



Community Participation in the Constituency Development Catalyst Fund: A case of Bahi District, Tanzania

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Abstract: This study examined the community participation in constituency development catalyst fund in Bahi District Council, Dodoma Region of Tanzania. The area was chosen because of low participation nature in community development programs among community members. The study used a descriptive design and employed the quantitative approach. A sample of 76 community stakeholders was selected out of the 94 study population through the simple random sampling technique. A structured questionnaire was used to collect information from respondents and the following mean scores interpretation scale was used: 3.50-4.00= very high participation, 2.50-3.49 = high participation, 1.50-2.49= low participation and 1.00-1.49 = very low participation. After analysis, the study concluded that the community highly participated in the Constituency Development Catalyst Fund (CDCF) programs. Due to such desirable results, it is recommended that the government should encourage community participation to continue for effective results to be maintained. Furthermore, the parliament should take all necessary steps to make sure that the Constituency Development Catalyst Fund's (CDCF) Act of 2009 is amended by including provisions which show clearly how the community should participate in CDCF projects in various aspects as initiation, implementation and control. This will further enhance the community development.

Keywords: Constituency Development; Catalyst Fund; Community; Participation.

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Introduction

Community Development remains to be a great topic of discussion among the academicians. Social scientists like lawyers, phycologists, economics, social workers and administrators are all discussing community development issues in different ways. Experience shows that community development faces a number of challenges such as community awareness, corruption and misuse of public funds.

To minimize these challenges different approaches have been initiated to make sure community welfare is improved and community members disengage from critical poverty (Nawawi et al., 2020).

United State of America, Community Development (CD) was a concern when waves of European immigrants flooded into the US cities in the early 20th century when settlement houses were needed

after the beginning of the tenement house reform movement in an attempt to improve substandard housing conditions, leading to the adoption of municipal housing and sanitary codes. This experience caused the introduction of the 'pork barrel' approach as an instrument to recover undersupplied housing environments with emphasis on improving community living standards by utilizing a portion of government funds through Members of Parliament in their respective constituencies (Leyk et al., 2020). In Europe, the concept of Community Development Fund (CDF) was initiated between 1950s and 1960s where decentralization policy was established by British and French colonies following the demand from colonial bondage (Gekul, 2014).

In India, Community Development has been a movement designed to promote better living conditions for the entire community through active participation and initiation of projects by communities (Sekhar, 2021). The concept of CDF started in 1993 as the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) to enhance development in various zones (Mathiyazhagan, 2020; Sekhar, 2021). All Governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations (CBOs) were involved in contributing for the country's development. Members of Parliaments were given authority to identify and implement development projects on behalf of the community within their respective constituencies and as a result, community welfare was realized and positively materialized (Tsubura, 2013; Li, 2021).

In Africa, particularly Sub-Saharan countries, Community Development has continued to be a challenge due to insufficient funds to sustain existing development projects (Jepchirchir, 2021). In Zambia, one of major signs of development was the state of the infrastructure such as roads, hospitals and schools. Due to high level of poor infrastructures, the country become preoccupied with finding ways and means of fast-tracking the improvement of roads, clinics, schools, bridges and markets with special attention to grass root levels of society (Lewanika, 2019). CDF was hence introduced in 1995 with the goal of strengthening the community well-being in accordance with their preferences. Like in other countries, Members of Parliaments were the driving force of initiation and implementation of projects in their respective constituencies (Chibomba, 2013; Lewanika, 2019).

Ghana experienced challenges of community development through a high rate of poverty in the community (Belley, 2020; Serbeh, Adjei, & Forkuor, 2022). In order to combat rural poverty, the country first introduced the District Assemblies Common Fund in 1994 where three to four districts were considered under one development fund. Members of Parliament allocated 5% to the District Assemblies Common Fund in order to improve the local governments. Then, in 1996, the District Assemblies Common Fund was changed to Constituency Development Fund (CDF) to deal with individual constituencies (Belley, 2020; Serbeh, Adjei, & Forkuor, 2022). Similarly, to Ghana, Nigeria launched the CDF in 2000 to improve community infrastructure through construction of boreholes, public health centers, roads, parking facilities and lighting of public spaces and roadways (Adekunle, 2019; Awofeso and Irabor, 2020). Kenya experienced a high rate of unemployment and very low living standards in most rural and urban households. This necessitated serious considerations to address the development problem, hence introduction of CDF in 2003 (Wamugu & Ogollah, 2017).

Tanzania, like many other African countries, has long struggled in improving the Community Development so as to eliminate ignorance, poverty and diseases (Gekul, 2014; Rugeiyamu, Masanyiwa & Nziku, 2018). Community Development has been linked to the decentralization of authority over specific programs to the society (Sinclair, 2020). Local government became a critical entity for the implementation of the Decentralization by the Devolution (D-by-D) policy which strengthened local government authorities with the overarching goal of improving the community service delivery (Nguyaine, 2019). The Constituency Development Catalyst Fund (CDCF) was then launched in 2009 with the intention of addressing challenges facing the community such as health, education, water, and poverty.

Constituency Development Catalyst Fund (CDCF) has proven to be a proper mechanism that is used to enhance the development within the community. Yet it has been seen to have little impact over the community development since proper social services such as health, education, sanity water and roads are still not accessible (CPA, 2016; Nguyaine, 2019).

This study, therefore, sought to establish the Community Participation in the Constituency Development Catalyst Fund (CDCF) for Community Development, specifically, in Bahi District Council of Dodoma Region. The area was chosen because of low participation nature in community development programs among community members (Nguyaine, 2019). Egidio (2018) asserted that the levels of community engagement in the CDCF projects implementation process in Bahi District is still problematic. The district requires high involvement of stakeholders in decision making process in CDCF projects identification, implementation and evaluation in order to foster the community development. Conducive relationship needs to be emphasized in order to strengthen smooth operations of the CDCF projects (Egidio, 2018; Nguyaine, 2019).

Literature Review

Community participation is a crucial component of any project that prospers the community development. It is an important element in Constituency Development Fund (CDF) that must be strengthened from project identification, initiation, designing, implementation and control (URT, 2009; Wamugu & Ogollah, 2017; Nguyaine, 2019). Community Development has a direct impact on the residents' quality of life and other issues involving community welfare (Nguyaine, 2019). Developing the community involves empowerment of the community through initiation and improvement of projects in education (schools), health (hospitals), safe water, electricity and roads (Kumpulainen & Soini, 2019).

As the world changes due to diversities and dynamics of life, poverty has become a greater challenge among communities. While, African countries experience fluctuation of community development, community members develop low participation in many aspects of community projects (Nawawi et al., 2020). Tshangana (2010) affirmed that community low participation was due to little information the community receives from reliable sources, lack of openness, and unaccountability of some of government officers. Nguyaine (2019) and Egidio (2018) on other sides insisted that, low community participation on community development was due to corruption among government officers and little community engagement to the CDCF projects. Wamae (2009) highlighted the importance of constant public awareness and participation in the whole process of

CDF project implementation. His findings revealed that many CDF projects failed because of lack of effective community participation.

In similar circumstances, Nhembo and Msaki (2016) discovered that the majority of CDCF performances in Kishapu, Tanzania, are poorly implemented simply because project identification processes was done by Member of Parliament than by appropriate committees on behalf of the public. Hence citizens get less engaged in various stages of CDCF projects and therefore many community development projects were not materialized to bring positive results.

Nhembo and Msaki (2016) and Lewanika (2019) added that, despite the fact that, Constituency Development Catalyst Fund (CDCF) has proven to be an instrument that ensures the distribution of funds to all constituencies, the utilization of that fund is still a challenge since most of the funds are misused. On the other hand, Tanzania CDCF of 2009 is silent on the proper use and utilization of the fund and the extent of the community participation to those projects.

Research Methodology

The study used a descriptive design and employed the quantitative approach. The study involved Development Committees for four schools (two secondary and two primary schools from each ward) and two Health Service Committees from each ward. It also involved ten Cell leaders from the wards, CDCF Committee members and Heads of Departments from the district council. A sample of 76 respondents was selected out of the 94 study population.

A structured questionnaire was used to collect information from respondents. The content of the questionnaire was validated by a research supervisor as this study emanated from the research based dissertation at a university. Prior to data analysis, a Cronbach's alpha of above 0.7 was obtained, which mean that the questionnaire was reliable. The following mean scores interpretation scale was used: 3.50-4.00= very high participation, 2.50-3.49 = high participation, 1.50-2.49= low participation and 1.00-1.49 = very low participation.

Results and Discussion

This section provides results about community participation in the Constituency Development Catalyst Fund.

The first objective sought to examine the community participation in the Constituency Development Catalyst Fund. To reach this objective, respondents were exposed to five items in the

questionnaire, whereby they had to indicate their agreement or disagreement.

Table 1: Level of Community participation in Constituency Development Catalyst Fund

SN	Items	Mean	Std Dev.	Interpretation
1	Community's' preference in CDCF Projects are considered by the CDCF Committee	2.93	1.204	High participation
2	Decision making about CDCF are made collectively.	2.96	1.270	High participation
3	Community members are aware of the roles of CDCF.	3.08	1.262	High participation
4	Community members are engaged in CDCF projects.	3.13	1.193	High participation
5	Community members are aware of the existing of CDCF.	3.14	1.208	High participation

The scale for mean scores interpretation was as follows: 3.50-4.00= very high participation, 2.50-3.49 = high participation, 1.50-2.49= low participation and 1.00-1.49 = very low participation. As indicated in table 1, the mean scores for each item ranged between 2.50 and 3.49 meaning the respondents indicated high participation in all the items in the table. Particularly, they agreed that community's' preference in CDCF Projects are considered by the CDCF Committee, that decision making about CDCF are made collectively, that community members are aware of the roles of CDCF, that community members are engaged in CDCF projects and that community members are aware of the existing of CDCF. These findings are worth appreciation since Wamugu and Ogollah (2017) argued that citizen's preference and decision making need to be considered for a successful communal project. This will influence togetherness among the community members. Collective decision making and consideration of community priorities are essential elements that determine a successful community development. Furthermore, community member's awareness of the existence and the roles of CDCF influence proper funds utilizations.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Basing on the study findings, it is concluded that the community highly participated in the Constituency Development Catalyst Fund's (CDCF) programs. Community awareness on the existence of CDCF, the awareness of the role of CDCF, community engagement on CDCF, collective decision making and community preference of CDCF were found existing in the study area. Due to such desirable results, it is recommended that the government should encourage community participation to continue for effective results to be maintained. Furthermore, the parliament should take all necessary steps to make sure that the Constituency

Development Catalyst Fund's (CDCF) Act of 2009 is amended by including provisions which show clearly how the community should participate in CDCF projects in various aspects as initiation, implementation and control. This will further enhance the community development.

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