

# Determinants on How Training And Nature Influences Public Participation In Governance In Narok County, Kenya

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**Abstract-** The global development is a major target of the World Bank through consideration of the diverse opinions. The millennium development goals fully support the global development. In various continents such as Europe, considering the opinions from the citizen in governance and in policy formulation is important. In Africa, different bodies are campaigning for inclusion and considerations of the citizen opinions from different perspectives without any form of discriminations as far as governance processes are concerned. The promulgation of the Kenyan constitution (2010) opened room for citizen participation by supporting participatory governance as a principle which binds government stakeholders; unfortunately there is improper public involvement in policy process in some Counties. Over the years, Kenya has little by little shifted from centralized to a decentralized form of governance; The 47 counties in Kenya have gradually moved to such form of governance by including public participation in their legislations, while a county like Narok which is among the 47 counties rarely conduct public participation while making county by-laws. The paper therefore, determines how training and nature influences public participation in governance in Narok County. Four theories were used: constraints theory, stakeholder's theory, Arnstein's participation ladder theory and the theory of moral unity in governance ethics. A descriptive research study was used. Since the target population was 800,000, sample size of 384 was used according to Mugenda and Mugenda in relation to target population. Stratified random sampling was used. The data was collected by the use of questionnaires and interview schedules. Data was analyzed descriptively using SPSS version 27 and presented in percentages, frequencies and tables. The findings indicated that lack of training in governance and sensitizations of the citizen affects the effectiveness of public participation. The study recommends that the county management team and administrators should ensure that there is training and sensitization of public members, allocation of funds and practice of good governance which embraces equality, participation, democracy, transparency, accountability, efficiency and equality.

**Index Terms-** Training, public participation, governance

## I. INTRODUCTION

In different states across the world, county governance included, there is lack of proper and well-structured public participation since the political leaders fear being carpeted for responsiveness. They fear being brought into accountable and transparent leadership. Social constraints results from this nature of involvement due to fairness and equality that results from effective public participation. It is through this that there is need to effectively create sharing of ideas, opinions and views in any strategic plans to ensure that each stakeholder is involve in governance process. In general, the stakeholders in governance entails but not limited to administrators, business organization, civil society, political leaders, humanitarian bodies, interested groups and members of the public. The important aspect is that the government lawmakers are expected to consider the inputs from civil society groups such as nongovernmental organization, religious bodies and even the activism groups (World Bank, 2004).

In the world, according to the world summit which was held at Rio in 1992 resulted to the agreement for regions and multilateral bodies. The agreement was to protect and promote a sustainable environment. The declaration identified that the civil society have an important responsibility in safeguarding the environment and making it sustainable. The Rio declaration leads to the development of principle number ten which promote civil involvement in policy development process. The Rio declaration as far as public participation is concern; brought the awareness that civil society involvement should be taken into account for all stakeholders to exercise legitimacy of governance. Consideration of the opinions from the public and recognizing the media involvement in the government process for information access is very paramount (Webler *et al*, 2001).

The economic commission of the UN in 1998, lead to the declaration for the public to have an opportunity to be able to know what the government is doing and to express their opinions; and the government as an expectation to

consider opinion from the members of the public. This will promote information sharing. Involvement in government policy formulation process, lead to a fair and just implementation of political agendas and as a result promotes a conducive and a sustainable environment. This is because public participation ensures that the citizen can get news relating to the environment. In the involvement process, there will be effectiveness and efficiency in governance. Consensus can be reached easily and there will be no difficulties in administration as far as policy making and implementation is concern. UN declaration considered public administration a key element for environmental conservation and protection (World Bank, 2004).

In a state like Canada, political system is considered to emphasize citizen involvement as a way of considering their opinions in policy formulation. Any policy in Canada which is not deliberated through public participation will not be considered legally processed. In Canada, public participation is of more important than even the rule of law. It is even structured in such a way that the citizen can contribute while outside their state or while in abroad. The government of Canada has gone far even to make legislation of promoting and protecting citizen participation in governance (Aminuzzaman, 2008).

In Germany, legislation is done by several entities including the members of the public. The stakeholders that are required to contribute for a policy for example include of course the government, administrators, judiciary, association, religious leaders, business bodies and other interested groups. The process is done via a discussion which accommodates the recommendation from various parties. This of course gives awareness that participatory of public in governance is more important when a government is making any Bill. Germany legislation considers views from the members of the public through participation which is an important element of governance. The policy making process can therefore be successful because every sensitive element is considered (Webler *et al*, 2001).

In Germany, since the legislation process affects different bodies, considering their views is very important. This is through a more of discussion process. The interested bodies' affects the constituent of the bill before it is duly approved (Webler *et al*, 2001).

In Africa, through the African Union (AU), nations are coming up with deliberation for agreement to put in place initiative to safeguard the environment. Such deliberation can only be arrived through the consideration of opinions from various stakeholders. This gives room for the consideration of the local settlers. In issues of environment, the local people who directly affect areas of a forestation, cultivation and farming are resourceful in giving input to any policy formulation. Through such involvement, skills can be acquired easily, awareness can be conducted without any difficulties and make people be part of any policy (World Bank, 2004).

In Africa, since citizen involvement is very important, and it has been expanding regimes by regimes, all the stakeholders need to be considered. This includes the consideration of opinions from youth, women and even the vulnerable groups. African nation have been left behind for lack of embracement of a participatory government in governance both politically and socially. Such embracement promoted to the effective implementation of the political agendas (Legal Resources Foundation Trust, 2009).

Citizen participation is better understood as the process in which the members of the public express their concern and mistakes perceived from the political regime by airing their opinions and in ensuring that the government is more responsive, accountable and effective towards the implementation of policies. Public participation is a basic element in governance since it promotes development and facilitate consensus. Citizen views consideration lead to effective fulfillment of the political Agenda and enhance social, economic and political development of the society (UNDP, 1997).

Kenya, through the constitution (2010) managed to move from non-participatory government into a citizen involvement of government of inclusion. Devolution in Kenya is aimed at promoting citizen involvement in governance through formation of county government. Public participation being the main agenda is for unity, cohesiveness and equality. Citizens are able to air their concern during government operation and in the formulation of policies which affects their lives.

The citizen can convey their views via the representative within the county level elected as the members of county assembly and senators at the senate assembly. Devolution in Kenya lead to the decentralization of the two arms of government from national level to the county level, namely the executive and the legislation known as the county assembly. It is expected as per in the rule of law in Kenya for each Bill within the county level to be taken to the citizen through public participation for the consideration of their opinions. Any factor to cause interference of such practice will lead to illegality and hence the bill will not have been properly passed (The Constitution of Kenya, 2010).

In Narok County, as in support of the Kenyan constitution 2010 Article 1, it consider public participation in its governance but there is poor turn up and poor communication from the county government officials. According to the second CIDP, 2018/2019, Narok County takes consideration of the citizen views through public participation. The Bill is normally mandated to the relevant committee to organize for public participation. Narok County has Six Sub Counties formerly known as constituencies. For effectiveness and successful public participation process, the

stakeholders within the county are expected to mobilize the citizen and make prior communication for the citizen to get information on matters to be discussed through sub county administrators and the local chiefs (Narok County Integrated Development Plan 2018-2023, 2018).

### **1.1 Statement of the problem**

Having in mind that the government is the key stakeholder or major player and actor in policy formulation and implementation, public participation or involvement in a specified ladder is important for consensus and successful development. Public development leads to rapid development, responsiveness, accountability and build unity and cohesiveness. In Kenya, government true devolution which gives room for participatory government is an element for the features excellent governance to prevail in every form of governance. There has been a lot of protest; and cases of hue and cry against the government for not effectively responding to the need of the citizens. Counties are being accused of malpractices and performance of irrelevant performance which does not have impact to the common citizen (Khwaja, 2004).

Even though the constitution needed all the counties to abide in considering communal involvement, there was lack of proper public participation and consideration of the opinion from the members of the public. The citizens of Narok County were not in position to hold their political leaders accountable due to lack of proper or structured public participation. Good governance consists of eight features of which public participation is one of the key features which facilitate to rapid social, economic, cultural and political development. The said features are interdependent; if one enforced, the other will flourish. Therefore, since there is no effective and proper development in Narok County, public participation is a more concern factor (Chand, 2011).

Good governance is not to be witness if there is no effective and well organized public participation. According to Renn *et al* (1996), there should be fairness in citizen participation in policy making process. There was minimal participation by residents of County Government of Narok in government policy formulation and implementation processes. Research studies had been conducted but none on the factors influencing public participation in governance in Narok County. The study mitigated the gap by determining how training and nature influences public participation in governance in Narok County.

### **1.2 Objective of the Study**

To determine how training and nature influences public participation in governance in Narok County, Kenya

### **1.3 Research Question**

How does training and nature influences public participation in governance in Narok County?

### **1.4 Academic Justification**

The study will be a reference point for students at both graduate and post graduate studies doing the same research course hence sealing the knowledge gap through use of the data as a secondary resource and for future studies.

#### **1.4.1 Policy Justification**

This study's findings will be helpful to different stakeholders within the county as far as governance is concern. The findings can be useful to the county members of the assembly (MCA) who are the lawmakers within the county. The other team is of course the members of the public whose opinions are important for any policy formulation. The members of the public through the findings of this research paper would be able to have knowledge of their importance and to know the factors hindering their participation. The other groups who can benefit from the findings include the civil society, investors, business people, county executive stakeholders, local administration and county administrators. The government would also benefit from the findings for its accountability, responsiveness, consensus and other features of good governance for mutual development and cohesion.

## **II. TRAINING AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE**

According to Odhiambo (2015) in his article "Professional Training Challenges Affecting Anglo-Kenyan Military Relations Since 1963 to 2014" he defines training as 'the systematic development of the attitude, knowledge, skill and behaviour pattern required by an individual to perform adequately a given task or job'.

The important element to enhance participation in policy process and to enhance a fruitful outcome in any management of social issues is the building of capacity. The aim of capacity building through designated training is purposely to build a mutual cohesion between the member of the citizen and other stakeholders. The capacity building processes expand knowledge and result to stakeholder's relationship. Capacity building will lead to recognition of each other, inclusion of the vulnerable groups and respect of individual's fundamental rights. According to Turnbull (1997), good governance is the one which recognize the need of the society and the leaders fight for the rights of the electorate.

The electorate should also have the knowledge of their right to impeach any political leader representing them if they may feel that their social need is not met. Training is therefore necessary.

In many cases the political leaders tend to respond to the social need of the urban and neglecting the social need of the citizen living in rural areas. The opinions from the people from the rural vicinities are very paramount in any policy formation and project fulfillment strategies. According to Walzer and Hamm (2012), for the citizen inclusion and for the fruitful fulfillment of the political Agendas in any government regime, strategic plan should be very clear. Development and meeting of the social need of the society is the presence of well-structured plans. One of the plans is public participation, training and seminars, allocation of adequate budget, considering of the youth, female and vulnerable group.

If there is discrimination or inclusion of other stakeholders and consideration of other social group reaching considered will be very difficult decision will be poor and conflict may result.

According to Kumar (2002), successful decision making process or policy formulation consensus is the consideration of the civil society. This involves the improvement of government organization, humanitarian bodies, and activism groups among others. There should be ladder of communication in what should take place and how generally expert opinion should be considered. This mean that public administrators should be very organized and administers of information .Consensus can be easily reached for the implementation of policies, if the concern stakeholders are included; their views are taken into consideration. In the administrative system, the opinions from the members of the public are very crucial and consider legitimate for policy processes. Proper involvement of the public views will better the operation of the policy –makers. For the purpose of all of these, training, education or capacity building is very essential.

According to Nampila (2005), the society comprises of various stakeholders with varying opinions in the community, a given portion may possess certain interest which is not the same with the interest of others. It is therefore very beneficial to ensure that the public members from the rural exercise their rights to develop in their positions and to improve livelihoods. The consideration will minimize exclusion, discrimination and enhance rapid improvement of the society (Kakumba and Nsingo, 2008).

Nakhosi & Odhiambo (2020) in their article “Women’s Involvement in Decision Making on Governance in Shinyalu Sub-County, Kenya” asserts that: Acknowledging women’s role in governance appears having been prescribed in policy articulation and execution on social, economic and political issues at the international, regional and national levels. In general, such policy articulations touch on gender and governance.

Within the society the implementation or the formation of a new project will lead to divisions according to the opinion differences. A given portion of the society will oppose and another part of the society population may join hand, and the other may become undecided .The undecided portion need to be advised to become the supporters. If proper plans are not put in place, they will also reject. The only strategy that can help to achieve this is through education and public participation (Mahlon, 2007).

According to Kumar (2002), public participation wants to be done at the start of the course of action formulation not at the middle or at the implementation phase. There should be proper communication for mutual dialogue for result of positive outcomes. Public participation should not be sudden or quick to prevent the exhaustion of the relevant ideas. Engagement at the start will minimize tension, will build cohesion and lead to consensus. The public administrators are expected to convey the important update for public awareness. There is danger if the community is not communicated properly, speculation will be high and negative rumors can lead to conflicts. There should be proper information to the public, that their opinions are highly considered in the policy formulation; at the same time the public should be given official feedback.

According to Kakumba and Nsingo (2008), the public members should exercise their rights to communicate their view on policies that influence or that impact to their livelihoods. The electorate has to exercise political rights as in the constitution concerning the accountability of their political elite. The public’s professionalism, skills, knowledge and ideas should be considered essential, because the government policies have a direct impact to the citizen lives. Capacity building and training is very important to empower the citizen to communicate their opinion without fear or favour, even if the public administrators or powerful individual are presence in the public participation forum.

According to Oakley (2013), in situation where public participation does not affect the government plans, then it is not an important way for the agenda formulation or implementation. The opinions should be considered important and must be capture the interest of the society .public participation should not just be a process for media purposes, but the data or input from the public participation forum should be considered. The further public participation is considered in projects the higher there will be unity, cohesion and consensus is achieved.

According to the World Bank (2011), in order to get the inputs from the vulnerable groups, it means you must work together in association and have a better interaction with them. You must have information of their needs, the challenges facing them, their position within the society and their constitution and fundamental rights. The poor have

the rights to be heard, to be access justice and to participate in public participation. Training and education of these rights and entitlement should be done to empower development and the achievement of the MDGS.

## 2.1 Nature of Governance and public participation in county governance

Governance involves all the process through which the political elite fulfill their political agendas. Governance entails the process in which the government through its political machineries response to the social needs of the society. Governance involve making the government official accountable and responsible. There is also implementation of projects in governance. Good governance is the one which effectively responds to the social need of the citizen in a consensus manner. The process is in line with the public administration which includes protection, respect and promotion of the basic human rights. The government operation should be of ethical values in respect to rule of law for the build of governance (Folk, 1991). This is corroborated by Marigwa & Odhiambo (2020) in the article “The Effects of Role Overlap between County and National Government Staff on Service delivery in Nyamira County, Kenya”:

The vital stage of devolved governance implementation process in any country comprises the development of government policies and guidelines on the operations of devolved units in relation to service delivery.

According to Ferguson (1994), public participation is perceived to be the tool in which the government can perform its plans since participation will lead to consensus. Ferguson (1994), argued that “participation can be a form of section part in which its output cannot be controlled. Secondly, participatory development’s capability leads to creation of areas for political concern. So to promote participation, empowerment to all stakeholders should be done.” According to Ostergaard *et al* (2003), poor communication and exclusion lead to conflict. This can be experience if the rural community is neglected. The responsible sections normally don’t reach the rural communities like municipal government, banks, county operations and other department like of the agriculture. The kind of negligence can make the excluded society to hostile. Another problem is that the political leaders once elected tend to prioritize their concern as the elected members without taking into consideration the needs of the electorate (Mdunyelwa, 2008).

Holliday and Watts (2002) enlightened that lack of political accountability lead to poor implementation of the policies. Politicians once elected forget their role as elected members. Such loopholes affect sustainable development of the society.

In governance, factors like absence of technology and the presence of financial constraints affect development. According to the Economic Commission-EC Africa (2002), the developing countries face various challenges in governances. The challenges range from lack of required skills and technology, poor infrastructure, absence of resources and there is presence of malpractices (Chasek *et al*, 2010).

It is very central for the regime to encompass strategic plans and legitimate agenda to track development and the challenges encountered. The important task of the key actors in government is to see their expenditure leading to positive outcome. According to Philips & Abdillah (2003), in governance, fighting of corruption promoting of accountability and ensuring adherence to the integrity and ethical standards; proper performance , measurement and good monitoring and evaluation, will leads to positive outcome (Moynihan, 2008).

The government can only become of good governance by ensuring that accountability and transparency is prevailed. This can increase practices of good public participation hence the government become responsible to the society (Williamson, 1996).

In governance, monitoring is very important. It involves the frequencies study of the implementation phase. This mean that the official should have the information how is the project growing by ensuring performance policies (World Bank, 2011). Monitoring involve examination of input and outputs. The process will enable correction hence development. According to Crawford and Bryce (2003), the policies are continuous as it involves the structuring of the operation mechanisms. In monitoring, investigation of operative data is essential.

According to McCoy *et al* (2005) evaluation is not continuous like monitoring, it is aimed process activity done while the project is on process foe effectiveness. Evaluation is done to test if the project is in line with the goal and mission of the policy. Evaluation is important since it promotes project sustainability. Project will faster fulfill the goals if they are effectively sustainable. The output should be observed vases the input. Evaluation promotes correctness (Johnson *et al*, 2004; Weiss *et al*, 2002).

According to Shediak and Bone (1998); Steadman *et al* (2002), leaders in any project should be able to have a database which record the project graphical movement and make sure that all the stakeholders have access of such information (Mancini and Marek, 2004). Making information accessible to the stakeholders like public, leads to a better sustainability of a policy. This means that the government should foster its government by ensuring that they have information of the ongoing projects. This can promote consensus and lead to sustainability.

Governance is built by information sharing and communication; this study will therefore evaluate how governance influences public participation in county governance in Narok County. This is because the governance, where political

elite do exercise their political power to the electorate determines the success or failure of the project. The high level of corruption within the politicians and lack of ethical standards leads to violation of the fundamental rights of the citizens. But if all the stakeholders abide and stick to the eight elements of good governance, then the community will benefit from sustainable development and there will be neither conflict nor discrimination of any form.

## **2.2 Conceptual framework**

Wasike and Odhiambo (2016), discuss the role of theories in guiding the thrust of academic studies. They emphasize the importance of theories in offering compelling and incisive causal explanations with calculated precision. They assert that theories play the role of predicting, prescribing and evaluating socio-political phenomena hence they cannot be ignored.

### **2.2.1 The constraints theory**

This theory states that “there are constraints in any development plan which need to be managed for the success of it”. According to Goldratt (1980), theory of constraints affects the degree of performance. The constraints in this research paper were the factors affecting public participation. In any form of governance or organization, the administrators should be able to manage the challenging factors for the better achievement of positive results (Lisa, 2006).

The theory of constraints needs the key stakeholders to be conversant with the project being performed. The managers should be in position to identify the affecting challenges and set possible means for the better men of performance. For the better conduct of successful and fruitful public participation with consensus, the County Government should be able to understand the affecting constraint, manage them and foster for mutual development (Lisa, 2006).

### **2.2.3 Stakeholder’s Theory**

In this theory, the stakeholders are the individual who take part and benefit from the organization or institution. In the government include politicians, administrators, ministers, public investors, civil society, and sponsors, among others. The stakeholder’s theory states that all stakeholders depend to each other (Oakley, 2013). The interest of each party should be accommodated, should be considered for consensus. Public participation seeks to gather opinions and views of different stakeholders for consensus. Through it, the legitimate goals, need, priorities will be deliberated for mutual development (Patton, 2008).

The stakeholder’s theory ensures that other parties’ interest is not considered more than the others. It seeks to satisfy all through sharing and access to the benefit of the project (Maina, 2013). The theory also specifies the role of the government officials, the role of the administrators and even the role of the public in fostering development. For instance in governance, the government is needed to provide the social need of the citizen. The executive arm of the government performs representation and oversight, public participation seeks to consider the interest of both the society without favoring any side.

### **2.2.4 Arnstein’s participation ladder**

This theory was invented by Sherry Arnstein in the year 1969. She stated the eight types of participation. She expressed in a ladder as per the participatory governance. There is top official in the government, citizen being the lower part. The ladder discussed the hierarchy and the requirement in participation. The Arnstein theory of ladder of participation recognize the citizen who are at the lower level not to be neglected nor excluded in the political and economic right. Through this theory, public contribution process is the aspect to foster the progress of this theory. The research paper will evaluate the economic challenges influencing public participation (Arnstein, 2016).

In the community, citizen fall under different levels or ladder according to the economic capability. The government through its administrative gears should balance the need of the citizen in order to boost their economic status immaterial of the level they fall. Public sharing is therefore a key process of considering the opinions of different categories of the citizen without taking their status level into considerations.

## **2.3 Theory of moral unity in governance ethics**

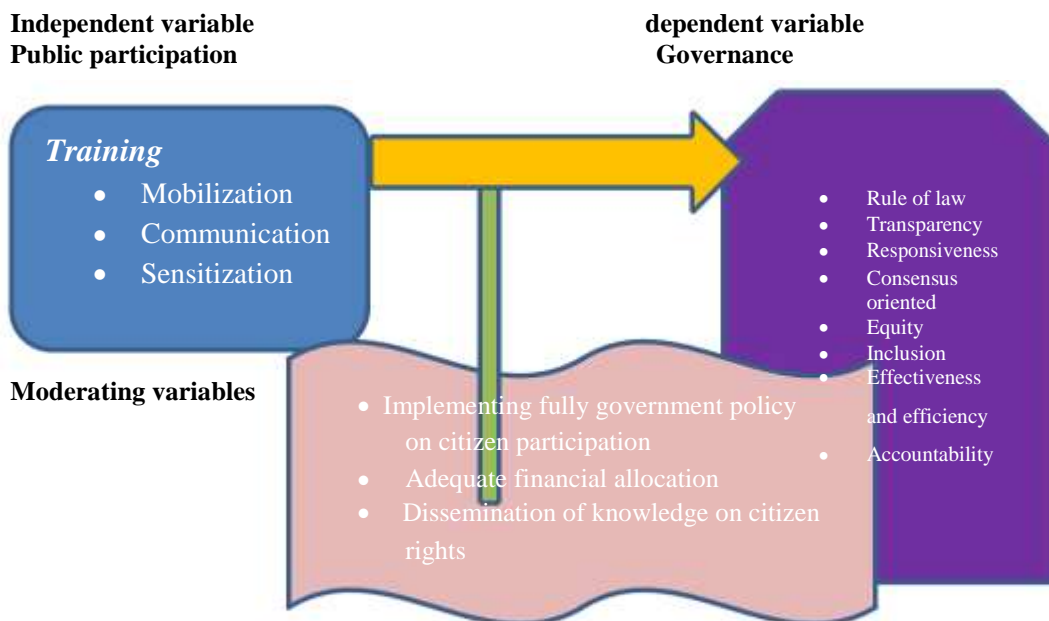
In governance ethics, the theory of moral unity shapes the functions of the government totality by enforcing and giving support to the practice of ethical standards. Good governance is the one which embraces the desire of ethical perspectives of the society. This gives support that the decision from the government should give consideration to the ethical dimension, as a tool of governance ethics. Ethics ensures that harmony is practiced even when there is differences in policy making within the government. Good county governance is therefore the one which embrace in ethical standards. Ethics and integrity is an element of good governance.

According to Meicer (2008), government avoids malpractices of misusing legitimate power and sorts of corruption. The practice of ethics within the governments brings cohesion and harmony for the exercise of political powers in any regime. Ethics will therefore facilitate government to be more transparent and responsive which impacts

to citizen involvements. Governance ethics ensures that the government conducts its exercises, administration and operation for the interest of the public through consideration of their views.

Ethics governance will enables the government’s key players to respect, promote and protect the need and rights of the people it governs. A government which is transparent, with public participation and responsible can only be enjoyed through the adherence of ethical standards. Justice can only be felt the integrity and ethics. Respect to the rule of law, impartiality, fairness, justice and equality are a result of ethical standards for unity. If the social need and rights of the citizens are morally taken into consideration, then the practice of public participation will be enjoyed fully within the society.

According to Chapter six of the constitution of Kenya (2010), integrity and moral virtues are the basic requirement from any government administrator or official. Ethics allow the community to function peacefully, promote harmony and unity. A government which embraces codes of ethics and integrity is in neither a position to do the right function simply because the function worth to be done so, without any follows up nor any oversight.



**Figure 1. Conceptual Framework**  
**Source: Researcher (2021)**

### III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Research design

For the proper investigation of factors influencing public participation in governance in County government of Narok, the researcher used descriptive research design. Descriptive research design was appropriate since it enabled the researcher to examine and described the phenomenon the way they appeared (Mugenda and Mugenda, 1999). Descriptive research design helped the researcher to formulate hypothesis, form research question and in testing the hypothesis (Best and Khan, 2004).

According to Cohen *et al* (2007), descriptive research design helped the researcher in collection of primary data and in the examination of phenomenon that were too large to investigate or observe. It was therefore appropriate in generalizing the facts. Mugenda and Mugenda (1999), considered the descriptive survey by stating that, “it is economical and efficient.”

#### 3.2 Study Location

County Overview Narok County is one of the 47 counties created by the Constitution of Kenya 2010. The county headquarter is in Narok town, off Narok Nakuru road. The County is situated in the Great Rift Valley in the Southern part of the Country where it borders the republic of Tanzania. The County is named after, Enkare Narok, meaning the river flowing through Narok town. The County is a member of South Rift Economic Bloc comprising Bomet, Kericho and Kajiado Counties The aim of the economic block includes improvement of the agriculture sector to increase exports to African countries and abroad, livestock production, wildlife and cultural tourism, minerals, the environment and

conferencing. The Narok County is cosmopolitan with a population projection of 1,130,703 persons as at 2018. The ratio of male and female is one to one. The dominant tribes are Maasai and Kalenjin. The main economic activities in the county include pastoralism, crop farming, tourism and trade among other activities undertaken in small scale. The famous Masaai Mara Game Reserve, featuring the Great Wildebeest Migration which is one of the “seven Wonder of the World is located in the County. The county has a robust ecological system that residents depend on for agriculture, tourism, water and many other benefits. The main crops grown in the county are wheat, barley, maize, beans, Irish potatoes and horticultural crops. Mining activities include Kilimapesa gold mines in Lolgorian, quarry and sand harvesting in Narok South and Narok East Sub-counties. The major challenges adversely affecting economic prosperity in the county include effects of climate change, poorly developed economic infrastructure, unplanned human settlement and high level of unemployment among the youth.

### **3.2.1 Position and Size Narok**

County lies between latitudes 0° 50′ and 1° 50′ South and longitude 35o 28′ and 36o 25′ East. It borders the Republic of Tanzania to the South, Kisii, Migori, Nyamira and Bomet counties to the West, Nakuru County to the North and Kajiado County to the East. The county headquarters is at Narok Town. The county covers an area of 17,933.1 Km<sup>2</sup> representing 3.1 per cent of the total area in Kenya and hence the eleventh largest county in the country.

### **3.2.2 Physical and Topographic features**

The county lies within the Great Rift Valley, and is serviced by several rivers, flowing from highlands through arid and undulating landscapes. It is home to numerous volcanic landforms with areas of prominent geothermal activities. The highland areas of Mau escarpments, rising to an attitude of 3,100m above sea level provides fertile ground for farming and source to major rivers like Mara and Ewaso Nyiro with Mara River being the single major river that passes through Maasai Mara Game Reserve and ultimately draining into Lake Victoria. Narok County is home to the world renowned Maasai Mara Game Reserve which is considered Kenya’s jewel when it comes to wildlife. The reserve sitting on 1,510 km<sup>2</sup> hosts 25% of Kenya’s big cats and has one of the highest wildlife densities in Africa. It is characterised by Savannah plains and woody shrubs which provide an ideal home for the 95 species of mammals, amphibians and reptiles and over 400 bird species found in the park and its environs. Over 300,000 tourists visit the park each year with the peak season for the park coinciding with the Great wildebeest Migration that occurs between July and September of every year.

In the addition to high agricultural potential in highlands and tourism economic activities in the lowlands, the county is endowed with numerous natural resources. Exploration of geothermal power in Suswa area has shown positive prospects, in Talek harnessing of solar power is on-going. Wind power is used in pumping water from boreholes in Mara area and adjacent areas. Other resources found in the county include vast deposits of sand in Suswa and Naikarra wards, pockets of gold deposits in Transmara constituency.

### **3.2.3 Ecological conditions**

The county has a robust ecological system that residents depend on for agriculture, tourism and water. The county’s ecological conditions are influenced by the soil type, altitude, vegetation, rainfall pattern and human activities. The two dominant vegetation types in the county include forest land in the Mau area and grasslands and shrubs in the lowland areas of Suswa, in Narok North, Osupuko and Loita divisions in Narok South as well as the Mara sections in Transmara. Grasslands are suitable for livestock rearing and wildlife survival. A major threat to the vegetation cover is the destruction caused by human activities including grazing, charcoal burning, extraction of wood fuel and cutting down of trees without replacement resulting in adverse ecological effects. The main drainage systems are Lake Victoria South catchment basin and Ewaso Nyiro South drainage area. Rivers in these basins include Mara, Mogor that traverse the county from Mau region through to Kenya-border and into Tanzania draining into Lake Victoria and River Ewaso Ng’iro rising from the Mau Escarpment, draining into Lake Natron respectively. However, due to continuous deforestation over a couple of years, the volume of water in the rivers has been decreasing. To address this challenge, the county has introduced programs to construct water reservoirs, water pans, dams, shallow wells and, boreholes especially in the lowlands and denser settlements of urban and market centres of Narok town, Kilgoris, Lolgorian, E/Enkare and Ololulung’a to provide water for domestic and livestock use. Maasai Mara Game reserve is a home to the country’s highest wildlife density and as such is Africa premium wildlife destination. The reserve is home to a variety of wildlife including Wildebeests, Gazelles, Zebras, Warthogs, Hyenas, Giraffes, Elephants, Lions, Leopards and Elands. With increasing human encroachment activities to the reserve, cases of human wildlife conflict have been on the rise and thus threatening sustainability of the reserve and the tourism sector at large.

### **3.2.4 Climatic conditions**

The climatic condition of Narok County is strongly influenced by the altitude and physical features. The county has four agro-climatic zones namely: humid, sub-humid, semi-humid to arid and semi-arid. Two-thirds of the county is classified as semi-arid (Narok DEAP2009-2013). Temperatures range from 200C (January- March) to 100C (June-September) with an average of 180C. Rainfalls amounts are influenced by the passage of inter tropical convergence

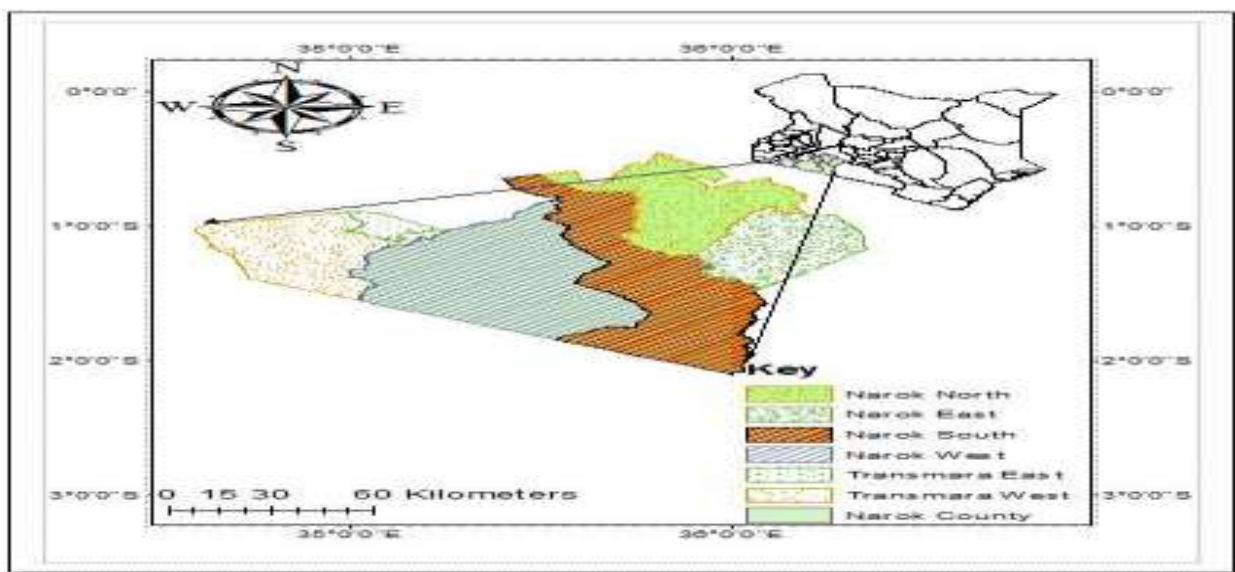
zones giving rise to bi-modal rainfall pattern. Long rains are experienced between the months of February and June while the short rains are experienced between August and November. Rainfall ranges from 2,500 mm in wet season to 500 mm during the dry season. The March to June season receives high intensity rainfalls that support growth of vegetation which is food for wild animals. This climatic characteristic has been influencing the migration of wildebeest into Kenya from Serengeti in June in search of vegetative food and return migration to Serengeti in November after the vegetation diminishes. The seasons are also important to farmers in planning for planting and harvesting.

### 3.2.5 Temperature and rainfall changes in Narok County

Pastoralist, agro-pastoralist and agriculturalists in Narok County will be amongst the most vulnerable due to the impacts of climate change. Increasing climate variability (changes duration, seasonality and increase in temperature) and extreme events (droughts and floods) will affect livestock and agriculture production, incomes, and food security of these communities in the County. It is projected that temperatures in the Africa are likely to increase more rapidly than the other parts of the world, which might surpass 2°C by midway of the 21st century and 4°C by the close of the 21st century (Niang et al., 2014; World Bank 2013). Recent national studies by Ogot et al., (2016) indicate striking temperature rises in the ASALs of Kenya with annual average maximum temperature increases between 0.7 to 1.9 °C between 1960 and 2013. The mean annual minimum temperature rose from 0.6°C to 1.7°C between the same periods displaying a more country wide warming. In Narok the maximum average temperature increased by 1.75°C and minimum average temperature by 1.48°C between 1960 and 2013 (Said et al., 2018). Further projections on rainfall and temperature by 2030s indicate Narok County is among the few counties in Kenya that will observe slight increase in rainfall for both long March-April-May (MAM) and short rains October-November-December (OND) but with increasing dry spell for the months of June-July-August-September (JJAS). Agricultural and livestock production is likely to be affected in the near-term, as warming shifts the climatic conditions that are conducive to current agricultural production. The area of land suitable for agriculture, length of growing seasons and yield potential are expected to shrink-- particularly along the margins of semi-arid and arid areas. These changes in temperature and rainfall will have a huge impact in the planning for crop and livestock production in the county in the next 10 years and beyond.

### 3.2.6 Administrative Subdivision

Administratively, Narok County is divided into six sub- counties namely; Transmara West, Transmara East, Narok North, Narok South, Narok West and Narok East.



**Figure 2: Map of Study Area**

**Source: Researchers, 2021**

### 3.3 Target population

Population is the total collection of people, institution, things or cases who share common characteristics that can be perceived easily (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). For the purposes of this research paper, the target population entailed the total subjects the researcher investigated (Cooper and Schindler, 2008). The population targeted by this research was 800,000 people who were above 18 years living within Narok County and by Kenyan constitution are adults with national identity card and therefore, were able to participate in giving opinion during county government requirement for public participation in governance.: the six sub-counties were Narok North, Narok South, Narok West,

Narok East, Transmara West and Transmara East. This population size was obtained from the Kenya national bureau of statistic (KNBS, 2019).

### 3.4 Sample size and sampling techniques

According to Kombo and Tromp (2006) the process of obtaining the sample size/sub-section of the target population, is the step by step selection of the portion of the bigger population. In order to study better a given population, it is good to obtain a sample or a small size to present the larger population (Lind *et al*, 2008). The process of obtaining the sample is determine by the nature of the population, the information to be collected, the geographical features, the type of data collection among other factors. Therefore, this research project tried to focus to respondent who are key players in public participation; including ward administrators, political leaders, social leaders, county officials, business people, and reliable members of the public and spiritual leaders across all the six sub counties in Narok County. A sample size of 384 respondents was sampled. This is because the targeted population was more than 10,000 people. When the targeted population is more than 10,000, the recommended sample size should be 384 respondents or individual (Mugenda and Mugenda, 1999). Since this research project had targeted a population of 800,000 people (those between 20-70 years of age) as retrieved from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistic (2019), the researcher therefore considered a sample size of 384 respondents. This principle guided the researcher in sampling procedure a cross the six sub counties within Narok County.

### 3.5 Sampling procedure

This involves how the respondents were chosen to avoid sampling issues and bias errors, the researcher used the stratified random sampling procedures. This was obtained by dividing the population elements into mutually exclusive, non-overlapping and well represented groups called strata, the selecting a simple random sample from each unit called stratum. The stratified considered by the researcher to be appropriate since there was heterogeneity in the population. The researcher divided the sample size into different groups called strata, based on respondent’s shared attributes such as level of education, income rate, employment status, nature of work, among others (Kothari, 2004).

### 3.6 Data collection instruments

The researcher used questionnaires and interview schedule to collect data from the sample size and Focus Group Discussion. The researcher only used the two instruments for reliability and validity of information. According to Smith (1975) it is not appropriate to use several instruments. The use of questionnaires and schedule interviews facilitate the validity and reliability of data (Schofield, 1996).The choice of instrument was guided by how well it satisfied the need of the research by some absolute standard. The researcher considered questionnaires for the collection of data. It was used because a large sample of the respondents was easily reached. It also gave a well thought out answer as the respondents had adequate time with the questionnaires. The questionnaires comprised the use of both structured and unstructured questions in a standardized form that was uniform for all respondents.

### 3.7 Data analysis and presentations

According to Salant and Dillman (1997) the analysis of data especially the qualitative one is determine by the temperament of data collected and the connection of independent and dependent variables. Since the data that was collected were qualitative and quantitative in nature, the researcher used descriptive analysis. According to Triola (2008), descriptive analysis was very appropriate because was simple to present the result by use of graphs, tables, charts and polygons.

## IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

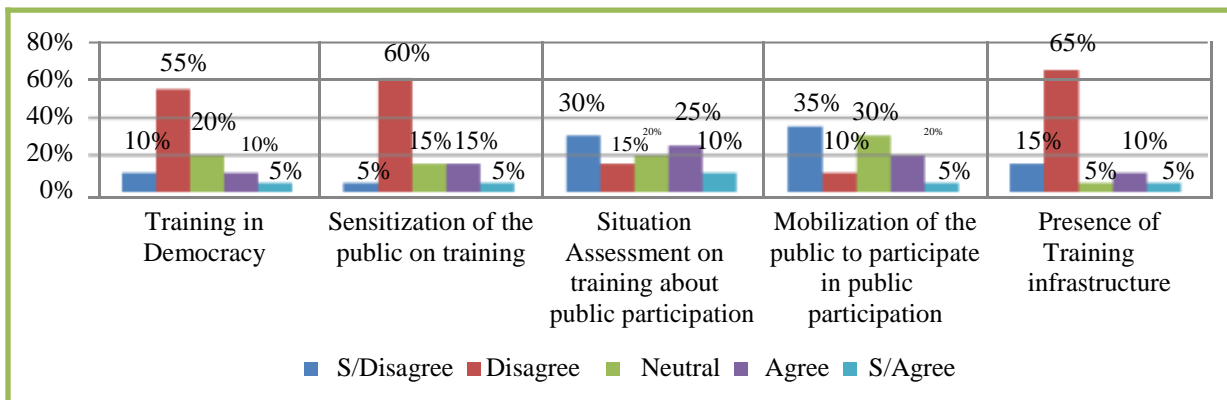
### 4.1 Training in Democracy, Sensitization of the public on training, Situation Assessment on Training about public participation, Mobilization of the public to participate in public participation, Presence of Training infrastructure

**Table 1. Training in Democracy, Sensitization of the public on training, Situation Assessment on Training about public participation, Mobilization of the public to participate in public participation, Presence of Training infrastructure**

Training Factors	SD	D	N	A	SA	TOTAL						
Training in Democracy	32	10	176	55%	64	20%	32	10%	16	5%	320	100
Sensitization of the public on training	16	5%	192	60%	48	15%	48	15%	16	5%	320	100

<b>Situation Assessment on training about public participation</b>	96	30	48	15%	64	20%	80	25%	32	10%	<b>320</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Mobilization of the public to participate in public participation</b>	112	35	32	10%	96	30%	64	20%	16	5%	<b>320</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Presence of Training infrastructure</b>	48	15	208	65%	16	5%	32	10%	16	5%	<b>320</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Researcher (2021)



**Figure 3. Training in Democracy, Sensitization of the public on training, Situation Assessment on Training about public participation, Mobilization of the public to participate in public participation, Presence of Training infrastructure**  
Source: Field Data (2021)

From table 1 and figure 3, the following responses were collected, for democracy in training, majority have disagreed at 55% (176), 10% (32) had strongly disagreed, 20% (64) were neutral, 10% (32) have agreed that there was democracy in training about public participation . 5% (16) were on the side of agreeing that there is training in democracy about public participation within the Narok County. This therefore proved that there was minimal training in democracy of members of the public about public participation, since from data 10% (32) of the respondents had strongly disagreed that there was training in democracy.

Respondents were asked whether there was sensitization of the public on training; 60% (192) disagreed that there was sensitization of the public on training. 5%(16) had strongly disagreed, 15%(48) were neutral, 15%(48) agreed and 5%(16) strongly disagreed. On the practice of situation assessment on training about public participation, majority strongly disagreed at 30% (96), 15% (48) disagreed, 20% (64) were neutral, 25% (80) agreed and 10% (32) strongly agreed that there was no situation assessment on training about public participation. For the Mobilization of the public to participate in public participation, majority strongly disagreed at 35% (112), those who disagreed were 10% (32), 30% (96) were neutral, 20% (64) agreed and 5% (16) strongly agreed that the county government conducts public mobilization about public participation. For the purpose of the training facilities within the County, majority of the respondents indicated that there were few training infrastructures by disagreeing at 65% (208) and strongly disagreeing at 15% (48). Only 10% (32) agreed and 5% (16) were neutral and 5% (16) strongly agreed.

From these findings, it was clear that there was little training in democracy for the public members about the aspects of public participation. There was less sensitization of the public members about training on how, when, where and why to air their opinions in any government operation and projects. There was little Mobilization of the public to participate in public participation; and there was scanty of the training infrastructures to train the public and educate them about their role and importance in the county government operations.

These findings does not concur with the features of a good governance as highlighted by Aminuzzaman (2008), good governance is the one which practice democracy, informs the public appropriately, take into consideration the need of the society, observe inclusivity and respects the fundamental rights of the people it govern. If the public does not have knowledge on what public participation process entails, then the effectiveness of it will be compromised.

**4.2 Consideration of public views on training in governance, Plans to train the public in governance, Budget allocation for training in governance, Effective communication about training in governance, whether training in governance influence public participation**

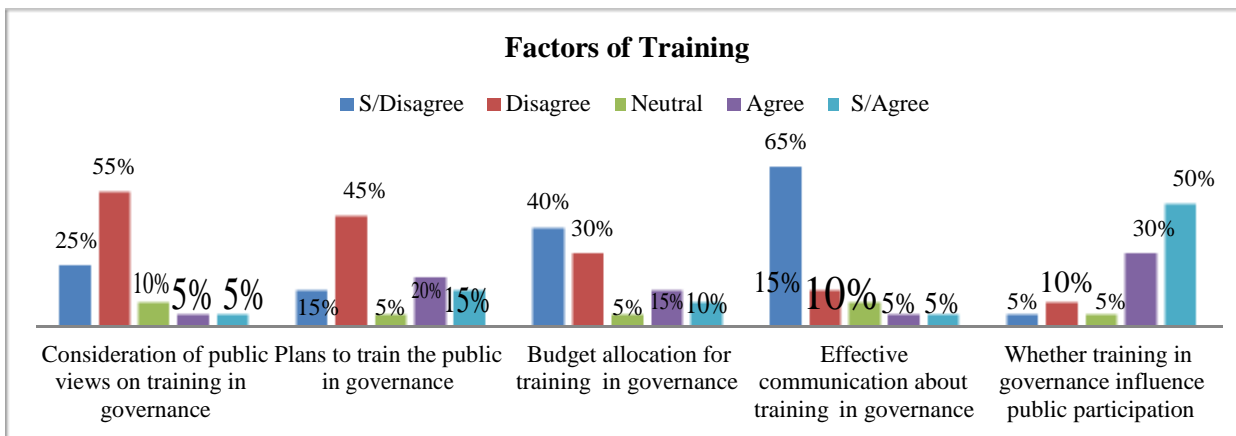
**Table 2. Consideration of public views on training in governance, Plans to train the public in governance, Budget allocation for training in governance, Effective communication about training in governance, whether training in governance influence public participation**

Training Factors	SD	D	N	A	SA	TOTAL						
Consideration of public views on training in governance	80	25%	176	55%	3	10%	16	5%	16	5%	320	100
Plans to train the public in governance	48	15%	144	45%	1	5%	64	20%	48	15%	320	100
Budget allocation for training in governance	128	40%	96	30%	1	5%	48	15%	32	10%	320	100
Effective communication about training in governance	208	65%	48	15%	3	10%	16	5%	16	5%	320	100
Whether training in governance influence public participation	16	5%	32	10%	1	5%	96	30%	160	50%	320	100

**Source: Researcher (2021)**

From table 2 and figure 4, respondents were further asked to give their responses on the elements of training in governance within the county government of Narok on public participation. From the data collected, respondent asked if the county government consider the public views about training the public in governance and 55% (176) disagreed that the county government does not consider and even 25% (80) to strongly disagree. 10% (32) were neutral and both agree and strongly disagree were at 5% (16). On the issue of county government of Narok having plans to train the public in governance, 45% (144) disagreed. 15% (48) strongly disagreed, 5% (16) were neutral, 20% (64) Agreed and only 15% (48) strongly agreed.

According to Katamu *et al* (2019) in their article “Effects of Training as an Aspect of Preparedness of First Responders on Efficacious Response to Terrorist Attacks” They said that: Training include tests of the proposed response operations. Emergency drills and exercises provide a setting in which operational procedures can be tested. They also facilitate inter organizational contact, thus allowing individual members to better understand each other’s professional capabilities and personal characteristics. Furthermore, multifunctional exercises constitute a simultaneous and comprehensive test of emergency plans and procedures, staffing levels, personnel training, facilities, equipment, and materials



**Figure 4 Consideration of public views on training in governance, Plans to train the public in governance, Budget allocation for training in governance, Effective communication about training in governance, whether training in governance influences public participation**

Source: Field Data (2021)

From table 2 and figure 4 on whether the county government of Narok allocates budget for training in governance, 40% (128) of the respondent strongly disagreed. 30% (96) disagreed, 5% (16) were neutral, only 15% (48) agreed and 10% (32) strongly disagreed. For the effective communication about training in governance, 65% (208) of the respondents strongly disagreed that there was effective communication. 15% (48) disagreed, 10% (32) were neutral and 5% (16) strongly agreed and agreed respectively. Another factor was whether training in governance can influenced public participation, 50% (160) of the respondents strongly agreed that training in governance can influence public participation. 30% (96) also agreed and 5% (16) were neutral. 10% (32) disagreed and 5% (16) strongly disagreed.

From the findings, it was established that there was no consideration of the public opinions when the County Government of Narok was conducting public participation; and when implementing the project or its policies. The findings revealed that there were fewer plans by the County Government to train the public members on public participation. There was little budget allocation for training in governance, effectiveness concerning training in governance; and there were fewer plans to build training infrastructure. Inadequate training on public participation affects the effectiveness of public participation.

These findings concur to those of the American Law Institute (1992) on what shapes good governance. It asserts that good governance is shaped by all stakeholders' participation. The key elements for good governance are proper communication; sharing of ideas, fore knowledge concerning the entire process and sufficient budget allocation for mutual implementation of projects. The said law promotes the need to inform the stakeholders and to consider their concerns. These finding is corroborated by Odhiambo *et al* (2016) in their article "Academic Challenges and Opportunities of Military Professionalism Influencing Anglo-Kenyan Diplomatic Relations since 1963" when the asserted that:

Factors Influencing academic performance can be categorized as three types; the internal factors, the external factors and the environmental factors. Examples of environmental factors are: teaching facilities, locations and working environments.

**4.3 Access of information on public participation, plans to educate business people on public participation, partnership with trainers on public participation, leadership competency on public participation, need to train the public on public participation**

**Table 3 Access of information on public participation, plans to educate business people on public participation, partnership with trainers on public participation, leadership competency on public participation, need to train the public on public participation**

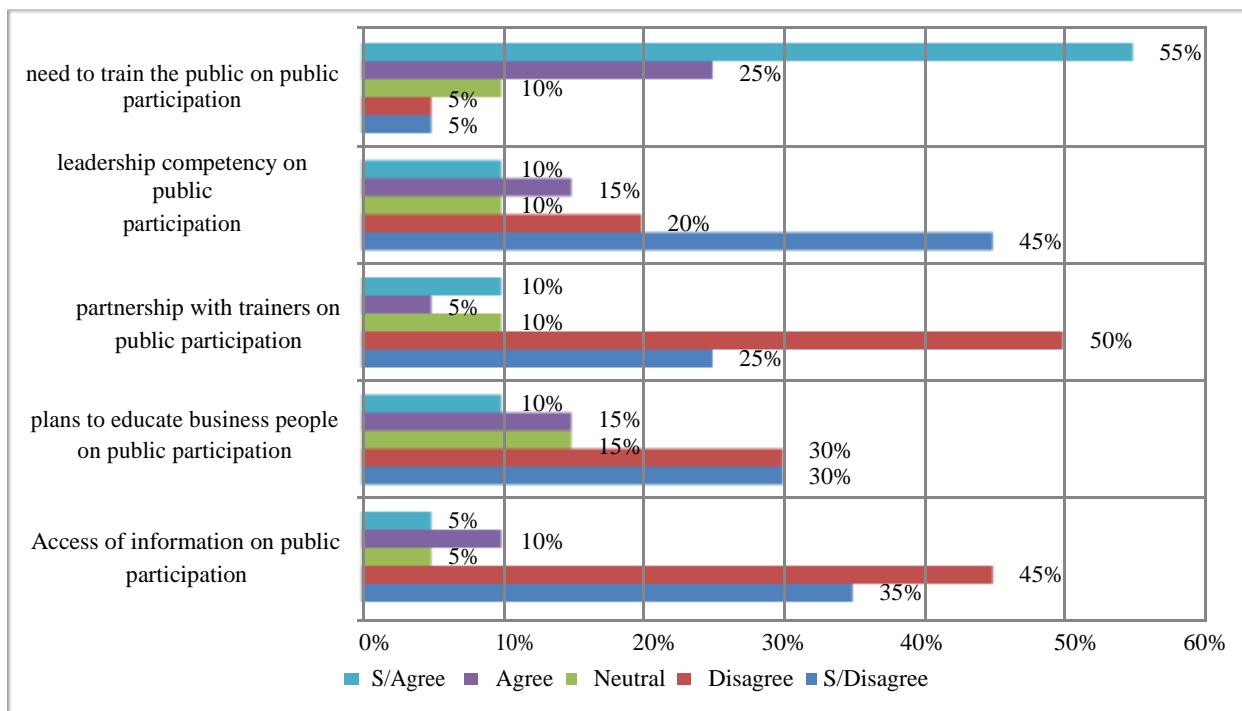
Training Factors	SD		D		N		A		SA		TOTAL	
Access of information on public participation	112	35%	144	45%	16	5%	32	10%	16	5%	<b>320</b>	<b>100</b>
plans to educate business people on public participation	96	30%	96	30%	48	15%	48	15%	32	10%	<b>320</b>	<b>100</b>
partnership with trainers on public participation	80	25%	160	50%	32	10%	16	5%	32	10%	<b>320</b>	<b>100</b>
leadership competency on public participation	144	45%	64	20%	32	10%	48	15%	32	10%	<b>320</b>	<b>100</b>
need to train the public on public participation	16	5%	16	5%	32	10%	80	25%	176	55%	<b>320</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Researcher (2021)

From table 3 and figure 5, the researcher asked respondents to further response on whether, there was need to train the public on public participation, whether there was leadership competency on public participation, partnership with trainers on public participation, plans to educate members of the public on public participation and whether there was access to information about training individuals about public participation. For the need to train the public on public participation 55% (176) strongly agreed that there is need to train, 25% (80) agreed, 10% (32) were neutral, 5% (16) strongly disagreed and 5% (16) also disagreed.

Table 3 and figure 5 affirms the assertion by Atemba & Odhiambo (2020) in their article “Ethnic Conflicts Influencing Socio-Economic Development of Border Communities, a case of Abagusii and Kipsigis, Kenya” that: conflicts at times accelerate development in various spheres. Conflicts can be about heightened security, institutional development, economic boost, cultural significance, networks and representation. Additionally, peace-building is part of the security dimension focusing on human rights, conflict resolution and social cohesion.

For leadership competency on public participation effectiveness, 45% (144) strongly disagreed that there was little leadership competency on matters public participation and 20% (64) disagreed. 10% (32) were neutral, 15% (48) agreed and 10% (32) strongly disagreed. For the case of whether there was partnership with trainers on public participation with the county government of Narok, 25% (80) strongly disagreed and 50% (160) disagreed that there was partnership. 10% (32) were neutral. 5% (16) agreed and 10% (32) strongly agreed. On whether there were plans to educate business people on public participation 30% (96) strongly disagreed and 30% (96) disagreed that there was plans to educate. Another factor was whether there was access of information about public participation, 35% (112) strongly disagreed and 45% (144) disagreed that there was no access to information.



**Figure 5. Access of information on public participation, plans to educate business people on public participation, partnership with trainers on public participation, leadership competency on public participation, need to train the public on public participation Source: Field Data (2021)**

The findings established that there was a great need to train the public about the importance of public participation, the process of conducting it, and the need to train them about the powers they possess during formulation of policies or projects within the county government of Narok. From the findings it was noted that there was little competency of leaders as far as training of public members on public participation is concerned. The results indicated that the members of the public of Narok County does not have information concerning public participation process and whether few of the opinion expressed by the public were being considered in policy making processes through public participation. This is corroborated by Aiyabei & Odhiambo (2020) in their article “The Relationship between Maintaining Status as a Socio-Cultural Element and Conflict Dynamism within Kerio Valley Delta” said that:

The idea of conflicts over power or power struggles is not new, with many examples of power conflict within other disciplines, such as sociology and political science.

These findings are supported by the assertion of Walzer and Hamm (2012) for the citizen inclusion and for the fruitful fulfillment of the political Agendas in any government regime, strategic plan should be very clear. Development and meeting of the social need of the society is the presence of well-structured plans. One of the plans ought to be on public participation include; training and seminars on public participation rights and processes, allocation of adequate budget for training processes on public participation, considering the opinions of the youth, female and vulnerable group in policy formulations. In an interview, assistant chief argued;

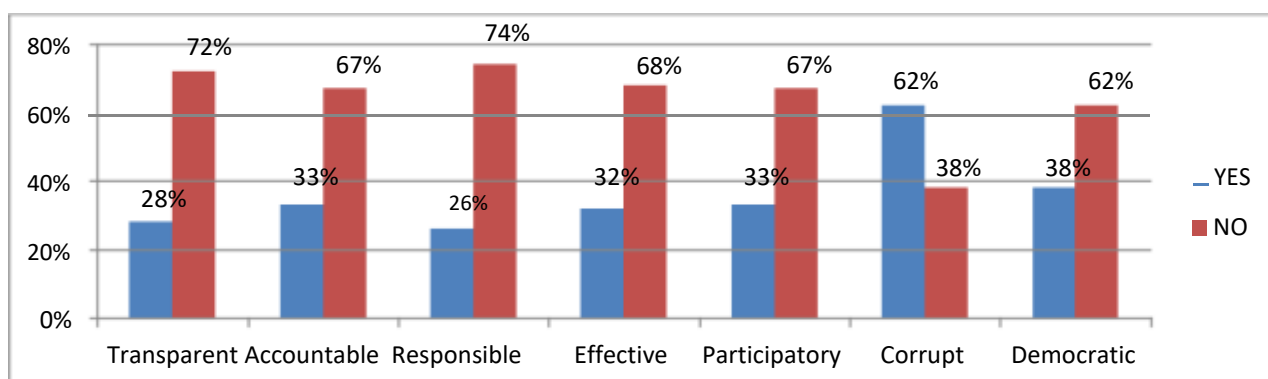
The county government of Narok has never been consistent in training the public members on matters governance. There have been fewer plans to train the members of the public in Narok County about the importance of involving in a public participation. Many residence of Narok County have got no information about what does public participation entails. This sometimes leads to very few individuals availing themselves during such process. If the public can be train, educated and be informed of their importance in such process, there will be a successful public participation process (INT 1-05/06/2021, Narok County).

The finding further established that training of the public members in governance lead to impacting knowledge about their role in participation in government policy formulation and implementation. Public members lack knowledge about what public participation entails and required mobilization, training and sensitization.

**4.4 Nature of Governance in Narok County**  
**Table 4. Nature of Governance in Narok County**

Nature of Governance	YES	%	NO	%	TOTAL	TOTAL
Transparent	89	28%	231	72%	320	100
Accountable	104	33%	216	67%	320	100
Responsible	83	26%	237	74%	320	100
Effective	103	32%	217	68%	320	100
Participatory	105	33%	215	67%	320	100
Corrupt	198	62%	122	38%	320	100
Democratic	198	62%	122	38%	320	100

Source: Researcher (2021)



**Figure 6 Nature of Governance in Narok County**  
**Source: Field Data (2021)**

From Table 4. and Figure 6, respondents were asked whether governance of Narok County was transparent, accountable, responsive effective, participatory and corrupt. From the response; 72% (231) said it was not transparency while 28% (89) it was transparent. On accountability, 67% (216) said it was not while 33% (104) answered in affirmative. For responsiveness, 74% (237) answered in the negative while 26% (83) answered in the affirmative. For effectiveness, 68% (217) responded in the negative while 32% (103) answered in affirmative. For the case of participatory governance, 67% (215) replied that it was not practiced while 33% (105) said it was practiced. On whether County government of Narok was corrupt, 62% (198) replied in the affirmative while 38% (122) replied in the negative. Finally respondents were asked to whether governance in Narok County was democratic and 62% (198) responded in the negative while 38% (112) answered in affirmative.

From the findings, the nature of governance in the Narok County Government was not ideal in terms of the seven variables that were interrogated. The results show that the characteristics of good governance were minimal. These findings verify the conclusion that there was a poor ethical standard. These findings contradicts the highlights of Rachael (2012) who stated that good governance should have eight major characteristics like Participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive; and follow the rule of law. In addition, good governance eradicates corruption and promotes ethics. From the said characteristics, a participatory government is the one which ensure that the views of all stakeholders are the considered and taken care of.

## V. SUMMARY

From the findings, crucial elements that could support training in governance and good nature of governance such as democracy, public opinion consideration, assessment of the situation to detect training need, partnership, and access of information and leadership competency was minimal. Minimal training of all stakeholders and good nature of governance made the citizen unaware of their basic role and rights in law making and in policy development. Narok County Government Partnership with stakeholders was minimal. This led to little sensitization and mobilization hence minimal participation in the issue of County governance by all stakeholders.

## VI. CONCLUSION

The residence should be trained, sensitized and mobilized through the process of public participation for governance to be effective. The county government needs to put plans to train and nature the public and educate them through information and building training facilities which when completed, the cost of hiring as is done currently should be channel for other development projects.

## VII. RECOMMENDATION

Training and nature should be enhanced in government operations. The residents should be sensitized and mobilized more for full participation in governance. Training facilities and should be built to cut the cost of hiring such facilities.

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