FACTORS INFLUENCING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN MERU DISTRICT COUNCIL, TANZANIA

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DECLARATION

This research project is my original work and has not been presented in any other University for award of a degree.

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ABBREVIATION OF TERMS

CD   Council Director

CSO   Community Service Organization

DAS   District Administrative Secretary

DC   District Council

DED   District Executive Director

LG   Local Government

LGA   Local Government Authority

LGR   Local Government Reforms

LGRP   Local Government Reform Programs

MDC   Meru District Council

NGO   Non-governmental Organization

REPOA   Research on Poverty Alleviation

VEO   Village Executive Officer

WEO   Ward Executive Officer

WDC   Ward Development Committee

ICT   Information and Communication Technology

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Democratic governance, According to Shabbir G (2005) define democratic governance as the range of processes through which a society reaches consensus on and implements regulations, human rights, laws, policies and social structures – in pursuit of justice, welfare and environmental protection.

Local governance, Anwar Shah with Sana Shah (1989) defined local governance as the formulation and execution of collective action at the local level.

Citizen, According to Walker J (2004) citizen is a person legally recognized as inhabitant of the country they live in –they pay taxes and are entitled to any country benefits.

Democracy – Refers to a system of government that serves the interests of the people regardless of their participation in political office (Conrad 2011).

ABSTRACT

This study focused on the assessment of the factors influencing citizen participation in local governance in Meru district council. Essentially the study focused on technological factor, social factors, cultural factors, and economic factors that influencing citizen participation in local governance in Meru district council. The researcher reviewed several literatures and theories, then developed a conceptual framework which helps to identify the knowledge gap from the previous studies.

The population size includes 1 DED, 23 WC, 3 WEO, 5 VEOs, 6 Village leaders, 15 fifteen cell leaders, as well as 57 ordinary local citizens from different background with gender respectively. Primary data was collected through questionnaires and face to face interviews, while secondary data was collected from document reviews. The qualitative data was descriptive analyzed by using tables through SPSS.

The findings shows the causative agent that weakens participations is the huge income disparities between rich and poor where rich are favorable class and valuable in decision making, gender where women are segregated in decision making, gap between educated and uneducated is very huge where the large number of MDC people are uneducated and are unaware of importance of participation in decision making process and finally technology were mostly worse since most of MDCS' citizens are unaware of e-services and e-participations. Therefore MDC on the aspect of participation has problematic issues that is needed to be addressed in detailed and in strategic way so that to enhance citizens participation in decision making and failure to do so bureaucracy will continue to happens, nepotism, misuse of resources, expansion of marginalization, gender and increase number of uneducated community because those who are in power will continue makes decision that favor a specific group of people and specifically those who in power.

The researcher recommended that restructuring leadership system, promotion of gender mainstreaming, integration of ICT in participation process, promotion of education as well as economic empowerment for both gender, when all the aspects will be implemented well, it will address the problem and participation will increase in decision making in all sphere which needs participation of citizens.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Citizen participation in Tanzania has become popular since 1992 after the introduction of multiparty system. It is considered an essential part in democratic governance since it brings stronger networks between people who live in the same brotherhood. Citizen participation is the social capital because it creates a certain kinds of social networks that enable citizens and communities to access resources and work together to tackle problems for themselves. Citizen participation in the affairs of their community is an important ingredient of democracy and development. According to Richardson (1983) "The opportunity to give the citizen right to take part in the political system is such a fundamental tenet of the democratic system of government that its very existence is rarely questioned. People must be able to have their say to vote, engage in political debate and let those in power know their views on issues which concern them. This is what democracy is all about. Citizen participation in government has traditionally centered on measures to facilitate greater public access to information about government, enhance the rights of citizens to be 'consulted' on matters which directly affect them, and ensure that all voices can be heard equally through fair systems of representative democracy. Such measures typically include standardized rules, protocols, and enabling legislation and regulation (Bridgman and Davis 2000). However, there is a growing appreciation that participation in governance, or participatory governance, involves different principles and methods for engagement. These might include developing transformative partnerships; establishing system-wide information exchanges and knowledge transfers; decentralizing decision making and inter-institutional dialogue; and embracing relationships based more on reciprocity and trust (Reddel and Woolcock 2003:93). The shift from government to governance involves the provision of means to engage individuals and organizations outside government through 'structures and arrangements which support effective relationships across the public, private and community sectors as they collaborate in decision-making' (Edwards 2005:12). This has been described by Putnam as 'social connected nesses, a critical element in the formation of social capital (Putnam 2000). It

involves an active role for government in enabling or capacity building in local communities, rather than the more passive role implied in traditional notions of citizen participation. However, both the traditional notion of citizen participation and this emerging idea of capacity and relationship building have roots in the notion that citizen participation is a 'basic building block for contemporary democratic society and sustainable communities' (Cuthill and Fien 2005:64). Citizen participation in governance also aims to devolve power and resources away from central control and towards front-line managers, local democratic structures, and local consumers and communities in what Stoker terms 'new localism' (Stoker 2004), that is why the government of Tanzania played a great role in assuring his citizen participate in decision making but the challenges is on the response rate were few participated while majority are not participated that is why the researcher look to the factor influencing citizen participation in local governance.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Citizen participation means that citizens are part and parcel of what happens in their society or country. The citizens are part of the decision – making process on matters that affect them. Communication is a two-way consultative process. Thus, it is the bottom – up as well as top-bottom before any decision is reached. Villadsen and Lubanga (1996) argued that one of the vital and indispensable pillar /principle or rather tenet of democratic government is citizen participation. However, the World Bank, UNDP, and government of Tanzania takes various initiatives in promoting citizen participation in promoting democratic governance for instance introduction of local government Reform Program, Check and balance system, Ombudsman office, Community based organization, Women empowerment, Provision of loans from WB, Introduction of Public Private Partnership, and establishment of national frame work for Good governance in Tanzania, there is much doubt if the citizens of Meru District are full participate in local government of Meru district council that is why the researcher investigate the factors influencing citizen participation in local governance in Meru district council, Tanzania so that they can come up with clear strategies for improving the situation.

1.3 Objectives of the study

1.3.1 General Objective

The general objective of this study was to investigate the factors influencing citizen participation in local governance in Meru district council.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

Specific objectives of this study are;

1. To identify the economic factors limiting local citizens to participate in local governance in Meru district council

2. To explore the cultural factors that affect the citizens to participate in local governance in Meru district council

3. To determine the social factors that influencing citizen participation in local governance in Meru district council.

4. To evaluate the technological factors that weakening the citizen participation in local governance in Meru district council.

1.4 Research Questions

This research will attempt to answer the following questions.

1. What are the economic factors limiting local citizens' to participate in local governance in Meru district council

2. What are the cultural factors that affect the citizens to participate in local governance in Meru district council

3. What are the social factors that influencing citizen participation in local governance in Meru district council

4. What are the technological factors that weakening the citizen participation in Meru district council

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study will be significant in the following four different ways:

1. The study will help policy makers to understand the situation and formulate the policy that will expand the citizen participation in local governance in Meru district council

2. It will empower the local society and citizens to get involved in local governance issues.

3. It will help local government to make reforms on policies and strategies concerning citizen participation.

4. The study will be a basis upon which some future researchers will stand to develop other researches associated with proposed research.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The study will be conducted in Meru District Council which is one among the two councils that form Arumeru District. MDC is divided into 3 divisions, 17 wards, 69 villages, 275 hamlets and 48,768 households. The district has a total population of 225,611 people according to 2012 census; the study will target 110 people who are living in Meru since they are crucial group in relation to the topic.

1:7 Research Limitations

This research was conducted at Meru District council and researcher faced the following obstacles such as delay and failure to return the questionnaires on time which caused delay on data collection and analysis, response rate was few and some of the respondents had negative perception on the study on which they were not providing enough information for the study as required.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter gives the reviews of various literatures; furthermore it highlighted relevant theories that have been brought up in the past by scholars in the topic under study. The conceptual framework brings out the relationship between the variables given. Lastly the researcher find knowledge gap that left out by the previous researchers who conducted relevant studies.

2.2 Theoretical review of participation

Participation is a very broad concept (Lane 1995) that means different things to different people (Hussein 1995; Kelly 2001). The term is often used by people with different ideological positions, who give it very different meanings (Nelson and Wright 1995).

N, Hansen (2003) define participation as 'a social process whereby specific groups with shared needs living in a defined geographic area actively pursue identification of their needs, take decisions and establish mechanisms to meet these needs'.

Tikare, Youssef et al (2001),'Participation is the process through which stakeholders influence and share control over priority setting, policy-making, resource allocations and access to public goods and services'.

Therefore Participation is the involvement of proposed beneficiaries in the planning, design, implementation and maintenance of the development intervention. It means that people are mobilized, manage resources and make decisions that affect their daily lives.

Evolution of Participation Theory

Participation is not a new concept (Buchy, Ross et al. 2000). It represents a shift from the global, as partial, top-down strategies that dominated early development initiatives to more locally sensitive methodologies (Storey 1999). There are differing opinions as to the origins of participation theory.

Midley et al (1986) suggested that the historical antecedents of community participation include: the legacy of western ideology, the influence of community development and the contribution of social work and community radicalism.

Buchy, Ross et al (2000) suggested that literature on participation and participatory processes stems broadly from two major areas: political sciences and development theory. Lane (1995) added to this view, suggesting that participation is heavily influenced by theories of development and is therefore highly varied and complex due to different theoretical positions. The dominance of the top-down approaches to development was largely a result of modernization theory which was dominant in the 1960s (Lane 1995). Modernization theory surmises that for developing countries to develop they need economic growth along the path already travelled by western countries (Hulme and Turner 1990; Peet and Hartwick 1999; So 1990). This has been heavily criticized and other development theories have highlighted disparities. From the modernization point of view participation meant involvement of the community in the implementation of a project with the purpose of increasing the acceptance and efficiency of use (Lane 1995). This represents a low level of participation that is reactionary and ignores the site-specific complexities of management needs (Kolavalli and Kerr 2002).

According to Holcombe (1995), acknowledgement of the importance of participation grew out of the recognition that the worlds' poor have actually suffered as a result of development, and that everyone needs to be involved in development decisions, implementation and benefits. As participatory approaches advanced, they highlighted the weaknesses inherent in traditional, top-down approaches that focused on single disciplines and reductionist paradigms (Johnson and Walker 2000). Agrawal and Gibson (1999) identified the limitation of the state in top-down resource conservation practices and emphasis popular participation as the remedy of these shortcomings. Mompati and Prinsen (2000) made similar observation of the uniqueness of an individual as an entity who is capable of making unique contributions to decision-making. This move represents a move towards people centered development at a normative level (Chambers 1993; Kelly 2001). Midgley et al (1986) posited that the community development movement of the 1950s and 1960s was another source of inspiration for contemporary community participation theory and that community development and

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participation theory are very similar. Moser (1987) identified that community development is now considered in some countries to have colonialist overtones and has become discredited.

Therefore, citizen participation means engagement of people, with similar needs and goals, in decisions affecting their lives. Besides, since no government or authority has the means to solve all the public problems adequately, it is necessary to involve people in matters and affairs that affect them (Abrams 1993). However, delegating powers to people is not an easy task and involves great inquiry into the change in the attitudes of the authorities and professionals but community participation brings many lasting benefits to people instead of only a means of getting things done.

Why citizen participation

Increases acceptance and ownership, Involving the community or citizens in the decision making process can build trust, commitment and devotion to any decision they made. When more people are involved decision has to be transparent to cultivate the sense of identification and possession of decision. By giving citizens a voice and allowing them to participate, they are more likely to feel they have gained ownership of the project and at the same time enhance their sense of responsibility (Imparato & Ruster, 2003).

Ensures programs meet local needs, Citizen Involvement will produce more public-preference decision-making on the part of the administrators and a better appreciation of one's larger community on the part of the public because the decisions are based on what they experience in the local communities (Stivers 1990, Oldfield 1990, Box 1998).

May reduce costs using local resources, Engagement of the community may bring out different preferences and expectations, so agencies involved in reconstruction must be open to altering their preconceived vision of the reconstruction process. Community is the beneficiary of any decisions; so they will be willing to devote labor power, security, financial resources and everything they have to make sure they achieve their goals.

Uses local/familiar organizations, problem solving mechanisms is more efficient, the expected benefits of increased participation are that it might improve the project design and help provide a solution that people can afford and are willing to pay for. It is also expected to provide relevant local knowledge and allow it to be taken into account in the marginalization upgrading process.

Principles for Citizen Participation

Innes et al. (1994), Margerum (2002), Beierle (1999), and Howell, Olsen, and Olsen (1987) provide a comprehensive array of strategies to employ in constructing effective participatory practices. Commonly cited strategies are careful selection of a representative group of stakeholders; a transparent decision-making process to build trust among the participants; clear authority in decision-making; competent and unbiased group facilitators; regular meetings; and adequate financial resources to support the group process through the potentially long learning.

Motivators for Participation

The reasons why people participate cover a diverse range of factors including; life stages, cultural background, socio economic factors such as education and income level as well as opportunities to be involved and simply a personal desire to be involved (Low et al 2007).

2.3 Conceptual frame work

A conceptual framework can be defined as a set of broad ideas and principles taken from relevant fields enquiring how to structure a subsequent presentation (Ramey, 2007). As a research tool, it's intended to assist the researcher develop awareness and understanding of the situation under scrutiny and communicate it. The conceptual framework of this study included independent variables and independent variables. Independent variable in conceptual framework shows the factors that can influence participation in local governance which is dependent variable.

```
┌─────────────────────────┐
│      Social Factor       │
│   • Education            │────┐
└─────────────────────────┘    │
                               │
┌─────────────────────────┐    │
│     Economic factor      │    │
│   • Income disparities   │────┤        ┌─────────────────────────┐
└─────────────────────────┘    ├───────▶│  Citizen's participation │
                               │        └─────────────────────────┘
┌─────────────────────────┐    │
│     Cultural factors     │    │
│   • Leadership           │────┤
│   • Gender               │    │
└─────────────────────────┘    │
                               │
┌─────────────────────────┐    │
│   Technological factors  │    │
│   • Internet infrastructure │─┘
└─────────────────────────┘
```
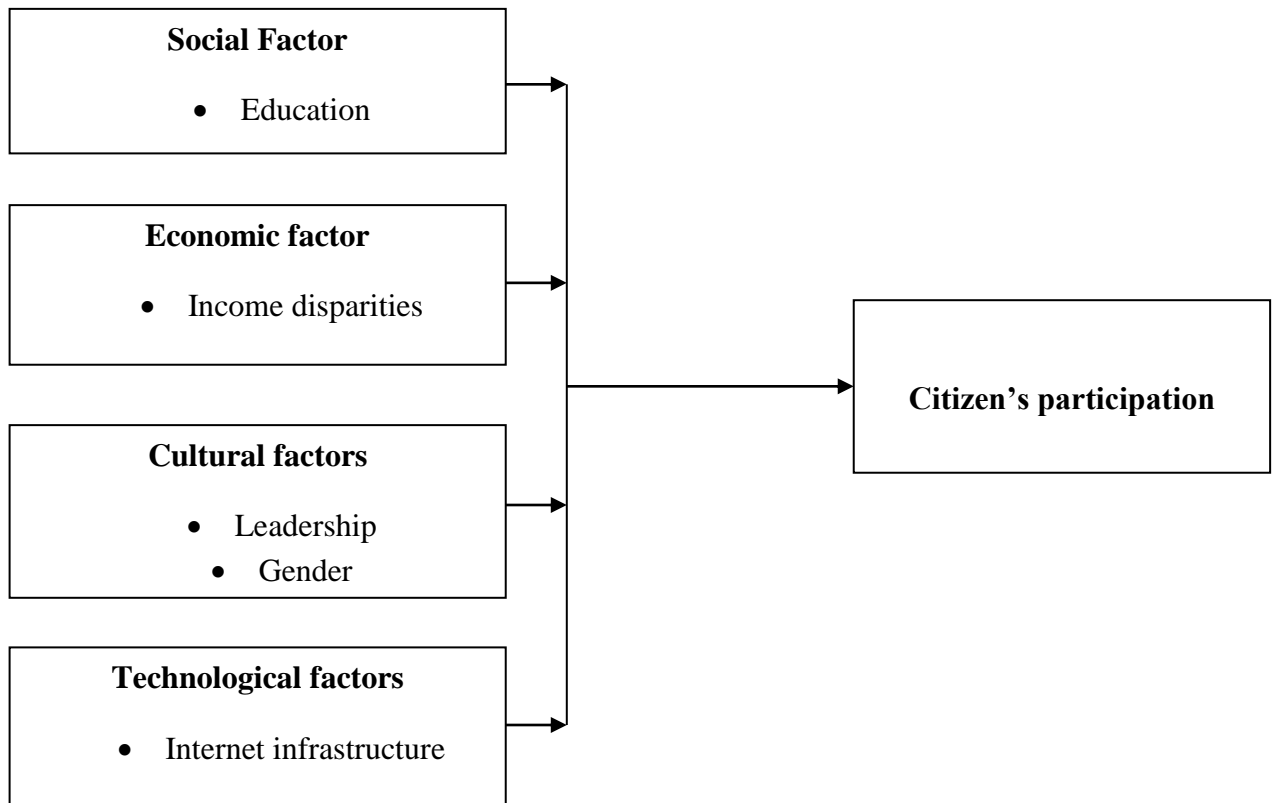
Independent Variable   **Dependent Variable**

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

Social factors

The social factors focus on the forces within the society. Family, friends, colleagues, neighbors and the media are social factors. These factors can affect our attitudes, opinions and interests. The social factors shape who we are as people. It affects how we behave and what we buy. Social factors are such as education level, religion and beliefs and population growth rate (Jim Makos 2015). In this study the researcher will evaluate how education influences participation in local governance.

According to Satish & Sajjad (2007) define education as a purposive, conscious or unconscious, psychological, sociological, scientific and philosophical process, which brings about the development of the individual to the fullest extent and also the maximum development of society in such a way that both enjoy maximum happiness and prosperity.

Therefore education is one of the most important predictor of many forms of participation – from voting to associational membership, to chairing a local committee to hosting a community development and putting the leader accountable. In this study a researcher evaluate the level of community educations, provision of community education concerning participation and how it influence participations in local government at MDC

Economic factors

This is the forces such as level of employment, rate of inflation, rate of interest, income disparities , demographic changes, and fiscal and monetary policies, which determine the state of competitive environment in which a organization operates. For the case of this study, the researcher will focus on income disparities and how it influencing citizen participation in local governance at MDC.

Income   is   the   money or   other forms of payment (received   periodically   or   regularly) from commerce, employment, endowment, investment,   and   royalties.   Therefore   the researcher was specifically evaluated citizen's means of production, monthly income and how they contribute to local government.

Cultural factors

Cultural factors comprise of set of values and ideologies of a particular community or group of individuals. It is the culture of an individual which decides the way he/she behaves. In

simpler words, culture is nothing but values of an individual. What an individual learns from his parents, community and relatives as a child becomes his culture. Cultural factors have a significant effect on an individual's participation decision. Every individual has different sets of habits, beliefs and principles which he/she develops from his family status and background (Management Study Guide 2015).

Also Spencer-Oatey (2008) define culture as a unclear set of basic assumptions and values, orientations to life, beliefs, policies, procedures and behavioral conventions that are shared by a group of people, and that influence (but do not determine) each member's behavior and his/her interpretations of the 'meaning' of other people's behavior.' Therefore the totality of how people behave and act will have a positive or negative impact when it comes on the issue of participation since the culture act as the code that shaping life of the community. Therefore in this study the researcher will evaluate element of culture such as leadership and gender specifically on framework for participation, consultation mechanism and feedback procedures.

Technological factors

Technological factors refer to forces which helps the organizations to adapt environment, control environment, and even change it. Technology have an impact on how an organization operates and it is related to the equipment used within the organization's environment.

Due to increased reliance on equipment, technological factors exert a considerably more important effect on the success of a business than they did only a hundred and fifty years ago. in this study the researcher will focus on the issues of ICT infrastructure in terms of computer awareness to public, e-services and ICT strategies and how it influence participation.

Citizen Participations

Citizen participation is a process which provides private individuals an opportunity to influence public decisions and has long been a component of the democratic decision-making process. (Cogan & Sharpe1986)

Citizen participation is a community based process, where citizens organize themselves and their goals at the grassroots level and work together to influence the decision-making

process. Citizens get most involved in this process when the issue at stake relates directly to them. Kyiv, Ukraine (2002).

Citizen participation is a key step in the promotion of democracy. Citizen participation increases transparency, accountability and responsiveness in the decision-making process. If citizens are involved in the policy formulation process and implementation, they will be able to make their leader more accountable and responsible for their decisions. Citizen participation as a programs or process are intended to increase and strengthen the organized and active political involvement of citizens.

Therefore, individuals must be involved in the decision-making process because their input can help to create useful solutions to their problems, such as community housing, health services, education, which is an essential part of their everyday lives

2.4 Empirical Review
The review provides an empirical base of the study where the researcher attempts to examine what others researchers had found out concerning the study.

From the work o Jooho and Soonhee (2012) on their work concerning factors affecting citizens' active e-participation in local governance, the researchers based on a literature review of social capital and citizen participation, the study develops a model of active e-participation. In this model, this study argues that three dimensions of social capital and citizen participation management are positively associated with active e-participation. To test several hypotheses, the study uses the 2009 E-Participation Survey data collected from 1,076 participants of the Cheon Man Sang Oasis, an e-participation program administered by the Seoul Metropolitan Government in South Korea. Using ordered logistic regression analysis, the study finds that active e-participation is positively affected by citizens' trust in government, their volunteer experiences, weak offline social ties, and perceived quality responsiveness during the e-participation process.

Also the work of Rugo (2014), on how does Citizen Participation impact Decentralized Service Delivery? They managed to use cross-regional secondary data on his study that concerned with assessment of the impact of direct citizen participation on decentralized service delivery in Kenya in the period 2002-2010. This was as provided for under the Local

Authorities Service Delivery Action Plan (LASDAP). Influence of participation is assessed in terms of how it affects efficient allocation of resources; accountability and reduction of corruption; and, equity in service delivery. It finds that the participation of citizens has been minimal and the resulting influence on the decentralized service delivery negligible. It concludes that despite the dismal impact of citizen participation, the first step towards institutionalizing participation has been made upon which current structures of county governments should build on.

2:5 Critique

From the work of Jooho and Soonhee (2012) on their work concerning factors affecting citizens' active e-participation in local governance they succeeded to look at a various key point which is public trust in government, volunteer experience, social ties and civic norms of public servants. This will help the beneficiaries of his study to understand that there is positive link between e-participation and the above factor. So for enhance and strengthen citizens in e-participation to build trust, social ties, civic norms and volunteer experience is something important.

Also the work of Rugo (2014), on how does Citizen Participation Impact Decentralized Service Delivery they succeeded to show how they measure influence of citizen participation in terms of how it affects efficient allocation of resources; accountability and reduction of corruption; and, equity in service delivery. And also they succeeded to show what weakens the impact of participation on the citizen's side which is lack of awareness and inadequate capacity to participate which hampered their input in the process, therefore this help the beneficiary to understand impact of citizen's participation on both sides.

2:6 Research gap

While a growing body of literature has developed concerning citizens participation as a means of facilitating greater citizen participation in policy decision-making processes, little is known about the factors affecting active citizen participation local government. Therefore the researcher of this study comes up with the aim of bridging the existing gap by looking to the factors that affecting citizen's participation in decision making MDC.

2:7 Summary

Through devolution, women empowerment and decentralization, central government has been able to hand down executive powers to local authorities; thereby bringing decision-making processes to the door step of the grassroots people. This has enabled citizens to participate in the administration of local authorities through contributions and presentations because It is now accepted that citizen participation in local development is the key to the equality, inclusiveness and sustainability of development. Therefore this study focuses on evaluating what exactly influence citizen participation in local governance in Meru district council.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter provides the research paradigm employed as well as submitting the research instrument to be embraced for data collection. The chapter provides some analysis of the research strategy applied in this study and reasons for the selection. Finally, the chapter discussing and provide the sampling technique and sample size and how data was analyzed.

3:2 Research Design

Polit *et al*. (2001) define a research design as "the researcher's overall blueprint for answering the research question or testing the research hypothesis". Since research design is the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aim to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedures, the survey design was adopted in this study because it is quick methods of obtaining information about a large group of people, it is flexible, easy to administer, it is inexpensive in terms of cost and time, and it is accurate means of obtaining information from a large group of people.

3.3 Target population

The targeted population of this study was the people in Meru District Council, Tanzania because is the one among highly growing district in the country with participation challenges in local governance decision making even though there is rapid increase in population from different part of the country.

3:4 Sample Technique

Sampling is the act, process, or technique of selecting a suitable sample, or a representative part of a population for the purpose of determining parameters or characteristics of the whole population. The goal of sampling is to determine a population`s characteristics by directly studying only a portion of the population. In this study non-probability sampling was used specifically purposive and convenience, to select councilors, district administrators, village administrators, district officers, and other local citizens in order to draw valid inferences from them in relation to the population.

3.4.1 Non-probability sampling

According to Michael P, (2006) defines non-probability sampling as the methods involves the selection of a portion of the finite population being studied without following mathematical guidelines. In non-probability sampling the samples are gathered in a process that does not give all the individuals in the population equal chances of being selected.

Therefore in this study the researcher applied non-probability sampling technique since it serves time, money and workforce because the researcher are the one who decide the item to be included in a sample depends on his or her own judgment.

3.4.2 Purposive technique

Creswell (2005) explain purposive sampling as a technique in which the researcher select sample based on a certain purpose. In this purposive sampling the subjects are chosen to be part of the sample with a specific purpose in mind of the researcher. Also it is called judgmental technique. In this study the researcher managed to apply the method to collect data from DED, WEO, VEO, and WC for the purpose of obtaining important information from them since are the crucial figure in the community.

3.4.3 Convenience sampling

Convenience sampling includes participants who are readily available and agree to participate in a study MacNealy (2005). Convenience sampling is probably the most common of all sampling techniques. With convenience sampling, the samples are selected because they are accessible to the researcher and subjects are chosen simply because they are easy to recruit.

Therefore researcher in this applied convenience sampling technique to select local citizens since is the easiest technique, cheapest and least time consuming.

3:5 Sample Sizes

According to Enon (1998) sample size defined as a number of samples. For this study the sample size was 110 respondents. This number included 1 DED, 23 WC, 3 WEO, 5 VEOs, 6 Village leaders, 15 fifteen cell leaders, as well as 57 ordinary local citizens from different background and gender respectively.

3.6 Data Collection Method

The primary data was employed in the collection of data. Data was collected through structured interview and questionnaire by using Swahili language and English for easy understanding and to enable the respondent to answer as required.

3:6:1 Interview

In an attempt to solicit the information from expert opinion, the face to face interview was carried out by the researcher. An interview was in the form of structured face-to-face interviews with DED, WEO, VEO, and WC. The researcher decided structured interview methods of data collection to permits detailed and in-depth question and response, and minimizes non-response.

3:6:2 Questionnaires

Questionnaire is a 'tool' for collecting and recording information about a particular issue of interest. It is mainly made up of a list of questions, but also includes clear instructions and space for answers or administrative details. In this study the list of questionnaires was distributed to public citizens so as to easy coverage of all number in the sample in a short time.

3.7 Data Analysis Method

Data analysis is the process of extracting, compiling, and modeling raw data for purposes of obtaining constructive information that can be applied to formulating conclusions, predicting outcomes or supporting decisions in business, scientific and social science settings.

The data from the study was analyzed using tables of percentage and computation Package to bring meaningful information for decision making.

4:1 Introduction

This chapter presents the data analysis and discussions of the findings obtained from the research questionnaires and interview. A total of 97 responses were collected from 110 distributed questionnaires, which make a 91.8% response rate from the research questionnaires and from 38 MDC representatives we interviewed 9 which makes 23.7% responses rate collected from the interview. Therefore, responses gathered from the questionnaires and interviews been analyzed using the SPSS software.

This chapter presents the background of respondents by analyzing their demographic characteristics. This is followed by the analysis and discussion of the findings and the summary. The analysis and discussion has incorporated four objectives that include economic, cultural, social and technological factors that weakening citizen's participation in decision making. Tables have been used to facilitate a simplistic understanding. Finally, the summary of this chapter is provided.

Table 4:1, Demographic characteristics of the respondents

		Gender of the respondents			
		1	2	Female	Male
		Count	Count	Count	Count
what is your highest level of education	Primary education	42	22	0	0
	Secondary education	0	30	0	0
	Diploma	0	0	0	0
	Degree and above	1	2	0	0
	Other, specify	0	0	0	0

Table 4:1, disparities of respondents based on gender and their level of education,

From table 4:1, 54 are female and 43 are male and make a total of 97. From that total 64, has basic education, 30 secondary education, and 3 has a degree, these make the researcher believes that the data collected will be accurate since everyone is able to read and understand.

a) To identify economic factors limiting local citizens to participate in local governance in Meru district council

In these objective the researcher evaluate economic variables includes means of production, monthly income and how impact the participation of the members of the community.

How do you contribute in local government service delivery * What is your monthly average income

Count

		What is your monthly average income			
		0<300000	300000<500000	500000<800000	Total
How do you contribute in local government service delivery	Payee	0	6	2	8
	developmental contribution	64	24	0	88
	professional contributions	0	0	1	1
Total		64	30	3	97

Table 4:2, Respondents contribution in service delivery in relation to their monthly average income

Table 4:2, researcher need to compare the citizens monthly income in relation to what they devote themselves in local government service delivery. From the findings data shows that 64 with average income less than 300,000 provides developmental contribution, 24 with average income between 300,000 and 500,000 also provides developmental contributions, 6 with average income between 300,000 and 500,000 provide tax to contribute to the services delivery and 2 with average income between 500,000 and 800,000 also provide tax and 1 on the same group provide professional contribution. Therefore from the findings, we found that large number of citizens which is 88 from 97 of the sample with diverse income provides developmental contribution such as labor power, cash and information towards service delivery.

From the interview, interviewee responded that their monthly average income range between 500,000 to 1,000,000 and they said they contribute to the community by paying tax as usual, and provide developmental contribution when they invited in any fundraising programs that targeted to empower the community in all ways of life.

How do you participate in the local government decision making * What is your means of production

Count

		What is your means of production			
		Employed	Business	5	Total
How do you participate in the local government decision making	I don't participate in any way	2	0	64	66
	Attending local meetings and committees	6	0	0	6
	attending some decision making bodies by virtue of my position	1	0	0	1
	through suggestion box	0	24	0	24
Total		9	24	64	97

Table 4:3, ways in which members of community participate in decision making in relation to their means of production

Table 4:3, the researcher compares the respondent's aggregate source of income and how do they involve in local government decision making. From the findings we found that 64 who work with other informal sectors they don't participate in a anyway, 24 they participate by providing their query, concerns and comment through suggestion box,6 who are employed attending local meetings and committees, 2 who are employed are not participate in any way and 1 who are employed attending some decision making bodies by virtue of their position. This makes the researcher to understand that 66 of the respondents with diverse means of production are not participate in local government decision making something weakens performance of Meru district council.

From the interview, the interviewee responded that are the public servants and they participate in decision making by actively involved in executive meeting to presents community problems and setting the priorities, arranging the community meeting to discuss with public their concerns, collect citizens complains and actively get involved in any community program for example "weka mazingira safi" are in front line to clean the environment.

b) **To explore the cultural factors that weakening the citizens to participate in local government in MDC**

From the objective the researcher specifically examines the gender issues and how the MDC address it to make sure equal participation in decision making processes.

Are there any framework the district council has put in a place to provide and guarantee individuals, men, women and youth to participate in decision making * Gender of the respondents

Count

		Gender of the respondents		
		1	2	Total
Are there any framework the district council has put in a place to provide and guarantee individuals, men, women and youth to participate in decision making	No	1	32	33
	I don't know	42	22	64
Total		43	54	97

Table 4:4, Responses on gender framework in a place

Table 4:4, Researcher needed to know if Meru district council has a structure in a place that guarantees individuals community member without considering their difference in term of sex in decision making. And we found that 1, man responded that the council has no any framework, 32 women responded that the council has no framework, also 42 men's responded that they don't know if the district has a framework for participations and 22 women's responded that they don't know if the city has a framework. Therefore 33 of the respondents, responded that the district has no any framework that allow every individual to participate in decision making this means that the district is bias in the issue of participations and 64 who responded that they don't know, means that they don't ever seen any effort the district make to make sure all the citizens are participate. This proves that the district has no any framework that allows individual men and women to participate in decision making.

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Also from the interview we ask them if the district has the framework in a place that guarantee individuals women and men to participate in decision making and they responded "yes" they have, that it is why there is women group in the community that act as the representative of the others but also they have monthly community meeting that allow all the community member to participate in decision making by collecting their concerns, setting priorities and setting for the action plan but the problem is most women are not willing to participate and we go deeper asking what do they think are the reasons, they responded that most women at the time of meeting are in their farms, caring for children's and lack of community education something weakens their number in decision making and think are ignored something is not true.

Does the district council has consultations mechanism to disclose to the public any information concerning men, women, youth before they meet with them

		Gender of the respondents			
		1	2	Female	Male
		Count	Count	Count	Count
The District Council has consultations mechanism to disclose to the public any information concerning men, women and youth before they meet with them	Yes	0	0	0	0
	No	42	52	0	0
	I don't know				
		1	2	0	0

Table 4:5, Responses on consultation mechanism

Also the researcher evaluates the transparency of the district council by looking at if the MDC has the consultation mechanism to disclose the public information before they meet with their citizens. From the findings data shows that 94 responded that the MDC has no any consultation mechanism to disclose any information, 3 they don't know. Therefore this proves that MDC is not open to his citizens something weakens trust to his citizens.

From the interview, interviewee responded that they have consultation mechanism to disclose to the public any information concerning men, women and youth before they met with them

so that they can make the community aware of what will be carried out on the meeting to easy generations of their query concerning local governance and they did this by using media, brochures, and use of car horns.

Does the district council have the formal procedures to provide feedback to the public concerning on how their inputs have been used no matter their differences

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	94	96.9	96.9	96.9
	I don't know	3	3.1	3.1	100.0
	Total	97	100.0	100.0	

Table 4:6, Responses of the community concerning the provision of feedback to MDC

Also the researcher need to know if MDC has the system to respond to the citizens complains concerning the issues that affect them. From the findings, 94(96.9%) of respondents, responded that MDC has no that culture of addressing the citizens concerns instead they act for their own benefit and 3(3.1%) responded that, they don't know if the MDC has the culture for addressing their concerns. Basing from the findings it means that the MDC has not consider their citizens concerns in the decision making something weakens support from public in dealing with their priorities.

From the interview the representatives of the community responded that, district has the formal procedures to provide feedback to the public but the problem is in the community itself since it has no culture of visiting the community notes board to review district report and we asked what kind of information do shared to the community and responded that monthly income and expenditures, priorities and other important information concerning the community such as health, security and achievements.

c) **To determine the social factors that influencing citizen participations in local governance in MDC**

From this objectives the researcher evaluate the level of community educations and awareness and how it influence participations in local government at MDC

What is your opinion between gender and level of participations in the community decision making * what is your highest level of education

Count

		what is your highest level of education			
		Primary education	Secondary education	Degree and above	Total
What is your opinion between gender and level of participation in the community decision making	men considered first	64	30	1	95
	women considered first	0	0	2	2
Total		64	30	3	97

Table 4:7, Community opinion on participation in relation to the level of education

Table 4:7, researcher need to know the opinion of citizens in relation to their level of education on the issue of gender participation in decision making. From the findings 64 respondents who have a primary education responded that men are considered most in the issues of decision making, 30 respondents with secondary education responded that men are consider most, 1 respondents with the degree and above responded that men's are considered most and 2 with degree and above responded that women are considered most. Therefore 95 of the respondents responded that men are considered mostly in decision making and ignoring women something weakens decision the district try to make and flexible strategies to be adopted by any gender and weakens labor power in practicing their priorities.

From the interview, interviewee responds that the one of the things that the district takes in consideration is the issues of gender since they don't want to divide the community and weakens community labor power so for every decision they made they make sure it's for the benefit of the all member of the community.

Do you think the district council is willing to involve you in decision making

	Responses	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	1	1.0	1.0	1.0
	No	94	96.9	96.9	97.9
	I don't know	2	2.1	2.1	100.0
	Total	97	100.0	100.0	

Table 4:8, Willingness of the district to involves community in decision making

Table 4:8, The researcher need to know the attitude of respondents concerning their leader's willingness to participate in decision making. Finding shows that 94 (96.9%) of the respondents, responded "no" the leader is not willing to involve them in decision making, 2 (2.1%) they don't know and 1 (1%) they responded "yes". Therefore from the findings proves that the leaders is not willing to involve the community in decision making and if they do they fulfill their statutory requirement and they don't give them power to influence their decisions.

Also from the interview, interviewee responded that the community is willing to involve the community in decision making since it is statutory formulated and that is why we do various activities to make sure that all of its member participate in any way such as monthly cash contribution for health and security, but the problem is politics, nowadays in MDC people have affected much with politics and think everything the district wants to do is for the political issues something weakening participations in decision making and think that the MDC is not willing to participate or engage them in decision making while it's not.

Does your district provide community education concerning participations

	Responses	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	1	1.0	1.0	1.0
	No	96	99.0	99.0	100.0
	Total	97	100.0	100.0	

Table 4:9, Responses on community education concerning participations

From table 4:9, researcher need to know if MDC has the culture of providing education to the community to show them how important it is when they engage in decision making processes and the responses are 1(1%) responded "yes" to mean the community provide community education concerning participation, 96 (99%) responded "no" to mean that the MDC does not provide community education concerning participation to the community that is why responses to the community meetings is lower since people are not aware of how important are, when attending and contribute to the community meetings.

From the interview the interviewee responded "yes" they provide community education that encourage the community to be part and parcel of their decision and to show how important are they in identifying their problem, setting their priorities and decide for the action plan but the problem is response rate, large number of community member are not responding to the community education that is why participation of the community member in decision making are very low.

d)   To evaluate the technological factors that weakening the citizens participation in local governance in MDC

Also the researcher evaluate the technological factors that weakening the citizens participations in decision making and specifically look at the computer awareness, e-services and ICT strategies.

Does the district council have its own website * How long have you been in Meru District Council

Count

		How long have you been in Meru District Council			
		one year and less	four to five years	above five years	Total
Does the district council have its own website	Yes	2	3	0	5
	I don't know	0	22	70	92
Total		2	25	70	97

Table 4:10, MDC website

Also the researcher needs to know if MDC has its own website, and we get the answer from the citizens who have different living experience in the community. From the table 4:10, 70 respondents who have more than five years experience responded that they don't know if the MDC has its own website, 22 with four to five years experience also responded they don't know if the district has its own website, 3 with four to five years experience responded "yes" the district has its own website, and 2 with one year and less responded "yes" the district has its own website. Therefore the large number of native citizens is not aware if the district has its own website something weakens information floor to the large part of the community.

From the interview, the interviewee responded "yes" they have their website that shows the governance structure, locations and other important information concerning the MDC and his community.

Does the District council have an ICT strategy

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	2	2.1	2.1	2.1
	No	30	30.9	30.9	33.0
	I don't know	65	67.0	67.0	100.0
	Total	97	100.0	100.0	

Table 4:11, ICT strategy

The researcher also needs to evaluate the attitude of the respondents concerning the district if it has an ICT strategy. The researcher found that 2(2.1%) responded "yes", 30(30.9%) responded no, and 65(67%) responded they don't know if the district has an ICT strategy. Therefore, from the findings the respondents responded the district has no any ICT strategy since there is no any infrastructure in a place that allow them to do some other services online and still no any ICT education provided to the public.

From the interview the interviewee responded that MDC has the ICT strategy that focus on integrating some services online, allow electronic purchasing and subscription of e-news in order to make sure the community is closely to his or her representatives and services.

CHAPTER FIVE

RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTION

5:1 Introduction

This chapter presents the summery of the key findings from the study. It also provides conclusions based on the findings and recommendations in line with the research objectives of the study.

5:2 Summary of key findings

Economic factors limiting local citizens to participate in local governance in Meru district council

In economic factors we specifically focus on two issues which is the citizens means of production in relation to how they participate in local government decision making and also we look at the citizens monthly income and how do they contribute to the service delivery. From the findings we noted that, disparities of the level of income between reach and poor also is the stumbling block for MDC citizens to participate in decision making process. From the findings the data shows that 64 of the respondents with monthly income less than 300000 are the one who did not participate in the decision making in any way something weakens the decision maker in decision making process. Therefore poverty is the causative agent for in-participation in MDC.

Cultural factors that limiting citizens to participate in local government

On the culture issues we specifically looked at the issues of gender participation and leadership in local governance decision making and we focused on if MDC has the special framework that include all gender to be involved in decision making process. From the findings we found that gender is the one of the biggest problems that weakens participation in MDC. Gender is the social, cultural, and psychological traits that connected to males and females. These socio, cultural, and psychological traits are constructed by the community, destructed and acting as the guideline on his life style to differentiate man and women. For instance, data indicate that women are more likely to be segregated in decision making process and this is because large number of native citizens in MD practices their culture.

Social factors that limiting citizens to participate in local governance

In social we specifically looked at the issues of education, and we evaluate the opinions of citizens with different level of education background concerning participations and their attitudes concerning MDC willingness to involve them in decision making. From the finding we found that there is a huge gap between educated and less educated in MDC and this is the big challenges when it comes to the issues of participation, from the finding we found that large number MDC citizens has primary education and few with diploma and degree, so when it comes to the issues of participation, those with higher education are at frontline to raise their concerns and suggestions differently with who are less educated and uneducated.

Technological factors that weakening the citizens participation in local governance in MDC

In technology we look on the issues of IT strategies and if the MDC has its own website, from the findings we found that the use of information and communication technologies to widen and deepen citizens participation by enabling citizens to connect with what goes on in the community and their representatives it still problematic issue since MDC citizens are not aware of technology something hinder government efforts to reach communities in decision making in economic and friendly way. From the findings we found that large number of the respondents is not aware of the use of computer something weakening e-services, and e-participation.

5:3 CONCLUSION

The findings shows the causative agent that weakens participations is the huge disparities between rich and poor where rich are favorable class and valuable in decision making, gender where women are segregated in decision making, gap between educated and uneducated is very gigantic where the large number of MD people are uneducated and are unaware of importance of participation in decision making process and finally technology were most of MD citizens are unaware of e-services and e-participations. Therefore MDC on the issue of participation has problematic issues that is needed to be addressed in detailed and in strategic way so that to enhance citizens participation in decision making and failure to do so bureaucracy will continue to happens, nepotism, misuse of resources, expansion of marginalization, gender and increase number of uneducated community because those who

are in power will continue makes decision that will favor a specific group of people and specifically those who in power.

5:4 RECOMMENDATIONS

Restructuring Leadership system in MDC, leadership in MDC has been seen as the one of the problem that weakening community participation in decision making. Leaders are not friendly to the citizens, not interactive, selfish something weakening the citizen's morale to participate in community decision making. Therefore MDC has encouraged to restructuring their leadership system and create the system that are committed, accountable who will plan, respect diversity, facilitate positive change to the community, promote coordination and harmonization and act as the bridge between community and the upper level of the community.

Promoting gender mainstreaming, gender mainstreaming is an designed plan that aim to avoid any stereotyping by restructuring the system in a place and make sure women and men get an equal right in decision making. This strategy focus on empowering women by giving them loans to avoid economic gap, and amend some laws to make sure they get their right as men all this aim to make sure equality in all part of life. Therefore MDC has to use different campaign, provide civic education, and empowering women to be part and parcel in decision making so that they can enhance effectiveness in planning and implementing the community goals.

Integrate ICT in participation processes, the MDC must play a great role in imparting the ICT in all the processes of participation in decision making and in the provision of public services because it will easy communication and wastage of resources something that will help in setting of priorities, in provision of feedback and to bridge the existing gap between community and those in power.

Promote education to the community, education is vital to ensuring citizens has the best chance to succeed in everyday life. Education allows the citizens to be aware of their right and what going on within and outside the country since they will be able to read newspapers, magazines, watch television and listening to the radio programs that can make them conscious to make change in their community. MDC has the responsibility to promote

education by encourage investment in education and vocational training sectors, and encourages the community to take their children's to school so that they can abolish the illiterates generation, by doing so will increase the number of educated people that will be the catalyst for change.

Economic empowerment, economic empowerment is the process of adding and imparting extra capacity to women and men to participate in and to contribute to any productive sectors so that they can raise their income and benefit from it in ways that recognize the value of their contributions, respect their dignity and make it possible to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth. Economic empowerment increases community access to economic resources, giving them confidence to participate in decision making and opportunities including jobs, financial services, property and other productive assets, skills development and market information. Economic empowerment is a prerequisite for sustainable development and is a right of the members of the community. Economic empowerment needs sound policies, a holistic approach and long-term commitment from all development actors. MDC can assure his community economic empowerment by providing loans for developmental activities, provides agriculture subsidies and practical training to reduce the number of jobless people in the community and to raise their confidence to participate in decision making processes.

5:5 Areas for further study

Further investigation for citizen participation in local governance is required to explore the demographic changes in our community and bind them closely to local governance participations; identify which strategies are particularly effective in obtaining bottom up support for strengthen citizen participations in local governance; determine how diversity will promote participations in local governance; and explore the impact of gender mainstreaming training in enhancing gender participations in local governance

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APPENDIX
QUESTIONNAIRES FOR NORMAL CITIZENS

Introduction and Purpose

I am **Imaniel Mosses** a post graduate student of Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology (JKUAT), Arusha, pursuing MSc. Governance and Leadership. This questionnaire is designed for academic purpose only. The information availed in this questionnaire will be treated with confidentiality and will be an aid obtaining data necessary for my research topic "**Factors Influencing Citizen Participation in Local Governance in Meru District Council, Tanzania".** This will contribute to the partial fulfillment of the requirement for award of Master of Science in Governance and Leadership of MS-TCDC/JKUAT.

A: Demographic Information

   A1. Gender of the respondents
   - a) Male
   - b) Female   (   )

   A2. What is your highest level of education?

   - a) Primary education

   - b) Secondary education

   - c) Diploma

   - d) Degree and above

   - e) Other, Specify_____   (   )

A3. How long have you been in Meru District Council?

     a) One year or less

     b) Two to Three years

     c) Four to Five years

     d) Above five year   (   )

B: To identify the economic barriers limiting local citizens' to participate in local governance in Meru district council.

B1. What is your main means of production?

     a) Employed

     b) Business

     c) Peasant

     d) Pastoralist

     e) Other, specify ……………………………..   (   )

B2. What is your monthly average income?
     a) Below Tsh 300,000/=
     b) Between Tsh 300,000/= and 500,000/=
     c) Between Tsh 500,000/= and 800,000/=
     d) Tsh 800,000/= and above

B3. How many dependents do you have?
     a) None
     b) One
     c) Two
     d) Three
     e) Four   (   )
     f) Five and above

B4. How do you contribute in local government service delivery?
     a) Paying the PAYE (Pay As You Earn) through your monthly salary
     b) Physical work (manual)
     c) Paying developmental contributions   (   )
     d) Professional contributions
     e) Others, specify …………………………………..

B5. How do you participate in the local government's decision making?
   a) I don't participate in any way
   b) Attending local meetings and committees
   c) Attending some decision making bodies by virtue of my position (   )
   d) Through suggestion box
   e) Other, specify ………………………………………………………….

B6. Do you think your absence in community meeting weakening decisions they made?
   a) Yes
   b) No
   c) I don't know   (   )

B7. Does your district council gives you chance to comment or criticize depend on your economic status?
   a) Yes
   b) No
   c) I don't know   (   )

C: To explore the cultural factors that affect the citizens to participate in local governance in Meru District Council

C1. Are there any framework the District Council has put in place to provide and guarantee individuals: women, men and youth to participate in decision making
   a) Yes
   b) No
   c) I don't know   (   )

C2. The District Council has consultation mechanism to disclose to the public any information concerning men, women and youth before they meet with them
   a) Yes
   b) No
   c) I don't know   (   )

C3. Does the District Council have the formal procedure to provide feedback to the public concerning on how their inputs have been used no matter their differences?
   a) Yes
   b) No
   c) I don't know   (   )

C4. Do you think the District Council considers gender issues involvement in decision making?

    a) Yes

    b) No

    c) I don't know   (   )

C5. Does the District Council allow the service beneficiary to provide feedback concerning the deliverable no matter their differences?

    a) Yes

    b) No

    c) I don't know   (   )

C6. Do you think the District Council has the formalized system of implementing the feedback for the benefit of the community?

    a) Yes

    b) No

    c) I don't know   (   )

D: To determine the social factors that influencing citizen participation in local governance in Meru district council

D1. What is your opinion between gender and level of participation in the community decision making?

………………………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………………………

D2. Does your district provide community education concerning participation?

    a) Yes

    b) No

    c) I don't know   (   )

D3. Do you think the District Council is willing to involve you in decision making

    a) Yes

    b) No

    c) I don't know   (   )

D4. If "Yes" what do you think are the reasons

………………………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………………………………………………………………………

D5. If "No" what do you think are the reasons

………………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………

D6. Do you know what are the importance of participating community in decision making
  a) Yes
  b) No
  c) I don't know   (   )

D7. What are they

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E: To evaluate the technological factors that weakening the citizen participation in local governance in Meru district council

E1. Do you know how to use computer
  a) Yes
  b) No   (   )

E2. What are the benefits of integrating local governance system and activities electronically?
………………………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………………………………………………………………………
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………………………………………………………………………………………………………

E3. Does the district council have its own website?
  a) Yes
  b) No
  c) I don't know   (   )

E4. The District Council itself decides the form and contents to appear on the website

    a) Yes

    b) No

    c) I don't know   (   )

E5. Which of the following pieces of information is available on the website? (Tick all which applies)

    a) Information on services and citizens' rights/duties   (   )

    b) Composition of the local council   (   )

    c) Composition of committees, boards   (   )

    d) Announcement of local council meetings   (   )

    e) Minutes/resolutions from local council meetings   (   )

    f)   Information on municipal and local plans   (   )

    g) Lists of mail received: (   )

E6. Is there any of the following functions available to the citizens on the district council website?

    a) Order written material from the municipality (brochures, local plans) (   )

    b) Download and print city council official forms   (   )

    c) See personal data from administrative systems such as borrowed books, waiting lists, tax, buildings register   (   )

    d) Submit personal data for administrative systems example notification of change of address, tax data   (   )

    e) Online payments through the website   (   )

    f) Electronic subscription to selected news: (   )

    g) Personalized user interface such as individual settings of menu, and news

E7. Which of the following groups have e-mail addresses on the district council website?

    a) WC   (   )

    b) WEO   (   )

    c) VEO   (   )

    d) DED   (   )

THANK YOU FOR COOPERATION

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR DISTRICT COUNCIL WORKERS

Introduction and Purpose

I am **Imaniel Mosses** a post graduate student of Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology (JKUAT), Arusha, pursuing MSc. Governance and Leadership. This questionnaire is designed for academic purpose only. The information availed in this questionnaire will be treated with confidentiality and will be an aid obtaining data necessary for my research topic "**Factors Influencing Citizen Participation in Local Governance in Meru District Council, Tanzania".** This will contribute to the partial fulfillment of the requirement for award of Master of Science in Governance and Leadership of MS-TCDC/JKUAT.

A: Demographic Information

    A1. Gender of the respondents

        a) Male

        b) Female   (   )

    A2. What is your highest level of education?

        a) Primary education

        b) Secondary education

        c) Diploma

        d) Degree and above

        e) Other, Specify_____

A3. How long have you been in Meru District Council?

    a) One year or less

    b) Two to Three years

    c) Four to Five years

    d) Above five year   (   )

A4. What position do you occupy in Meru District Council?

…………………………………………………………………………………

B: To identify the economic barriers limiting local citizens' to participate in local governance in Meru district council.

B1. What is your main means of production?

    a) Employed

    b) Business

    c) Peasant

    d) Pastoralist

    e) Other, specify ……………………………..   (   )

B2. What is your monthly average income?
    a) Below Tsh 300,000/=
    b) Between Tsh 300,000/= and 500,000/=
    c) Between Tsh 500,000/= and 800,000/=
    d) Tsh 800,000/= and above

B3. How many dependents do you have?
    a) None
    b) One
    c) Two
    d) Three
    e) Four   (   )
    f) Five and above

B4. How do you contribute in local government service delivery?
    a) Paying the PAYE (Pay As You Earn) through your monthly salary
    b) Physical work (manual)
    c) Paying developmental contributions   (   )
    d) Professional contributions
    e) Others, specify …………………………………..

B5. How do you participate in the local government's decision making?
  a) I don't participate in any way
  b) Attending local meetings and committees
  c) Attending some decision making bodies by virtue of my position
  d) Through suggestion box
  e) Other, specify ………………………………………………….

B6. Do you think your absence in community meeting weakening decision they made?
  a) Yes
  b) No
  c) I don't know   (   )

B7. Does your district council gives you chance to comment or criticize depend on your economic status?
  a) Yes
  b) No
  c) I don't know   (   )

C: To explore the cultural factors that affect the citizens to participate in local governance in Meru District Council

C1. Are there any framework the District Council has put in place to provide and guarantee individuals: women, men and youth to participate in decision making
  a) Yes
  b) No
  c) I don't know   (   )

C2. The District Council has consultation mechanism to disclose to the public any information concerning men, women and youth before they meet with them
  a) Yes
  b) No
  c) I don't know   (   )

C3. Does the District Council have the formal procedure to provide feedback to the public concerning on how their inputs have been used no matter their differences?
  a) Yes
  b) No
  c) I don't know   (   )

C4. Do you think the District Council considers gender issues involvement in decision making?

    a) Yes

    b) No

    c) I don't know   (   )

C5. Does the District Council allow the service beneficiary to provide feedback concerning the deliverable no matter their differences?

    a) Yes

    b) No

    c) I don't know   (   )

C6. Do you think the District Council has the formalized system of implementing the feedback for the benefit of the community?

    a) Yes

    b) No

    c) I don't know   (   )

D: To determine the social factors that influencing citizen participation in local governance in Meru district council

D1. What is your opinion between gender and level of participation in the community decision making?

…………………………………………………………………………………………

…………………………………………………………………………………………

D2. Does your district provide community education concerning participation?

    a) Yes

    b) No

    c) I don't know   (   )

D3. Do you think the District Council is willing to involve you in decision making

    a) Yes

    b) No

    c) I don't know   (   )

D4. If "Yes" what do you think are the reasons

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D5. If "No" what do you think are the reasons

………………………………………………………………………………………………………
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D6. Do you know what are the importance of participating community in decision making
    a) Yes
    b) No
    c) I don't know   ( )

D7. What are they

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E: To evaluate the technological factors that weakening the citizen participation in local governance in Meru district council

E1. Do you know how to use computer
    a) Yes
    b) No   ( )

E2. What are the benefits of integrating local governance system and activities electronically?
………………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………………………………………………………………

E3. Does the district council have its own website?

    a) Yes

    b) No

    c) I don't know   ( )

E4. The District Council itself decides the form and contents to appear on the website

    a) Yes

    b) No

    c) I don't know   (   )

E5. Which of the following pieces of information is available on the website? (Tick all which applies)

a) Information on services and citizens' rights/duties	( )
b) Composition of the local council	( )
c) Composition of committees, boards	( )
d) Announcement of local council meetings	( )
e) Minutes/resolutions from local council meetings	( )
f) Information on municipal and local plans	( )
g) Lists of mail received:	( )

E6. Is there any of the following functions available to the citizens on the district council website?

    a) Order written material from the municipality (brochures, local plans) (   )

    b) Download and print city council official forms   (   )

    c) See personal data from administrative systems such as borrowed books, waiting lists, tax, buildings register   (   )

    d) Submit personal data for administrative systems example notification of change of address, tax data   (   )

    e) Online payments through the website   (   )

    f) Electronic subscription to selected news: (   )

    g) Personalized user interface such as individual settings of menu, and news

E7. Which of the following groups have e-mail addresses on the district council website?

    a) WC   (   )

    b) WEO   (   )

    c) VEO   (   )

    d) DED   (   )

E8. Does the administration use any of the following systems?

    a) Electronic filing system (electronic filing of paper documents)   (   )

    b) Electronic document handling system (electronic recording and storage of scanned or own documents)   (   )

    c) Geographic Information System, GIS (for displaying theme maps based on administration information)   (   )

    d) Integrated care system within home care services   (   )

    e) Option to send personal, encrypted e-mail to the citizens, for example via electronic mailboxes (system with confidentiality and unambiguous identification of the citizen)   (   )

E9. Does the district have an intranet, comprising more than one branch of administration? *(Intranet means web pages for internal use)*

    a) Yes

    b) No

    c) I don't know   (   )

E10.   Does the District Council have an ICT strategy

    a) Yes

    b) No

    c) I don't know   (   )

E11.   Which of the following fields are comprised by the strategy? **Please tick all that apply**

    a) ICT infrastructure: (   )

    b) ICT security policy   (   )

    c) Citizens services via the Internet   (   )

    d) Electronic purchasing   (   )

    e) Guidelines for citizens' enquiries received by e-mail   (   )

INTERVIEW GUIDE QUESTIONS

1. What is your contribution in service deliveries in Meru District Council in relation to your income?

2. What are the economic factors limiting you to participate in local governance?

3. What are the educational factors that hindered you to participate in local governance?

4. How do you participate in local government decision making?

5. What are the ways in which each members of community participate in decision making despite their differences in character?

6. Does the Meru District Council have consultations mechanism to disclose information to the public concerning men, women, and youth before they meet with them?

7. Does the Meru District Council have the formal procedure to provide feedback to the public concerning how inputs have been used no matter their differences?

8. Does the District Council provide community education concerning participation?

9. Does the District Council have an ICT strategy?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

APPENDIX

INTRODUCTION LETTER

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Tanzania

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Fax: +255 27 254 1042
mstcdc@mstcdc.or.tz
www.mstcdc.or.tz

MS TCDC
MS – Training Centre for
Development Co-operation

To Whom it may concern,

4th December 2014

RE: FIELD VISIT FOR MSc IN GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP STUDENT

This is to introduce Imaniel Mosses who is a Masters student currently undertaking Research to your company/organization for data collection purposes.

Kindly avail him with the necessary information he requires.

Thank you in advance.

Yours Sincerely,

for

Per Lykke Søndergaard
Academic and Training Quality Coordinator

Ms Actonaid Denmark works for just and empowernment of the world's poorest.
Ms is associated to Actonaid International. Together, we fight poverty in more
than 40 countries

End poverty. Together. End poverty. Together.