ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECT OF COMMUNITY PROJECT PARTICIPATION ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN MACHAKOS COUNTY, KENYA

By

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ABSTRACT

In the advent of globalization, women empowerment has been synonymous with a civilized society. Community development is viewed by its capacity for affirmative action that also includes women. Despite the enormous potential that exists in community project participation, women still remain a suffering lot in some parts of the world. The study sought to assess the level of women participation in community development projects; examine the effect of community development projects on women empowerment and establish the challenges of community development projects on women empowerment. The study is significant because it helps to reveal how community project participation affects women empowerment. The study enhances the achievement of Millennium Development Goals through vision 2030 on issues of gender equity by highlighting the effect of community development projects on women empowerment. The study was conducted in Machakos County, Kenya for a period of two months. The study used descriptive survey research design to address the research objectives. The study used a sample size of 108 respondents from a target population of 400 determined by the Morgan table. Convenience sampling technique was used to select the women groups. Data collection was done using three methods; personal interviews, Focus Group Discussion and questionnaires. It was analyzed using descriptive statistics. Data was presented with the assistance of tables, graphs and pie charts. From the findings, it was realised that most respondents participated in community development projects (89.8%). In addition, most respondents reiterated that participation in community development projects affected income distribution (96.3%), labour and entrepreneurial opportunities (95.4%) and productivity contribution (96.3%). All the respondents agreed that there existed challenges regarding women participation in community development projects. Nepotism was regarded as the main challenge of women participation in community development projects. In conclusion, it is evident that women participation in community development projects is important despite the challenges it is faced. Key recommendation from the study was the training of the community members and in particularly the women. Ignorance stood out an issue in the study and this can be solved by extensive training on issues that will ensure that the participation of the women in community development is sustainable

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