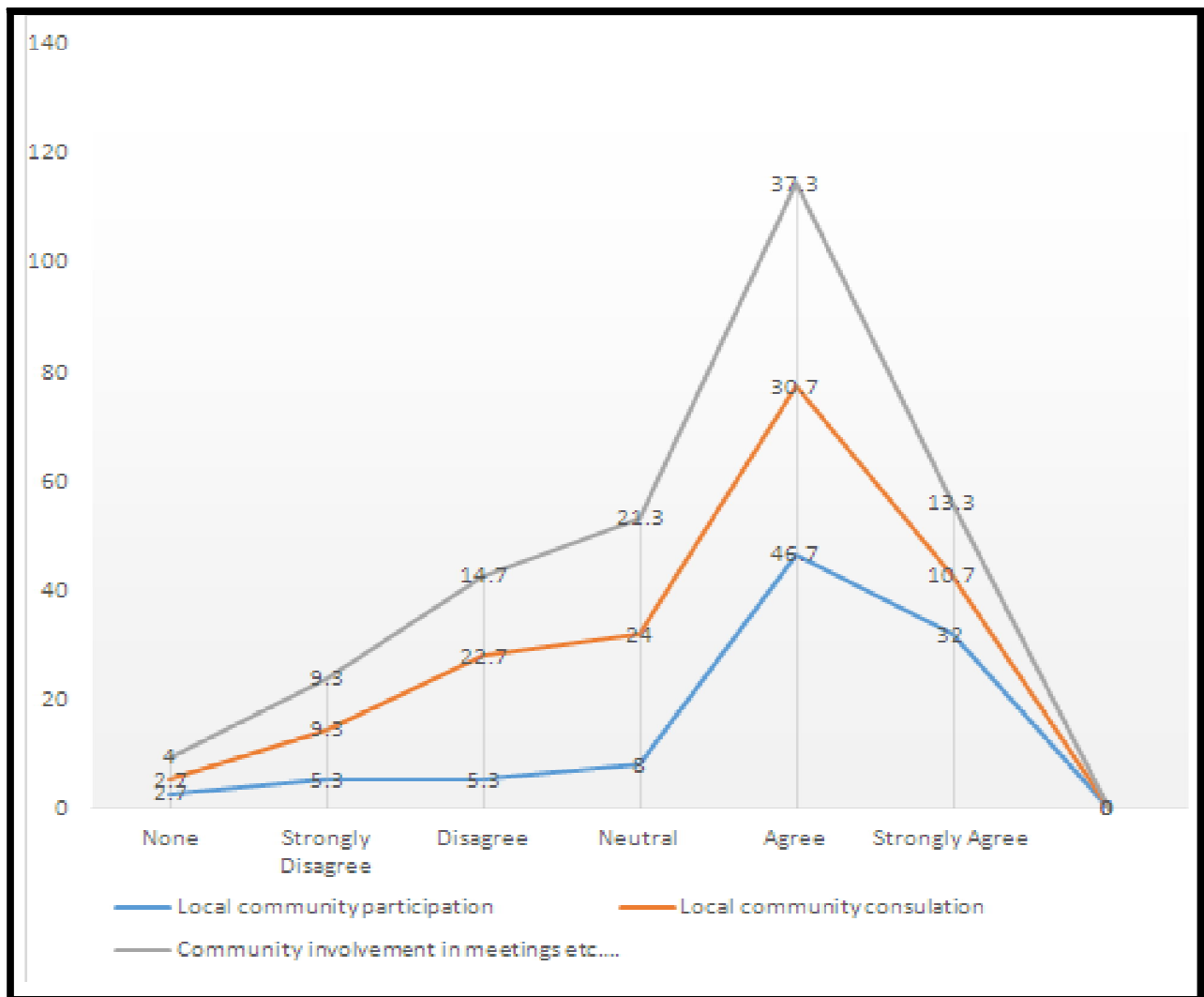


Figure 1: Community Participation in Planning, Design of Socioeconomic Empowerment Projects/Organization
Source: Researcher (2018)

4.4. Local Community Participation and Recognition in Creation, Content and Conduct of the Projects

As shown in figure 1, 78.7% of the respondents agreed that the community participation in the creation, content and conduct of the project designed to change their lives, was crucial and required recognition and use of local capacities. Only 8% of the respondents were neutral. A further 2.7% did not tick any statement but left it unfilled. On the other hand 10.6% of the respondents 5.3% disagreed on whether community participation was crucial and required recognition. This was an indication that most of the respondents reiterated that the community must participate in the creation, content and conduct project designed to change their lives.

These findings are coherent with the study by Kakumba and Nsingo (2008) who argued that community participation lies on the involvement of citizen in a wide range of administrative policy-making activities, including the determination of levels of service, budget priorities, and the acceptability of physical construction projects in order to orient government programmes towards community needs, build the entire public support, and encourage a sense of cohesiveness and humanity within the society. The findings emphasize the importance of involving people at the grassroots of the projects. This may prepare the community members to later sustain and support the projects for they feel part of the projects.

4.5. Local Community Consultation in Development /Empowerment Projects

Most of the respondents, 47% indicated that there was lack of consultation before establishing the empowerment projects in their areas. These findings were not coherent with the study by Mulwa (2010) who emphasized that community should be consulted and involved in the needs identification before establishing projects. A further 32% of the respondents agreed that there was always a consultation before establishment of empowerment projects. Quite a number 24% were neutral, 2.7% did not indicate whether the agreed or disagreed with the statement as provided in the questionnaire and left it unfilled.

4.6. Local Community Involvement in Meetings, Planning and Formulation of Goals

The study sought to determine the involvement of the community in meetings, preparations, planning and formulation of goals of projects that affect them. In as much as 53.3% of the respondents indicated that there was community involvement in meetings, preparations and formulation of goals of the projects being implemented and that affect the community; however 24% of the respondents disagreed that there was community involvement in meetings, preparations, planning and formulation of goals of projects that affect them. A substantial percentage of 21.3% were neutral while 4% did not indicate whether they agreed or disagreed since they did not tick on any of the statement. There was a high percentage of respondents who agreed on the three issues that include, there is need for community participation and recognition in projects being implemented 46.7%, and community consultation 30.7% and community involvement in socioeconomic empowerment projects in Mukuru informal settlements 37.3%. However 4% disagreed that there was need for community participation and recognition in projects being implemented, community consultation 2.7 % and 2.7% community involvement in socioeconomic empowerment projects. The research findings emphasized the importance of proper planning, formulation of goals before commencing a project.

The results confirmed the study by Chikati (2009) that asserted that Planning is a communication process where people with different views and ideas share on how a desired situation should look like and how they are likely to get there and how to express these ideas together and reach a consensus. Further, through communication, people can achieve the commitment necessary to sustain the decision taken by them. Planning therefore implies control of the process. In addition, Wendell (2010) argues that without proper planning, performance of a community; project will not achieve much in terms of outputs, expectations and even its sustainability is not guaranteed. This insinuated that proper planning of empowerment projects can lead to their sustainability as long as the community partake in all activities of the projects.

The research revealed that the following are the organizations/ empowerment projects that operated in Mukuru informal settlements and have contributed to the people's conditions of living.

Name of Organizations in Mukuru Informal Settlement	
Mukuru Promotion centre (MPC)	Goal Kenya
Access Afya	Afya Jijini
Lea toto	Hope World Kenya
Mukuru Social Development Program	Child Fund
Constituency Development Fund (CDF)	Iko Toilets
Mukuru Child welfare Centre	Maendeleo Ya Wanawake
St. Catherine primary school	Good neighbors
Sunga Mbele	Reuben center
New Hope	Mary Immaculate rehabilitation center
Child fund	Dreams
National Youth Service (NYS)	Linda mama

Table 1: Organizations Operating in Mukuru Informal Settlements
Source: Researcher (2018)

Table 2 shows the empowerment projects in Mukuru informal settlements as highlighted by the respondents

Empowerment Projects	
Small income generating activities	Water projects (water selling)
One is fresh life for intern job creation	First aid treatment
Urban risk reduction	Library project
Adult education	Disaster response project
Dreams project	Mukuru weavers
Feeding programs	Building school toilets
Posho mill (small income generation	

Table 2: Empowerment Projects in Mukuru Informal Settlement
Source: Researcher (2018)

4.7. Focus of the Empowerment Projects in Mukuru Informal Settlements

The main focus of socioeconomic projects in Mukuru informal settlements according to the research finding were:

4.7.1. Poverty Reduction through Economic Empowerment

According to the findings, 74.6% of the respondents revealed that the socioeconomic empowerment projects focused on poverty reduction through economic empowerment. While 9.3 % of the respondents disagreed, 6.7% of the respondent were neutral and a further 9.3% did not indicate whether they agreed or disagreed. The research results confirmed that the

socioeconomic empowerment projects aim to reduce poverty in Mukuru informal settlements through their various activities. When the community is economically empowered, it can sustain any project that affect people's lives and improve their standards of living.

4.7.2. Education Sponsorship Programmes, Youth and Women

The study established that the socioeconomic empowerment projects have greatly supported the children living in Mukuru informal settlement through education sponsorship programmes. Of the respondents who participated, 86.7% revealed that education and youth sponsorship programmes as well as youth and women empowerment constituted the major focus of empowerment projects, 2.7% disagreed that there was focus on education and youth sponsorship programmes, while 5.3% were neutral. Also 5.3% of the respondents decided not to respond. The sponsorship, youth and women empowerment programmes enable the beneficiaries to gain knowledge and power to improve their lives and grow financially.

4.7.3. Child Protection, Rehabilitation of Drug Addicts and Street Children and Promotion of Human Rights

The findings revealed that 77.4% of the respondents agreed that the socioeconomic empowerment projects were focusing on child care, protection, rehabilitation of drug addicts and street children, and promotion of human rights. A small percentage of respondents 9.3% strongly disagreed. On the other hand 8% were neutral while 5.3% did not tick any statement. 8% indicated other areas where empowerment projects were focusing. The study indicated that the socioeconomic empowerment projects promoted human dignity, child rights and rehabilitation. A sustainable development can happen if people's rights are well respected and children are well protected.

4.7.4. Health Care, HIV/AIDS Prevention, Elderly Care

The study revealed that the socioeconomic empowerments have established health care infrastructure in Mukuru informal settlements to address the health related problems detected in the Mukuru environment. The results revealed that 76% of respondents indicated that empowerment projects in Mukuru focused on health care, HIV/AIDS prevention, and elderly care. While 8%, disagreed that empowerment projects focused on health care HIV/AIDS prevention and elderly care. The findings revealed that 9.3% of the respondents were neutral while 6.7% left the question unfilled. The focus on improvement of health care constitutes a great vision for most projects in Mukuru. There are clinics that offer quality health care to the Mukuru dwellers at an affordable fee. They support the needy people to pay medical bills. The community health workers and doctors conduct campaigns to create awareness about HIV/AIDS infection and prevention. This enables the residents to be aware and get information about HIV.

4.7.5. Care of Disabled Persons and Promotion of Their Dignity

Some of the empowerment projects focused on caring for the disabled in the community and promoting their dignity. The findings revealed that, 69.4% of the respondents reiterated that the empowerment projects were inclusive because they took care of disabled people within the informal settlements. The disabled persons were not left out in empowerment projects. While, 9.3% of the respondents disagreed on care of disabled people. A significant number 13.3% of the respondents were neutral and 8% did not fill on any statement.

4.7.6. Fight against Early Marriages, Gender Violence, Child Abuse and Human Trafficking

The study indicated that the empowerment projects focused on fight against early marriages, gender based violence, child abuse and human trafficking in Mukuru informal settlements. According to research findings 69.4% of the respondents asserted that the empowerment projects were engaged in fight against early marriages, gender violence, child abuse and human trafficking. While 12% disagreed that empowerment projects focused on fighting early marriages and gender based violence. Another 13.7% of the respondents were neutral while 5.3 of the respondents did not fill the question. A further 8% revealed that the empowerment projects focused on child labour.

The research findings indicated that the empowerment projects in Mukuru informal settlements focused on health care, HIV/Aids prevention, and elderly care and of disabled people and promotion of their dignity. The findings are coherent to the study conducted by (Atakpa, 2013) who demonstrated that the focus of socioeconomic empowerment projects included interventions in education, water, sanitation, health care, agriculture, spiritual nurture, community capacity building as well as micro-enterprise development.

The respondents were asked to further indicate how the empowerment projects in Mukuru informal settlements have helped the community and contributed to their empowerment. The respondents acknowledged that the socioeconomic empowerment projects have enabled their children gain education through various sponsorship programmes. The projects have focused on child protection, youth and women empowerment. The socioeconomic empowerment projects have enhanced living conditions of the people and sustainability. They have played a crucial role in poverty reduction through economic empowerment, in HIV/AIDS care and prevention; in insecurity reduction, fight against early marriages, gender based violence and human trafficking. They also care for the elderly through provision of health care and feeding programmes.

The respondents indicated that the projects created employments and empowered the community members through education. They also rehabilitate the drug addicts and street children.

The finding revealed that 96% of the respondents agreed that it was important to involve the community members in creation and design of empowerment projects operating in Mukuru informal settlement only 2.7% felt it was not important and 1.3% did not answer the question. The 96% of respondents revealed that community participation enabled the members to own the projects for their sustainability, to understand their problems and find ways to address them, to trust the projects at all through their deeds, activities being implemented and to be able to provide the same services when the projects are closed. Many people have got their faith through the deeds of these projects, they have seen God through other people.

The respondents were asked to give their opinions on whether the organizations/empowerment projects should consult and dialogue with the community before starting any project in Mukuru informal. In as much as 64% of the respondents agreed that there should be consultation and dialogue before the start of any project, 30.7% of the respondents indicated that there was no need of consultation and dialogue while starting a project, a further 5.3% did not respond to the question. The 64% of respondents stated that most empowerment projects that consulted the community before establishing their projects did not fail to achieve their objectives. They revealed that unsuccessful projects came up and died within short time because leaders were given funds in secret and shared the money among themselves and run away since the community was never consulted. The projects have to be accepted by the community. This enables the community to own the projects, cooperate with the managers and contribute to their sustainability.

These findings concurred with Mulwa (2010) who stated that Community participation enhances effectiveness as communities bring understanding, knowledge and experience essential to the regeneration, consultation and dialogue processes. The project implementers should consult the community and dialogue with them in order to achieve their empowerment goals.

On the other hand those who thought it was not important for organizations to consult and dialogue with the community before starting and implementing empowerment projects indicated that most projects started and implemented their activities without consulting the community because the project coordinators and other stakeholders felt that consultation process could take long and delay their implementation period. Consultation was mostly done in the boardrooms and the community was only involved at implementation stage.

4.8. Community Participation in Implementation of Projects

The study sought to collect the respondent's opinions on community participation. The research findings revealed that 88% of the respondents indicated that community participation empowered the primary beneficiaries of development programmes or projects. While 5.4% were of different opinion. On the other hand 5.3% were neutral while 1.3 did not fill this particular question. These findings established that when the projects involved the community in their projects, they broke away the dependency mentality. For a community to be responsible and independent, there should be a local capacity building which is an essential factor for the sustainability of community development initiatives.

Study by Mulwa (2010) described Capacity building as an ongoing process of influencing and enhancing change agents' knowledge, skills, and attitudes and, ultimately, their practices, in order to enable them to cause similar effect and impact on the people and communities they serve. This process aims at transforming people's lives, from a state of conformity to a dynamic state of creative and innovative living. It involves building people up in such a manner as to strengthen their ability to make decisions that affect their lives as they assume full responsibility over the consequences of those decisions. In the process, people seek to influence policies that govern their communities and the society at large to ensure that their individual and collective rights are accommodated.

Community participation influences the direction and execution of a development project with a view to enhancing the wellbeing in terms of income, personal growth and self-reliance.

The study sought to investigate whether community participation influenced the direction and executions of development projects in Mukuru. According to the research findings, 86.7% of respondents agreed that the community influenced the direction and execution of projects. On the other hand 6.7% of the respondents strongly disagreed that community participation influenced the direction and implementation of the projects, 9.3% were neutral while another 9.3% did not answer the question.

These findings agreed with study by Barasa & Jelagat (2013) that asserted that Community participation is an active process by which beneficiaries or groups influence the direction and execution of a development project with a view to enhancing their well-being in terms of income, personal growth and self-reliance. Community members must own and control the process by making decisions as to its progress and design activities that will subsequently enable them achieve the desired goal.

Community members must control the implementation process by making decisions of the respondents who participated in the research, 72% agreed that community members must control the implementation process by making decisions. While 9.3% disagreed on whether members must control the implementation process by making decisions, 9.3% did not fill the question while, another 9.3% were neutral. Most respondents confirmed that community members should control the implementation process by making decisions. In essence they should be involved in decision making regarding the projects being implemented in Mukuru informal settlements.

Community participation means empowering people by developing their skills and abilities so that they can negotiate and make their own decisions in terms of their development

According to the findings, 92% of the respondents agreed that community participation empowered people by developing their skills and abilities so that they could negotiate and make their own decisions in terms of development. While 4% of the respondents disagreed.

These research findings were in line with Eade and Williams (1995) study that asserted that capacity building is the process of strengthening people's ability and capability to determine their own values and priorities, and to organize themselves to action on these priorities in life. In addition, Mulwa (2010) stated that capacity building as a process aims at transforming people's lives, from a state of conformity to a dynamic state of creative and innovative living. It involves building people up in such a manner as to strengthen their ability to make decisions that affect their lives as they assume full responsibility over the consequences of those decisions.

The implementation of projects activities is more successful when the community participates actively in the management and is engaged in the running of the projects in decision making, is aware of the available resources and how they are utilized

The research findings revealed that 77.3% of the respondents confirmed that the implementation of projects activities were more successful when community participated actively in the management and was engaged in running of the projects and in decision making. While 9.3% strongly disagreed on this and 9.3% were neutral. It was indicated that 4% did not participate in this question. These findings concurred with Kumar (2002) who held the view that increased empowerment of people lead to increased capacity to manage processes, monitor, evaluate, make decisions and gain analytical ability to understand their own difficult situations and therefore increased agitation to be involved in all aspects of development. Previous studies have shown that most projects prefer to involve people only in the implementation stage despite the fact that participation especially by self-mobilization is an essential ingredient in development processes People's participation leads to efficiency and sustainability. It also increases effectiveness by granting people a say in deciding the objectives and strategies in the project. It reduces dependency and increases self-reliance.

The involvement of local communities and use of local resources generates a sense of ownership over development interventions to the community, community participation leads to sustainability

According to the research findings 86.6% of the respondents agreed that the involvement of local communities generated a sense of ownership over development interventions to the community, while 5.4% disagreed. A total of 6.7% of the respondents were neutral while 1.3% did not participate in this particular question. The study findings were coherent with Kumar (2002) who stated in his studies that the involvement of local communities and use of local resources generates a sense of ownership over development interventions to the community. This sense of ownership is essential for the sustainability of the projects even after external funds cease to flow.

The respondents were asked to highlight how the community members participate in the development/empowerment projects that affect their lives. They stated that they participated through trainings and meetings, offering services/labor, provision of needed resources and information, cost sharing, formulation of solutions to the problems that affect them. They also involve the relevant authorities in the projects.

4.9. Community Involvement in Management of Development Projects

According to the findings, 86.7% of the respondents indicated it was important to involve the community in the management of development projects, while 10.7% felt it was not important and 2.7% who did not answer the question. Majority of the respondents 86.7% felt involvement of the community in the management of development projects will make them own the projects and security of the projects will increase. The study further established that the communities that own the project can work towards its sustainability. The community can protect the projects and identify the available resources for sustainability. The NGOs won't be there forever. It is therefore good for community to be in-charge of their own destiny since they are the ones affected and benefiting from the projects.

4.10. Community Member's Identification and Prioritization of Projects

According to the findings 25.3% of the respondents confirmed that community members got a chance to identify their need and prioritized the projects that should be implemented in the area. While 36% of the respondents disagreed. A significant number 28% of the respondent was neutral. These findings concurred with Barasa & Jelagat (2013) study that revealed that needs identification is an important stage in development at the grassroots level. Community development starts with the identification of a need or the realization that there is a need. This identification and the sharing of the vision elicit a commitment from the people to continue with the process of community development to become a reality. This process is followed by group discussions and analysis. Such a discussion is aimed at understanding the problem, how it affects them and its extent. This shared understanding provides a solid foundation for identifying the problem and trying to find ways of solving it. It also helps to clarify the scope of the problem at hand and the resource available

4.11. Community Awareness of Fund Utilization

Funding and finances in any project is crucial and often determines the success of the project. The findings revealed that 61.3% of the respondent were not aware of the amount of funds that was utilized by development empowerment projects. On the other hand 10.7% of the respondents were aware of how funds were being utilized in the projects.

4.12. Community Financial Contribution to the Development Projects

The respondents were asked whether the community contributes financially or in kind to the running of the projects within Mukuru informal settlements. The findings revealed that the community in Mukuru informal settlement contributes to development projects although in small numbers, 28% of the respondents agreed that members contribute to development projects whereas 35% disagreed that community members contribute to development projects, 26.7 % were neutral. The 35% of respondents who disagreed, indicated that the community was poor and could not be able to contribute financially to the project. The community members depended on donations from NGOs and government and enjoy being given things.

The study further asked whether the Mukuru community can sustain and sponsor the development /empowerment projects if donors stopped supporting and funding the projects. According to the finding 68% indicated that they can continue funding and supporting the projects, while 28% said no. It was revealed that 4% who did not respond to the question. The 68% of respondents who positively agreed, stated that if community members are educated they will sustain themselves as they are empowered to look for employment. They know better their problems and can address them and look for adequate solutions by funding projects that seek to enhance their standards of living. If the projects benefit them and provide man power and put in place a good management system, then the community can fund the projects.

The 28% of the respondents who disagreed that Mukuru community cannot be able to sustain and sponsor the projects if funding was stopped stated that: lack of skilled man power and lack of discipline; there is no enough funding, currently they still need more capacity building; lack of unity among leaders, selfishness and corrupt leaders, there is a great dependency mentality of the partners and donors.

Lack of funds, tribalism and lack of unity among leaders were also cited as some of the reasons why the community cannot sustain and sponsor projects if donors stopped the funding.

4.12.1. Community Ownership of Empowerment Projects

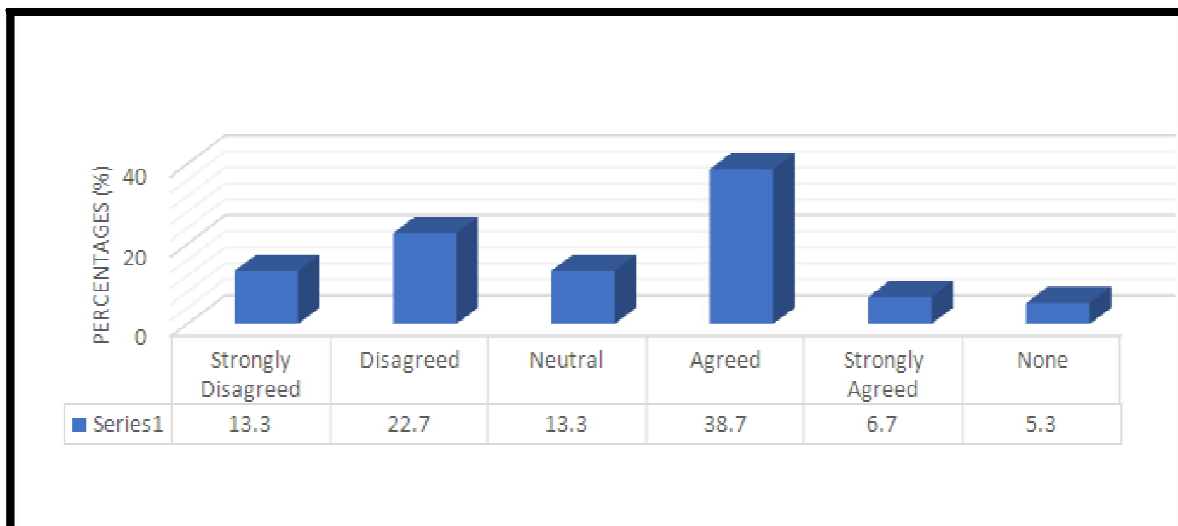


Figure 2: Community Ownership of Empowerment Projects
Source: Researcher (2018)

The research study sought to know whether the community members in Mukuru trusted and felt a sense of ownership of empowerment projects. The figure 2 shows the opinion of members on relation to ownership of development projects in Mukuru. Most respondents 45.5% indicated that they trusted and felt a sense of ownership of the projects. However 41% of the respondents revealed that they did not own the projects. Further 13.3% were neutral and 5.3 did not participate in this particular question. The findings indicated that 45.4% of the respondents argued that people would always want their lives be improved, because they feel to be part of the process. Involvement is a key function and anticipation of future benefits. While 41% of the respondents who expressed that they didn't own the projects stated that lack of integrity, lack of justice and tribalism, lack of the interest to participate as some of the reasons why they did not feel to own the projects despite the fact that the projects aimed to improve people living conditions in Mukuru informal settlements.

The respondent were asked to give their views on how the projects acquire funds to run their activities. Majority of the respondents indicated donor funding through NGOs and the government through NYS program, others funding channels

highlighted included; well-wishers, individual initiatives, churches and politicians. Additionally local the funding comes from the projects through sale of items hence sustainability the project. The projects that offer vocational training to the youth organize big sales of their productions. This is considered as one of income generating activities. The funds collected are used to purchase machines that are needed for the training. For instance the carpenters sell furniture to the well-wishers in order to get money to enhance their training. Mulwa (2010) emphasized that the community needs to be empowered so that they can address their problems and foster their conditions of living.

4.12.2. Obstacles to Community Participation in the Projects

Development in informal settlements face main challenges. According to the findings there are many obstacles hindering Mukuru community. The research findings revealed that limited resources and lack of expertise ranked at 85.3%, lack of interest and peer pressure at 85.3% and illiteracy at 81.3% were ranked high as the obstacles hindering participation within the Mukuru community. The presence of corrupt leadership 77.3% and tribalism 60%. The lowest factor that hindered community participation was unconducive customs and traditions at 49.3% and was the only one with 50% and below. The results were in line with the studies by Swanepoel (2006) that affirmed that illiteracy caused inferiority complex among the people. Fear made people abstain from taking initiatives, thinking that they cannot make any worthwhile contribution. In this case, people believe that innovation must come from the educated people, or from the rich. Illiterate people also think that they cannot develop their own organizations on their own since they will need a literate person to keep records for them. This limitation works against people's self-confidence and independent action. The limited organizational and managerial skills slows down the pace of community development and leads to mismanagement and causes projects to fail due to inadequate planning.

4.13. Community Participation in Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects

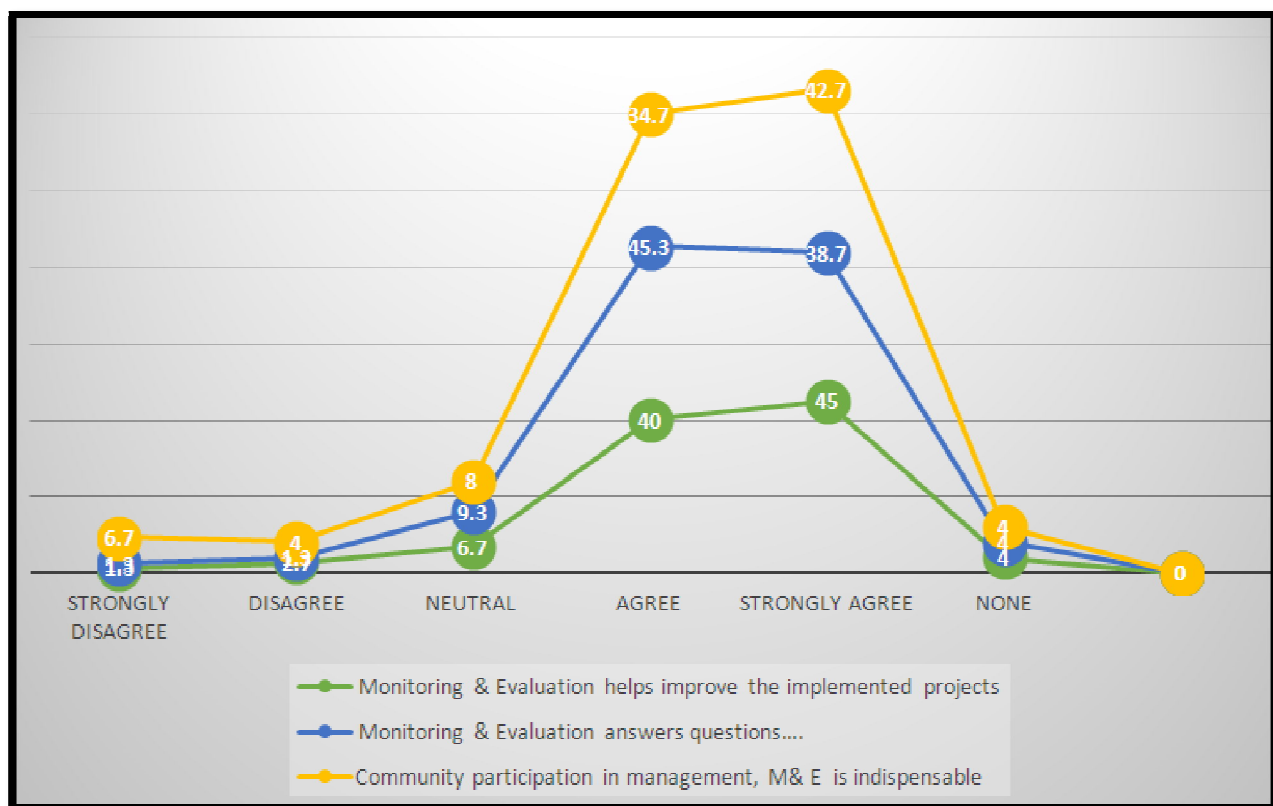


Figure 3: Community Participation in Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects
Source: Researcher (2018)

4.13.1. Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects

Monitoring and evaluation of development project is crucial since it helps in tracking the progress and giving the feedback on the status of the projects.

As shown in figure 3, 85.3% of the respondents agreed that monitoring and evaluation help to improve the implemented projects and highlights best practices leading to replication. On the other hand 4% disagreed. 6.7% were neutral and a further 4% did not participate in this particular question. The results are aligned to the studies by UNDP (2010) that asserted that monitoring and evaluation were considered to be an essential management tool to support the development projects commitment to accountability for results, resources entrusted to it, and organizational learning.

Monitoring, as well as evaluation, provides opportunities at regular predetermined points to validate the logic of a programme, its activities and their implementation and to make adjustments as needed

M& E answers questions of how well a project or strategy is working and establishes the conditions under which it is likely to succeed or falter

According to the finding as demonstrated in figure 3, it was revealed that 84% of the respondents agreed that monitoring and evaluation answers questions of how well a project or strategy is working and establishes the conditions under which it is likely to succeed or falter. A total of 9.3% were neutral while 1.3% disagreed. However 4% of the respondents did not answer the question. These findings concurred Blann & Light (2000) statement that emphasizes that monitoring and evaluation establishes how best the projects work and gives direction to the improvement of the projects. Community participation in management, monitoring and evaluation is indispensable in the sense that it enables the members to accept the project and hold the local leadership accountable for the funds being used and how the project quality shapes up.

The findings in figure 3 revealed that 77.4% agreed that participation in monitoring and evaluation of projects in Mukuru informal settlements was indispensable. However 8% were neutral and 10.7% disagreed, 4% did not participate in this particular question. These findings were coherent with studies conducted by Hosein (2003) in which he described monitoring as a procedure for checking the effectiveness and efficiency in implementation of a project by identifying strengths and shortcomings and recommending corrective measures to optimize the intended outcomes. He also indicated that evaluation involved the application of rigorous methods to assess the extent to which a development programme has achieved its defined impact objectives Community satisfaction by the work, leadership and management of empowerment projects

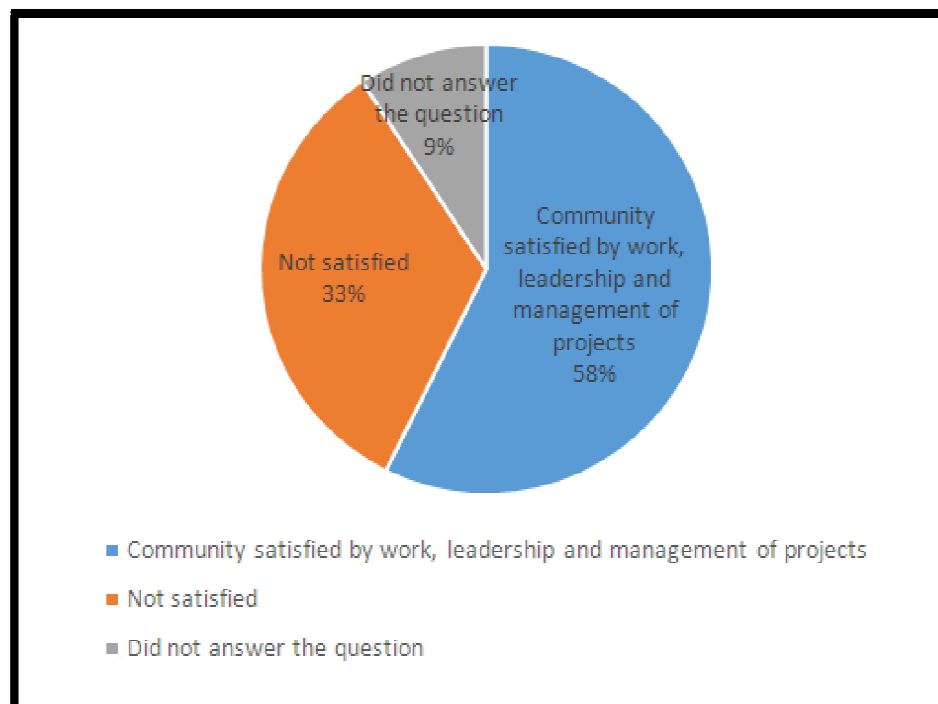


Figure 4: Community Satisfaction by the Work, Leadership and Management of Empowerment Projects
Source: Researcher (2018)

The respondents were to indicate whether the community was satisfied with the empowerment projects being carried out in Mukuru informal settlement. As shown in the figure 4, in as much as 58% of the community members were satisfied with the work, leadership and management of the empowerment projects operating in Mukuru informal settlement; 33% were not satisfied and a further 9% did not answer the question. This was an indication that community members wished to see more improvements in the management of empowerment projects.

The respondents 58% who were satisfied stated "that the leadership and management were accountable. The socioeconomic empowerment projects have improved people standards and empowered people through educational programmes. Through the projects, the Mukuru residents are getting affordable health care. The leadership was seen in the community involvement in empowerment projects. The respondents expressed their joy to see that the girls were being enrolled back to school, cases of insecurity and sexual abuse were going down among others."

However the respondents 33% who were unsatisfied with the work, leadership and management of the empowerment projects indicated that something has to be done to improve the living standards, because in most cases the

community has not being fully involved in the projects within Mukuru informal settlements due to poor leadership. They further stated that some of the community members were still living in poor standards and yet there were projects going on. This occurred due to the high level of corruption among leaders running the empowerment projects.

4.13.2. Efficient Use of Funds

The way funds are used in different projects often determines the success of empowerment projects in the informal settlements. The study set out a question to investigate whether development/empowerment projects use the available funds effectively and efficiently, 29.3% of the respondents disagreed on the effective and efficient use of funds, 28% strongly agreed that there was effective and efficient use of funds in empowerment/development projects. It was worth noting that a substantial number of respondents 37.3% were neutral on use of funds while 4% did not answer the question. Among the 28% of respondents who agreed that there were effective and efficient utilization of fund in projects; one respondent stated that:

I believe so because they have never gone out of their budget while another wrote when funds are available the projects are implemented for instance building of schools, the community feedback is positive and economic empowerment/improvement can be noticed. Source: Respondent (2018).

On the other hand those who disagreed gave some of the following reasons; shoddy and incomplete projects, projects failed after few months. Other reasons given by those who disagreed included: design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects is marred by corruption and abuse of office; mismanagement of funds and resources, the organizers recognize people closer to them to participate and not the community.

One of the major issue highlighted by the respondents was corruption/Mismanagement of funds. The respondents were requested to explain the benefits of involving the community in monitoring and evaluation. They gave the following reasons: Monitoring and evaluation creates confidence, leads to ownership and sustainability, improves the quality delivery of the projects, and fosters transparency and accountability. It creates an atmosphere of trust and honesty. It boosts the capacity building and enables the community to work with enthusiasm

They also gave the strategies that the authorities /organizations could be used to ensure and implement meaningful, effective and efficient participation in projects. The respondents stated that it is good for the projects to use the local authorities such as DCC, and churches. They mentioned the importance of creating a committee to oversee the funds collected and being accountable; encourage the community to be fully involved. They also suggested that the organizations should bring together the communities living together in the management. They should dialogue, consult and involve the community in all processes before implementing any projects. Education is crucial, open baraza to create awareness of the projects. They should involve the County government operations/Administration and Local government especially the chiefs village elders and Nyumba Kumi initiatives.

4.14. Ways to Improve Community Participation in Socioeconomic Empowerment Projects

According to the findings, quality leadership, management and empowerment of the community members through capacity building and education were ranked high at 90.7%. This was followed by promoting a sense of belonging and ownership at 89.3%, available funds was also high at 81.3% as some of the things which could help improve community participation. The respondents also gave the following recommendations to the NGOs and the government about the importance of involving the community in all their activities.

- The socioeconomic empowerment projects should break the dependency mentality of community members, encourage good leadership, and monitor the use and misuse of funds in order to avoid misappropriation of funds.
- The NGOs should first inform the community about their projects in baraza's before implementation.
- They should also provide capacity building to the community.
- The projects should be designed, implemented and monitored and evaluated with and for the well-being of the community being the beneficiaries of the projects. The community understands their own problems and challenges hence need for their participation. In this sense they can provide needed information and available resources. The projects should ensure all stakeholders are consulted before establishing and launching the project's activities.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1. Conclusion

Community participation in planning, design of socioeconomic empowerment Project The study concludes that it is crucial to involve the community in the creation, content and conduct of the project designed to change their lives. This requires recognition and use of local capacities. Consultations and dialogue with communities before establishment of socioeconomic empowerment projects in Mukuru informal settlements can enable the projects to address the right problems. It is noted from the findings that community members appreciated to be involved in meetings, preparations and formulation of goals of the projects to be implemented in their areas.

Community participation in implementation of projects

The study concludes that engaging community members in the implementation of empowerment projects designed to improve their lives lead to the success of the projects. From the findings, it is indicated that communities that are well empowered and involved in the implementation stage get a chance to identify their need and prioritize the projects that should be implemented in the area; influence the direction of the projects, participate in decision making concerning the projects being implemented, own and accept the projects and successfully engage in the management of the projects and provide good leadership. The communities can fund the projects financially and in-kind when they participate in the implementation of projects though most projects depend on international and national funds.

Community participation in monitoring and evaluation of projects

From the finding, it can be concluded that monitoring and evaluation determines how well a project works and establishes the conditions under which it is likely to succeed or falter. It creates confidence and improves the quality delivery of the projects, and fosters transparency and accountability. It boosts the effectiveness and efficiency of the projects.

5.2. Recommendations

The study recommends that the stakeholders educate the beneficiaries of socioeconomic empowerment projects to break the dependency mentality, encourage good leadership, and monitor the use and misuse of funds in order to avoid misappropriation of funds. It is recommended that the Community continue being involved in all projects because they know well their problems and the best solution to solve their problems.

The study recommends to the projects operating in Mukuru informal settlements to form sub committees to liaise with experts at the grassroots so as to empower the community. They should inform the community about their projects in baraza's before implementation. They should also provide capacity building to the community. This will enable the community to participate in decision making of the projects. Communities cannot make wise decisions if they do not have the required information. Support organizations are required to be sources as well as channels of information to the communities so that they will be able to make informed decisions.

The socioeconomic empowerment projects should train the community on self-reliance and create a sense of ownership and job opportunities, develop a system that enhances transparency and accountability of all resources. This may lead to the sustainability of projects. The projects should be designed, implemented and monitored and evaluated with and for the well-being of the community being the beneficiaries of the projects. The community understands their own problems and challenges hence need for their participation. In this sense they can provide needed information and available resources. The projects should ensure all stakeholders are consulted before establishing and launching the project's activities. It is recommended that the community should involve in the management of projects because it allows the members to accept the project and hold the local leadership, be accountable for the funds being used and how the project quality shapes up. The study recommends the Government to implement the existing mechanism and guidelines that advocate for the public participation in all development projects.

6. References

- i. Atakpa M, (2013) A Review of the Project Cycle and Project Implementation at the Third Tier Level of Government in Nigeria: A Theoretical Reflection. Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences Published by MCSER-CEMAS-Sapienza University of Rome.
- ii. Barasa, F., & Jelagat, T. (2013). Community participation in project planning, management and implementation: building the foundation for sustainable development. *International Journal of Current Research*, 5(02), 398-401.
- iii. Blann, K., & Light, S. S. (2000). *The path of last resort: adaptive environmental assessment and management (AEAM)*. Adaptive Management Practitioners' Network, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- iv. Chikati, J. (2009). *Participatory Project Identification and Planning*, A Regional Partnership for Resource Development publication.
- v. Davids, I., Maphunye, K. & Theron, F. (2005). *Participatory Development in South Africa: A Development Management Perspective*. Pretoria: Van Schaik Publishers.
- vi. Eade, D., & Williams, S. (1995). *The Oxfam handbook of development and relief (Vol. 2)*. Oxfam.
- vii. Ejizu, C. I. (2000). African traditional religions and the promotion of community-living in Africa. *African Traditional Religion: Special Topical Issues*. Africaworld
- viii. Hosein, A. N. (2003). *A framework for Monitoring and Evaluation in a Public or Private Sector Environment*. Project Management Institute South Caribbean Chapter: Trinidad, WI.
- ix. Kumar, S. (2002). *Methods for Community Participation. A complete Guide for Practitioners*. London: ITDG Publishers.
- x. Long, C. (2001). *Participation of the Poor in Development initiatives: Taking their rightful place*. London: Earthscan Publications.
- xi. Mulwa, F. W. (2008). *Participatory monitoring and evaluation of community projects: community based project monitoring, qualitative impact assessment, and people-friendly evaluation methods*.
- xii. Mulwa, F. W. (2010). *Demystifying Participatory Community Development*. Nairobi: Paulines Publications Africa.

- xiii. Nampila, T. (2005). Assessing community participation: the Huidare informal settlement (Doctoral dissertation, Stellenbosch: University of Stellenbosch).
- xiv. Odhiambo, M. and Taifa, A. (2009) Devolved Funds Development: A Handbook on Participation. Nairobi: Claripress
- xv. Polit, D. F., & Beck, C. T. (2006). The content validity index: are you sure you know what's being reported? Critique and recommendations. *Research in nursing & health*, 29(5), 489-497
- xvi. Raniga, T., & Simpson, B. (2002). Community participation: Rhetoric or reality? *Social work -Stellenbosch-*, 38(2), 182-192.
- xvii. Republic of Kenya. (2007). Kenya Vision 2030: A Globally Competitive and Prosperous Kenya. Nairobi: Government Printer.
- xviii. The Constitution of Kenya. (2010). Nairobi: Government Printer.
- xix. Ribot, J. (2004). From exclusion to participation: turning Senegal's forestry policy around? *World Development*, 23, 1587-1599.
- xx. Sillitoe, P. B. (2002). Participant Observation to Participatory Development: Making Anthropology work. Florence: Routledge.
- xxi. Theron, F. (2005). Public Participation as a Micro-level Development Strategy, in Davids, F. Theron & K. J. Maphunye. *Participatory Development in South Africa. A Development Management Perspective*. Pretoria: Van S