

FACTORS AFFECTING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PROJECTS IN GALKACYO SOUTH, CENTRAL SOMALIA

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Abstract: The aim of the study was to examine the factors affecting community participation in emergency humanitarian response projects in Galkacyo south central Somalia. The objectives of the study will include; to determine how existing community structures influence community participation in emergency humanitarian response projects, to identify how community awareness influences the level of community participation in emergency humanitarian projects in Galkacyo south, Mudug region, to establish the role of coordination in community Participation in emergency humanitarian projects in Galkacyo South, Mudug region ,and finally to identify cultural and political factors affecting community participation in emergency humanitarian projects in Galkacyo South, Mudug region. In this study the needy variable is the outcome of the community participation while independent variables are community structures, community awareness, coordination and political and cultural factors that influence community participation. Literature relating to the factors affecting community participation and relevant theories was reviewed to understand existing body of knowledge on the subject and investigate the gaps or successes regarding community participation. The study is descriptive research design, it seeks to obtain information regarding the relationship between the independent and the dependent variables, it also describes the current status of the phenomena, and it describes “what exists” with respect to variables or conditions in a situation, the study will target six villages in Galkacyo south with total estimate population of 550HHs where five main organizations operate, the targeted sample size is 165 households in six villages obtained through Yamane formula. This study concluded that community structures significantly and positively influenced community participation in emergency humanitarian response project in Galkacyo south. The study also concluded that community awareness has a significant and a positive influence on community participation in emergency humanitarian response projects in Galkacyo south. The study concluded that Community coordination had significant and a positive influence on community participation in Galkacyo south. The study finally concluded that political Influence had finally a significant and negative influence on the community participation in emergency humanitarian response project in Galkacyo south. The study recommends that in order to emancipate different groups i.e. women, youth and ensure that they fully participate in emergency humanitarian response project, democratization processes should be reviewed, amended or revise existing constitutional, political, legislative and regulatory frameworks, including electoral systems, to amend provisions that hinder, the internally displaced people, women and youth groups equal participation in the decision-making processes. The study also recommends that the federal states should intensify civic education on the emergency humanitarian response project especially among the vulnerable groups like poorer section of the community and this will ensure that their priorities are addressed by the state. More awareness on the emergency humanitarian response project should be facilitated among the members of the community. The study further recommends that since the community coordination influences their level of community participation in emergency humanitarian response project, the States should consider ensuring that effective community coordination is in place to enhance emergency humanitarian response project. The study finally recommends that Project managers in charge of emergency humanitarian response project should ensure that their operations and daily routine are not interfered by politicians and other leaders.

Keywords: Emergency, humanitarian, community participation, Projects.

1. INTRODUCTION

Community participation as a concept evolved a number of years ago as a result of community development campaign in the colonial era in some regions in Africa and Asian states. Colonial administration used this concept as a way improving local welfare by training people in local administrative duties and hence furthering of the state control using local self-help organizations (Stewart, 2013). In the recent past, the concept has evolved as the main model of development initiative among the local stakeholders and thus has been rated as a vital instrument for the success of the humanitarian engagement with the local communities. Participation is considered as an instrument by which the locals can influence and have a control on development activities alongside managing the resources that pertain to their livelihood (World Bank, 2004). The concept has been widely accepted as an act of faith in development where the majority of the local stakeholders has since grown faith in and has fewer questions about (Cleaver 2006).

Statement of the Problem

According to (Harvey, 2000) the occurrence and intensity of emergency situations has been on the increase as a result of the number of factors which are not limited to the unstable political environment, rapid population growth, unplanned urbanization and environmental degradation, porous borders and poor leadership. Recent humanitarian crisis events in Somalia and other fragile states of sub Saharan Africa are widely on the public domain due to their immense negative effects.

The current occurrences of catastrophes have become a concern of humanitarian and development issues in the recent past. This has caused high vulnerability and has also slowed down the rate of development in developing countries. According to Jones, (2011) this calls for new understanding of the challenges that face humanitarian response project especially with regard to community participation. In community participation discourse, where the project failed to involve community, the likelihood of project functioning to logical end has been limited; this has been a reality in a number of projects which have been started in most part of sub-Saharan Africa (Jones, 2011).

Despite the continuous efforts put by many humanitarian agencies to effectively implement humanitarian support packages in disaster and fragile circumstances, quite a number of humanitarian response project still failed to meet their objectives. Such situations always subjected humanitarian response project to criticisms from a number of stakeholders including government officials, donors, civil society and the local communities as well.

Several studies both local and international studies have been done in line with community participation in humanitarian response project in emergency fragile states; Tigo (2010) study on humanitarian programs revealed that all the factors proposed in the study play a concerted role in influencing the dependent variable. Ogayo (2012) study on the humanitarian assistance programs discovered that that politically instigated riots frequently affected implementation of humanitarian assistance programs and this made humanitarian agencies not achieve their set objectives. In this case, this research work will examine the factors that influence community participation in humanitarian response project in emergency contexts; a case of Galkacyo south, central Somalia.

Objectives

1. To determine how existing community structures influence community participation in emergency humanitarian response project in Galkacyo south, Mudug region
2. To identify how community awareness influences the level of community participation in emergency humanitarian response project in Galkacyo south, Mudug region
3. To establish the role of coordination in community Participation in emergency humanitarian response project in Galkacyo South, Mudug region.
4. To identify political factors affecting community participation in emergency humanitarian response project in Galkacyo South, Mudug region

2. THEORETICAL REVIEW

Aronstein's Ladder and Participation Theory

It emanated from the seminal work of Arnstein (1969) on community.

The main drawback of this framework is that each step is too broad and might include a gamut of experiences. For instance, at the informing level, there could be major variances in quality and type of the info disseminated. In a more real sense, the participation levels are most likely to give a more complex gap than a series of simple steps. The ladder-use implies that less control is not preferred than more control, but increased is un-desirable by the community and it may fail if it lacks the necessary support.

Continuum of Movement Theory

This theory came about from how the UK remake context was and is a reflection of participation in the philosophical cavalcade. The proponent of this theory was Wilcox's (1999) and it gives different tiers of participation. These levels are acceptable in diverse settings and contexts, the cavalcade asserts the no transferability of power but value is still beholden in the processes. Contrary to Arnstein's interpretation, this theory is viewed as one that brings about control by the citizenry. In other contexts, this thought's move was developed further to describe as continuum the involvement levels

Wallerstein's Community Empowerment Theory

The study will also be based on the Wallerstein community empowerment theory; this theory was first coined in 1992. The proponents of the theory Wallerstein alludes that, this model is a multi-dimensional and incorporates the measurement of enhanced self-idea, basic examination of the world, distinguishing proof with the network individuals, investment in sorting out network change. From her theory approach Wallerstein has defined strengthening as a social-activity process that advances investment of individuals, associations and networks towards the objectives of expanded individual and network control, political viability, enhanced nature of network life and social equity. As per this hypothesis, the results of network strengthening may rise as genuine socio-ecological and political changes in network (Wallerstein 1992)

Conceptual framework

A conceptual is characterized as a component of the logical research process in which a particular idea is characterized as a quantifiable event or in quantifiable terms that essentially gives a reasonable importance of the idea. As per Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) applied system is a diagrammatic introduction of the connection amongst needy and autonomous factors. In this investigation, the needy variable is the outcome of the community participation while independent variables are community structures, community awareness, coordination and political and cultural factors.

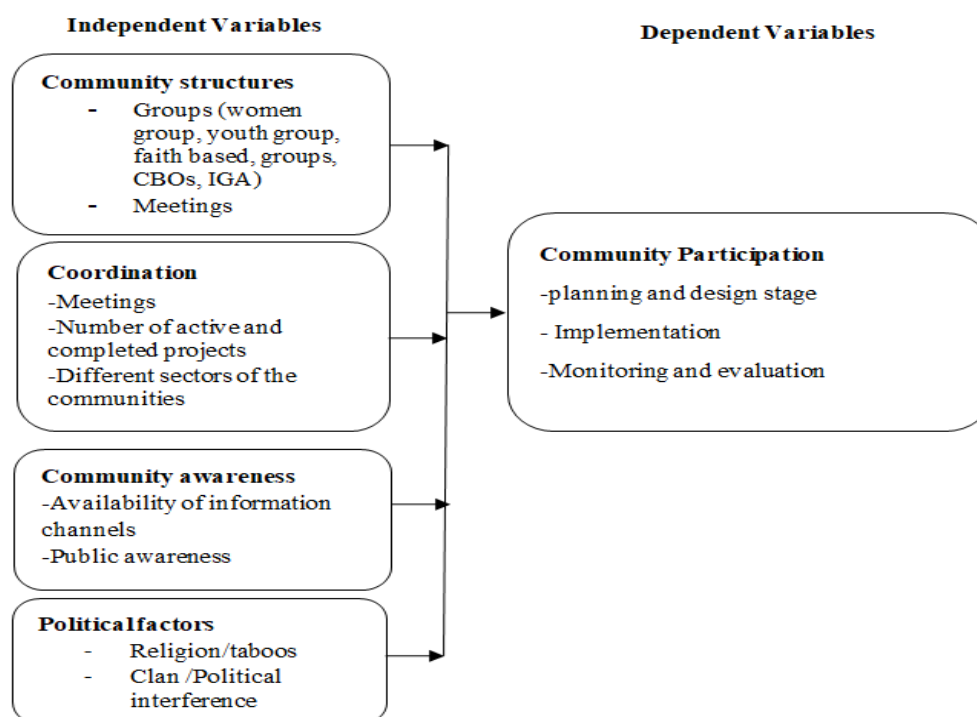


Figure 2.1: Conceptual framework

Research gaps

Several studies done in line with the community participation in humanitarian exists; Ali (2013) did a study on the determinants of community participation in the implementation of development projects: a case of Garissa sewerage project, the study objectives were; decision making, social factors, managerial involvement and challenges in the community participation, the study findings revealed that there were factors affecting community participation in Garissa Sewerage development projects and that community members were not aware about the of the Sewerage project. The development projects undertaken in their locality had not been implemented through participation of all.

Ogayo (2012) did a study on the factors influencing implementation of humanitarian assistance programs in emergency contexts: a case of Dadaab refugee camp in north eastern Kenya, the study objectives were; political factors, social-cultural factors, organization capacity and the logistical factors. The study findings revealed that This study revealed that socio-cultural factors such as the language of the target group, religion of the target group, leadership system of the target group and gender status within the target group influenced implementation of humanitarian assistance programs in Dadaab refugee camp. The findings of the study revealed that knowledge of the target group's language facilitated communication between the humanitarian agency staffs and the target group and this was the key to effective implementation of humanitarian activities.

Tigoi (2010) did a study on the factors influencing the effectiveness of humanitarian programs in a post-violence environment: the case of Kenya Red Cross in the north rift region; the study was guided by the following objectives; availability of funds, level and quality of personnel training, community participation and delivery, mismanagement of funds and management logistics. The study revealed that all the factors proposed in the study play a concerted role in influencing the dependent variable. However, availability of funds is rated by the respondents as critical if effectiveness in aid delivery is to be achieved. This is followed closely by personnel training, management of logistics and community participation. Mismanagement of funds is not perceived as playing a very active role.

From the previous studies as presented above reveals that a lot has been done on the community participation in the humanitarian response project, however none of the study focused on the study objectives of the current study this thus raised the research gap.

Summary

The chapter has highlighted other previous writers who have written on community participation in projects and related topics. The chapter mainly focused on how community structure, community awareness, coordination in the community participation and cultural and political factors have affected community participation in emergency humanitarian response project. The chapter has also presented the theoretical and conceptual framework of the study.

In summary there are different structures within the community that are actively involved in the humanitarian response project these includes, CBOs, Faith based organizations, youth groups among others, subsequently awareness creation is essentially another term for an old idea: raising basic cognizance to advance social change. It is a basic segment of verifiable and current social developments and activism, paying little heed to a social developments center and area, basic cognizance through training and mindfulness creation plays an imperative and a basic part by empowering investment, instructing the general population to associate the goal with the abstract and building up authoritative vision, methodology and fruitful results. Further the chapter has revealed that Community coordination is the ability of a community to achieve its mission effectively and sustain itself over a long term. The concept relates to the level of experience, funds availability, infrastructure capacity, as well as quality of the participants within the community.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research study will adopt a distinct examination plan which is portrayed by Kothari, 2003 as an exploration outline that spotlights consideration on detailing of destinations, planning the technique for information accumulation, choosing the example estimate, gathering information, handling and breaking down information and announcing the discoveries. The study will target household heads above 18 years (project beneficiaries and representative of humanitarian agencies) implementing projects in six villages purposively selected. The research targets villages where these organizations implemented projects between 2015-2017. These agencies include; IMC, IRC, Mercy Corps, SDRO and CESVI. The target beneficiaries will be drawn from the six villages in Galkacyo south. The target population will 550

respondents. Open and closed-ended questionnaires were prepared and administered for the officials and members respectively. The study relied on primary data using a questionnaire, which will be administered on the drop and pick from selected respondents in Sacco members and management. In this study, the quantitative data was collected and analyzed by calculating response rate with descriptive statistics such as mean, median, standard deviation and proportions using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 24 and Microsoft Excel.

Model

Analysis of data used multiple regressions to test the research questions

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

Where,

Y = Community participation in emergency humanitarian response project

X₁: Community structures

X₂: Community awareness

X₃: Community coordination

X₄: Political factors

β_0 is the constant or intercept

$\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3,$ and β_4 , coefficients for the respective independent variables.

ε is the error term which represents residual

Regression Results

Table 4.11 Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.017	.030		.000	.002
1 Community structures	.898	.048	.799	17.230	.003
Coordination	.645	.060	.195	2.757	.003
Community awareness	.489	.063	.000	.000	.004
Political influence	.364	.043	.000	.000	.001

$$Y = 0.017 + 0.898X_1 + 0.645X_2 + 0.489X_3 + 0.364X_4 + \varepsilon$$

Where,

Y = Community participation in emergency humanitarian response project

X₁: Community structures

X₂: Community awareness

X₃: Community coordination

X₄: Political factors

β_0 is the constant or intercept

The results in Table 4.11 indicate that community structures significantly and positively influenced community participation in emergency humanitarian response project in Galkacyo south. It is argued that where different groups i.e. women are given the opportunity to participate in emergency humanitarian response project, the terms of their inclusion influences the sustainability of their representation. However, marginalization of some groups i.e. women and youths is nothing but an elongation of male dominance in virtually all political affairs and is as result of cultural and religious beliefs. As such, historical fact of this nature is strongly associated with the attitudinal views which had often impede the chances of women and youths to having more political representatives in different emergency humanitarian response projects.

Further, community awareness has a significant and a positive influence on the community participation in emergency humanitarian response project in Galkacyo south. From the findings of the study it is evident that community awareness plays a major role on the effectiveness of emergency humanitarian response project in Galkacyo south. When the community are enlightened on their rights of participation in the affairs of the humanitarian response project, they tend to participate more and demand for their constitution rights which has led to effective participation.

Community coordination had significant and a positive influence on the community participation in Galkacyo south. This implies that effective coordination is linked to the community' ability to express their interest in self-determining governance of the people by the people and lack of sufficient coordination hampers information dissemination hence lower the quality of community participation in humanitarian response project.

Political Influence had finally a significant and negative influence on the community participation in emergency humanitarian response project in Galkacyo south. However, there are some challenges that exist and to some extent or partly hinder timely and effective delivery of humanitarian response project. Some of those challenges include interference of humanitarian response project programmes by influential people like the elected MP and other senior government officials in terms of key decision making, misappropriation of humanitarian response project funds and finally lack of moderate community participation.

4. CONCLUSION

This study concluded that community structures significantly and positively influenced community participation in emergency humanitarian response project in Galkacyo south. It is argued that where different groups i.e. women are given the opportunity to participate in emergency humanitarian response project, the terms of their inclusion influences the sustainability of their representation. The study also concluded that community awareness has a significant and a positive influence on community participation in emergency humanitarian response projects in Galkacyo south. From the findings of the study it is evident that community awareness plays a major role on the effectiveness of emergency humanitarian response project in Galkacyo south. The study further concluded that Community coordination had significant and a positive influence on community participation in Galkacyo south. This implies that effective coordination is linked to the community' ability to express their interest in self-determining governance of the people by the people and lack of sufficient coordination hampers information dissemination hence lower the quality of community participation in humanitarian response project. The study finally concluded that political Influence had finally a significant and negative influence on the community participation in emergency humanitarian response project in Galkacyo south. However, there are some challenges that exist and to some extent or partly hinder timely and effective delivery of humanitarian response projects.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommends that in order to emancipate different groups i.e. women, youth and ensure that they fully participate in emergency humanitarian response project, democratization processes should be reviewed, amended or revise existing constitutional, political, legislative and regulatory frameworks, including electoral systems, to amend provisions that hinder, the internally displaced people, women and youth groups equal participation in the decision-making processes. The study also recommends that the federal states should intensify civic education on the emergency humanitarian response project especially among the vulnerable groups like poorer section of the community and this will ensure that their priorities are addressed by the state. The study further recommends that since the community coordination influences their level of community participation in emergency humanitarian response project, the States should consider ensuring that effective community coordination is in place to enhance emergency humanitarian response

project. The study finally recommends that Project managers in charge of emergency humanitarian response project should ensure that their operations and daily routine are not interfered by politicians and other leaders.

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