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## An Assessment of Sociocultural Factors Influencing Rural Youth Participation in Community Development Projects in Turkana County – Kenya

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### Abstract

The interplay of local and international cultures enhances people's ability to adapt to external influences of sustainable action that can support sustainable global development programs and processes. Traditionally Turkana society has well-defined gender roles that appear to contradict inclusive and participatory approaches determined by government projects and interventions. Furthermore young people are looking for more economic opportunities and more property rights; however their participation in community development projects remains low compared to that of older people. The study sought to assess the influence of cultural values on youth participation in community development projects. Data were collected from a sample of 381 respondents using descriptive design research methods. The study revealed that gender roles and hierarchical interpersonal relationships in the local community is a major impediment towards community participation in development projects. The author recommends that the central role of youth in participatory planning should be promoted through creation of enabling environments that would adopt a holistic approach in addressing the political and sociocultural needs of the youth.

**Key words:** *Socio-cultural Factors, Youth Participation, Level of Literacy, Cultural Values*

### 1. Introduction

Social cultural factors are a major force in culture and thought-provoking societies that affect thinking, feelings and behavior. Social and economic experiences and facts help shape a person's personality, attitudes and lifestyle. They directly affect the right of the community and the levels of financial independence. Factors such as health status, income, natural resource education and cultural practices are studied by social scientists depending on how they affect individual circumstances and circumstances. According to Kakumba and Nisingo (2008) the economic and social conditions of citizens determine how they participate in the planning processes of community projects. For example, poor classes are associated with lower levels of education, and are often excluded from consultation, and thus reduce their social power. Research by Onu, 2000 and Gordon, 2008 found that educated people are more likely to respect social development than those who are less educated. If people enjoy community development their attitude towards participating in community development projects is likely to be positive. Youth participation in community programs promotes positive social change and utilizes public funds needed for community development (Jivetti, Njorai and Njorai, 2016). In addition to the lack of education and training, youth participation is reduced and inadequate, assets involving land and skills or access to financial services (Sulo et. al, 2012).

Citizen participation in Kenya is one of the key pillars of the Kenyan Constitution. It promotes democracy by providing the public an opportunity to participate in decision-making processes in government. Citizen participation in Kenya is particularly important in the budgeting and in the promotion of national values and principles of governance as envisaged in Article 10(2) a, b, c of the Kenyan Constitution. Furthermore Article 27 of the Kenya Constitution guarantees equality and non-discrimination. Therefore, citizen participation should ensure equality and non-discrimination. Zhong, (2014) confirms that citizen participation includes voluntary work with non-governmental organizations, participation in community services, involvement in civic-related organizations, contacting mass media or governments about public affairs and donating money to the needy. People's participation in community functions may be important to local residents regardless of their age, gender, social status, political views, religion, or educational background. According to Tufte and Mephalopulos (2009), participation is for community members to work together so that they can work for an acceptable outcome to transform society by sharing of knowledge, power and limited economic resources.

Youth constitute a clear asset for community development projects when they are positively empowered and engaged as active citizens (Kumar, 2002). According to the World Bank Report (2010), about 50% of the population of the developing world consists of youth and children. In Kenya, youth aged 15–24 years represent 20% of the population, of which around 84% live in rural areas (Jiveti, Najorai & Najorai, 2016). Consequently, rural areas need several programs to enhance the empowerment of youth living in these places. Jivetti et al (2016) stated that, the Government of Kenya has, over the years, tried to implement some development programs targeting the youth. Despite the focus on macroeconomic, social, political, cultural and social life of these

programs, these interventions have minimal impact in the quality of life for youth. These programs are designed to be successful if they focus on empowerment, skill-development education initiatives and employment generation as a means of improving livelihoods for economic development. Empowerment will prepare the young population to face poverty, overcome difficulties and improve the quality of life (Jeevati et al, 2016 of Nejati, Purajat and Gholipour, 2012). Ultimately, the youth can acquire shares of social capital that are important for promoting a sense of community inclusion, community identity, and integration.

## 2. Statement of the Problem

The existing parity between youth participation and elderly citizens and key project officials' dominance in decision-making in the on-going community development projects in Kenya, motivated the study on socio-cultural factors influencing rural youth participation in participatory planning. While young people seek more economic opportunities and claim further property rights, their participation in community development projects remains low in comparison to adult participation, contrary to the ideal perception of Checkoway and Gutierrez (2006) that youth are potential community assets and are no longer viewed as a social problem since they are able to utilize their skills and make use of their rights to engage themselves in the development of their society.

Several studies such as Mwanzi (2010), Campbell, Gibbs, Maimane, Nair and Sibiyi, (2009) and Sulo, Chepng'eno, Chumo, Tuitoek, and Lagat, (2012) suggested that youth participation in community projects should be a proactive process in which the beneficiaries influence the development and management of development projects rather than merely receiving a share of project benefits. These studies paid particular attention to the efficiency and efficacy of youth participation in decision-making rather than on the socio-cultural barriers that hinder youth's active participation in socio-economic, political and cultural life to the extent that existing youth participation platforms such as the National Youth Council and Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDEF) that have been established by Governments are merely showcases and offer no real opportunity for the articulation of concerns. The participants are often chosen by adults and do not represent any constituency of young people; adults assume that youth lack the capacity to choose appropriate delegates Kumpfer, Turner, Hopkins and Librett, as cited in Abdullah (2014).

Furthermore, Charles and Haines (2014) found that many countries have done very little in collecting information about rural youth; this was a knowledge gap this study sought to fill by exploring the extent to which cultural values influence rural youth participation in community development projects in Turkana. The study examined the possibility of a link between gender composition and the indicators of community development and perceptions of young people such as values, motivations, or the ability to contribute to the well-being of rural communities.

## 3. Objective of the Study

To determine extent to which cultural values influence rural youth participation in community development projects.

## 4. Research Question

To what extent do cultural values influence youth participation in community development projects?

## 5. Justification of the Study

Youth participation as a development strategy in community development requires sustained engagement of youth. This study recognized the importance of youth participation in an organized manner, in the process of building a democratic system, good governance and development endeavors, and benefit fairly from the outcomes. Despite the emphasis and the good intention of participatory planning approach; previous studies paid very little attention in the relationship between sociocultural marginalization and popular participation in management of devolved development funds geared towards rural poverty alleviation. This study revealed that the sociocultural variables under investigation are generally at play in producing these aspects of social and economic exclusion. Lower levels of education, discrimination based on cultural factors, monetary poverty, unemployment, lack of residence or legal status in the host-community, living in remote geographical areas, and experiences of juvenile delinquency, are the main determinants of youth social exclusion.

## 6. Review of Literature

Cultural values refer to how a particular community perceives their values, customs, beliefs and their traditions. Socio-cultural factors involve both social and cultural elements of society (Kottak, 2002). According to Mohamud, Muturi and Samantar (2018) culture plays a critical role influencing the perception of the young people towards involving in the community development projects since society and culture within which an individual youth finds him/her in is bound to influence the extent to which he or she participates in community development initiatives. Cultural factors are considered as the major reason for non-participation amongst the common people (Omweri, 2011). According to Omweri (2011) the patriarchal society, would not allow married women to make decisions in regard to participation in projects without considering their spouses. In her study in Mosocho Division-, Kisii County in 2011, Omweri reported that lack of decision-making power had a negative effect on women

participation in projects. Women in rural areas are isolated, confined and marginalized through the non- interactive government policies and this impact on their participation in development projects. The study employed descriptive survey research design and the target population was women from rural areas of Mosocho Division. The Sample size was 102 female leaders of self-help groups and women groups. The research findings indicated that level of education, cultural values, lack of finances, lack of information and marital status impacted negatively on rural women's participation. However, this study did not explore practical gender roles that are linked to the condition of women's lives, their immediate environment, workload and responsibilities that exist in the society of which they are part.

The disparity between youth and adults and the dalliance to assume adult responsibilities is especially pronounced in political and organizational forums of community decision making (Mohamud et al, 2018). At times even when youth are invited to participate in community governance, they are expected to conform to strictly prescribed parameters that have been set by adults (Camino & Calvert, 2007). An exploratory study by Brown and Evans, (2002) sought to understand the link between decision-making skills and perceived post-detention success among incarcerated youth. The study used data derived from surveys administered in 2001 of 197 incarcerated youth in two Nevada youth detention facilities. Results revealed that those youth possessing higher levels of decision-making competence scored higher on a post-detention success scale. This relationship was found while controlling for gender, age, ethnicity, number of arrests, and family conflict. This study is cognizant of the fact that youth workers and researchers have noted that ethnic minority particularly the youth living in economically distressed environment like urban slums do not participate equally in youth programs (Mohamud et al, 2018). The study examined a range of demographic factors which included race, age, and sex. With respect to the demographic factors, age was found to be a key influential factor to community participation. Specifically, it was established that persons over the age of 65 years old were more willing to engage in community activities.

In a rural set up much of the general public, including parents, do not perceive youth as having the values, motivation, or competence to contribute to civic life of a society (Bostrom, 2000; Offer & Schonert-Reichl, 1992; Zeldin, 2002a). Zeldin and Topitzes (2002) found out that less than 25 percent of urban adults had a great deal of confidence that adolescents could represent their community or serve as a bona fide member of a community organization. In a study by Scales, Benson, Roehlkepartain and coll ( 2001), adults rated the relative importance of nineteen actions that communities could take on behalf of young people. Significant number of respondents highlighted shared value, decision making and report misbehavior respectively. However actions reflecting youth engagement always received the lowest adult endorsement, adults do not believe in seeking young people's opinions when making decisions that affect them. This study sought to establish how the mainstream cultural influences have conditioned youth to participate in community development projects and to determine whether the younger generation themselves have a sense of self- worth to devote their time and efforts to positive community engagement.

Kwaja (2004) in a past study on the impact of community participation on outcomes of development projects found that variety of community level controls such as community location, wealth, inequality etc. and project characteristics influence citizen participation in community projects. The data was collected through a series of community, individual and project level surveys conducted by the author in 1999. These surveys provided detailed information on both communities and projects for 132 infrastructural projects in 99 randomly selected rural communities in Northern Pakistan (Baltistan). These projects were all externally provided, primarily by the local government and a local NGO, and varied in the extent to which community participation was sought, with government projects generally being less participatory. A concern is that the causal effect of participation is hard to identify since participation is a possible outcome of community un-observables; that is, better communities both choose participation levels optimally and do well in projects. Thus, these results provide reasonable evidence that community participation helps in non-technical, but hurts in technical, decisions (Khwaja, 2004). Working on the old adage of unity is strength, participation is a means of exerting influence or bargaining power which motivates communities to work collectively in development processes because it serves to enhance social cohesion and it makes communities recognize the value of working in partnership with each other.

Difficulty in accessing land is not the primary constraint but rather the prejudices and social attitudes towards youth (Gottero, 2014). Land is still considered an adult issue, particularly under traditional systems where holders of customary land rights hold the right to manage all the lands to the exclusion of young people. In many cultures, land is considered a family or communal property with a fear of fragmentation and un-viability of land. As a result, youth are often treated as farm hands or unpaid family workers without tenure security, instead of young farmers in their own right. In addition to age there are other bases of discrimination such as sex, religion, race, class, ethnicity or nationality toward youth (FAO, 2010). Women in the rural part of Kenya play a pivotal role community's way of life since they assume multiple responsibilities with regard to the livestock, the land and the household chores. While this report concentrated on access to land without highlighting how social structures that favors male domination and female subordination constrain women in project participation. Activities undertaken primarily by women at the community level as an extension of their reproductive role includes provision and maintenance of collective resources for example water, health and education and in most cases this work is usually voluntary and unpaid. It rarely includes levels of decision making and formal community politics which is often the role of men who get paid in cash, status or power.

## 7. Research Methodology

The study employed descriptive design in collecting information from the study sample of 343 respondents from the target population of 47,359 individuals aged 18 to 35 years. Key informants were purposively identified from the project officials of on-going national and county government sponsored community projects between 2014-2017. The study used semi-structured questionnaires to collect quantitative data due to its convenience in collecting information from a large number of respondents. To determine the perceptions of rural youth towards participation in community development processes, three techniques were used: group discussions, face-to-face interviews and observations. The data were subjected to descriptive analysis that included a range of both qualitative and quantitative treatments. SPSS (version 20) was applied in data analysis. The qualitative data were analyzed by establishing categories and themes, relationships, patterns, and conclusions consistent with the study objectives. Descriptive analysis was used because it enabled the researcher to observe variables in their fields of study. The tabulation enabled the researcher to classify the subjects in this research. Tabulation was a part of the technical process in which the classified data were placed as tables (Kothari, 2005). The frequencies extended the analysis of continuous variables. The data were presented by the use of tables and frequencies where appropriate and finally the whole population was estimated.

## 8. Research Findings and Data Analysis

### 8.1 Descriptive Statistics

#### 8.1.1 Extent of Cultural Influence on Participation in Community Development Projects

The respondents were asked whether cultural values on rural youth Participation in community projects affected their level of integration with other community members. The findings are recorded in Table 1.

**Table 1: Cultural Influence and Participation in Community Development Projects**

Response	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
The cultural values of a society within which an individual youth finds him/herself in is bound to influence the extent to which he or she participates in community development projects	122	36	138	40	42	12.3	40	11.7

The study established that cultural values strongly influenced citizen participation in community development projects. The analysis in Table 1 confirmed that 76% agreed that cultural values of a society within which an individual youth finds him/herself in is bound to influence the extent to which he or she participates in community development projects. These findings support the argument by Osuka (2015) that culture is the starting point for learning concepts of community development, citizen values and management behavior. From the foregoing it is evident that culture values are key determinant of perception of youth towards participation in community development programs.

#### 8.1.2 Extent of Women and Men participation in Community Projects

Respondents were asked whether young women and young men have an equal opportunity to participate in community development projects. Findings are listed in Table 2.

**Table 2: Participation in Development Projects**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	0	0
Agree	0	0
Disagree	34	10
Strongly Disagree	308	90
<b>Total</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>100</b>

Results in Table 2 revealed that male members of the community are more likely to participate in community development projects in the Turkana. The traditional customs and culture of the local people have finally been found to have a moderate impact on women's participation in community development projects. This is in line with Rao (2013) who argued that traditional cultural values oppose the development, advancement and participation of women in any political process. During field visits the researcher observed that even during the meetings, women and men sat in different places, typically, men use their small wooden chairs (*ekicholong*) under a large tree, women remain close but separated while young people (only males) gather around as depicted in Figure 1.

In one of the focus group discussions one of the respondents summarized the important role of cultural values in the decision-making process within the Turkana community, in which he said:

"According to Turkana tradition, whenever a man marries a woman, that woman is under that man. She cannot make any decisions on her own. When a man makes a decision, the woman agrees. Everything a man says, a woman should agree. When a woman tries to react, and a the man realizes that she is trying to take his place, it is a problem. The man is the one who makes all the decisions "[Male youth aged 32years - FGDI-Lokichar October-2017]



**Figure 1:** A section of participants in Community outreach programme on management, use and control of *prosopis juliflora* in Katilu on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2016. Male youth can only speak after the elder and young women seldom speak.

From the foregoing analysis culture has contributed to lack of women's right to decision making processes in the community development and access to factors of production such as land. As a result, this study complemented a study by Cotula (2011) who found that traditionally, men inherit land and women acquire users' rights through their relationship with a male relative. Traditionally, rural areas have had their own social, economic, and cultural contexts different from that of their urban counterparts. This proposition is further supported by discoveries of Herbel, Crowley and Lee (2010) in Pakistan where adults refused to allocate land to young people as they feared it would not be enough for everyone. FAO (2010) also confirmed that land rights in many societies are governed by legal and customary law. Many of these traditional laws, especially in Kenya, deny women the right to land.

### 8.1.3 Hierarchical Interpersonal Relationships and Community Participation

Research has continued to seek out respondents' perceptions of young people such as values, motivations, or the ability to contribute to the well-being of rural communities.

**Table 3: Perception of Youth having the Values, Motivation, or Competence to Contribute to Civic Life of a Society**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	147	43.0
Agree	120	35.1
Disagree	37	10.8
Strongly Disagree	38	11.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3 indicates that majority of the respondents 147 (43%) strongly agreeing and 120 (35.1%) agreeing respectively with the assertion that the general public, including parents, do not perceive youth as having the values, motivation, or competence to contribute to civic life of a society in a rural set. These findings were supported by similar findings by Mutua (2013) who asserted that hierarchical interpersonal relationships in the community have been a major impediment towards community participation in development projects and those by Varughese and Ostrom (2001) who said that groups that are a subset of heterogeneous communities are mostly distrustful and thereby lack mutual understanding and therefore are laden with conflicts and will have a hard time in self-organization.

This perspective and analysis summarized in Table 3 conform to the studies by Sherrod, Flanagan and Youniss (2002); Torney- Purta, Damon, Casey-Cannon, Gardner, Gonzalez, Moore and Wong, (2000) in establishing the disparity between youth and adults and the dalliance to assume adult responsibilities is especially pronounced in political and organizational forums of community decision making. The study took cognizant of the study by Camino and Calvert (2007) that at times even when youth

are invited to participate in community governance; they are expected to conform to strictly prescribed parameters that have been set by adults.

### 8.2 Correlation between Gender Roles and Participation in Community Development Projects

To determine whether gender composition affected consideration residents in community projects in Turkana, the study examined the possibility of a link between gender composition and the indicators of community development involved. Pearson's product integration analysis was used for the study variables compared to the highly conserved value of  $p < 0.05$  to reduce the probability of error of type 1. Findings are shown in Table 4.

**Table 4: Correlation between Gender roles and Planning Meeting**

	Planning	Implementation	Opinion	Gender
Planning	1	0.260*	0.429*	-0.109*
Implementation	0.260*	1	0.043	0.281*
Opinion	0.429*	0.043	1	-0.160*
Gender roles	-0.109*	0.281*	-0.160*	1

There is a negative relationship between gender roles and youth involvement in planning activities. Since the coefficient of computer integration ( $r = 0.109$ ) is greater than the critical value of the sample merge rate at 95%. The results show that there is a significant and negative relationship between gender and participation in community project planning meetings and gender roles in community projects respectively. This analysis is in line with Omweri's (2011) argument that the roles of gender roles for men and women today build, strengthen, and further the relationship of male domination and femininity. The implications of these findings confirm that young women have limited opportunities to participate in the implementation of community development.

There is a weak correlation between gender roles and youth involvement ( $r = 0.281$ ). This relationship is important for 95% of the value of the sample equity value. This means that gender roles in the rural area play an important role in social life as women perform many functions related to livestock, land and household chores. As a result, women have developed the natural resource management skills they use to benefit their communities. During the shortage of natural resources some women are struggling with increasing employment as they struggle to provide for their families. The problem is exacerbated by the influx of men into urban areas in search of paid employment in large industrial firms. Women live in a village, taking on important responsibilities for their families and cultivating land. However, they live in an area of social and economic weakness in traditional pastoral communities (UNCCD 2007). However, without this accumulated knowledge of management and the skills of women in rural areas they have not been fully recognized in the decision-making process not only in their own homes but in all social programs

The discussion of how men and women in certain areas are expected to behave has confirmed that the gender burden is higher. In agro-pastoral systems for example Turkana women play a key role in land management and environmental services, fundraisers, and service providers. Shepherding women are the main users of the country's collection of country products such as firewood, grass, fodder, wild fruits, medicinal plants, amber and amber. However, many pastoral communities are patriarchal, and men own all the world's livestock and resources. The property rights of women pastors have a limited amount of protection by traditional institutions; thus the sustainability of such protections may be lost due to the weakening of traditional institutions and new developments in land reform.

*"..Women will tend to run away from power and economic status rather than give less. Culture has a negative impact on women's participation in community development programs. This is what happened in Turkana where like any other African society women have come together to sit back and lack self-confidence "[A female participant in FGD 3 Katilu 12th April, 2018]*

The analysis found that tackling inequality and social exclusion of certain groups of young people is a major challenge in the youth sector. The distinction between young and old and the courage to take on the responsibilities of older ones is especially evident in the political arena and in decision-making bodies.

#### 8.2.1 Relationships between age and project planning and management

Given the current number of rural areas, it is extremely important to investigate how young people from sub-groups can participate in community development projects. Table 5 summarizes the analysis of Pearson's integration between age and project planning for participation in the learning environment.

In Table 5 the analysis reveals that there is a negative and significant correlation ( $-0.14$ ) between the years and indicators of the participatory project planning cycle. These findings reflect the disparities between young people and adults and the willingness of young people to take on adult roles in public decision-making and in cases where young people were invited to participate in these decision-making fora, they were expected to comply with the parameters set by adults. These findings are supported by those of Sherrod, Flanagan and Youniss (2002); Lawyer-Purta, Damon, Casey-Cannon, Gardner, Gonzalez, Moore and Wong,

(2000), Camino and Calvert (2007) and Oduor and Muriu (2010) have argued that systems and structures in society influence young people to contribute more to community policies and programs where people elders participate there.

**Table 5: Correlation between age and participation in community projects**

Variable	Age	Planning	Implementation	Opinion	Management
Age	1	-0.14*	0.108	0.154*	-0.117
Planning	-0.14*	1	0.74**	0.17	-0.4
Implementation	0.108	0.74**	1	0.43	0.27
Opinion	0.154*	0.17	0.43	1	0.421**
Management	-0.117	-0.4	0.27	0.421**	1

\*correlation is significant at 0.05 level (2 tailed)

\*\*Correlation is significant at 0.01 level (2 tailed)

The relevant ages are also very consistent and appropriate in considering their vision for community development projects. Table 5 shows correlation between project planning meetings and project implementation, similarly there is a positive correlation between project management and citizen consideration. These results suggest that public participation is an effective process in which beneficiaries or groups influence the direction and implementation of a development project with the aim of improving their financial well-being, personal growth and independence. It therefore fits well with the developmental theory of Hill, Jacob, Shannon and Brennan (2008) which emphasizes adolescence that it is in the process of mental.

## 9. Discussion of Key Findings

Research has shown that the traditional culture and practices of the people of the Turkana Community negatively affects women's participation in community development projects. In Table 1 it is clear that young women had fewer opportunities in the community projects. Table 4 shows the negative correlation between gender roles and participation in community project planning meetings and gender roles in community projects respectively means that gender roles assigned to men and women build, strengthen, and promote gender equality and women's subordination. The findings in Table 5 show a negative and significant correlation (-0.14) between the years and indicators of a participatory project planning cycle which is why the differences between youth and adults and youth cohesion take adult responsibility in community decisions.

The study has established that culture plays a key role in influencing the perception of young people about participation in community development programs; hence the culture in which a young person finds himself or herself influenced by how much he or she participates in community development programs. In conclusion the cultural norms determine how much the youth can access economic resources such as land, an important investment guide and management decisions among the youth. The strong patriarchal system favors gender-segregated roles and traditional cultural values that challenge the development, advancement and participation of youth in any planning process.

## 10. Recommendations

### 10.1 Recommendation for Development Practitioners

In order to actualize youth voice nationally and advocate for provision for research advisory services on youth organization nationally practitioners should offer a range of activities and provide youth with meaningful opportunities to participate in governance as this is likely to encourage more young people's participation. Consequently, this would create a critical mass to the youth engaged in all spheres of governance thereby enhancing governance. Young people need to feel the pressure to participate and this will guarantee that they are more enlightened about their significance in community development.

The Youth Development officers and the relevant youth stakeholders should engage youth in meaningful activities that benefit their communities while developing their abilities and skills which help build a cohesive society and inculcating a strong sense of responsibility and further provide life-changing opportunities for the youth. All community development projects practitioners should create an environment that encourages youth participation and acknowledging the role of youth in public policy formulation, planning, implementation, decision-making and governance in general. Young people spend most of their time in schooling institutions. The Universities and other learning institutions should adopt the Positive Youth Development model in their curriculums and school programmes. This will help young people to grow up with a positive attitude towards their capabilities and their roles in their community's development and broader society.

### 10.2 Recommendation for Policy Framework

This study established in Table1 that the level of involvement of rural youth in community development projects in rural communities is still low due to inadequate awareness, non-inclusion of youths in the planning stage, socio-cultural discrimination. This is summed up to mean that despite the fact that citizen participation was recognized, it does not necessarily translate to implementation of projects as participation alone without training skills to enable the youth to effectively engage each other in

deliberations was probably missing. While formal rules are sufficiently inhibiting, cultural biases and the limitations of social and financial capital further constrain young people. In practice, and regardless of the formal regulations and laws, people under the age of 35 are rarely found in formal political leadership positions. In view of the foregoing, this paper recommends the following:

- i. In order to motivate young people to increase their participation, emphasis should be placed on reforms to political structures and legislative frameworks to make them more inclusive by operationalizing the youth grassroots structures and align them to devolved structures to ensure that the youth are represented in governance and development process at levels of government.
- ii. The State Department of Youth Affairs and the National Youth Council should facilitate a participatory review of the Kenya National Youth Policy 2007. Such a review should adhere to the parameters set by Article 12 of the African Youth Charter outlined in section 5.1.1 above and also address the aspirations of the Constitution.
- iii. The Government should establish youth focal points in all ministries, departments and agencies in order to enhance service delivery to the youth. It should also operationalized the youth grassroots structures and align them to devolved structures to ensure that the youth are represented in governance and development process at levels of government.
- iv. The government should develop an elaborate and effective participatory monitoring, reporting and evaluation framework to track the performance of youth programmes and youth affirmative programme implementing institutions. Civil society organizations focusing on youth issues such as the Youth Agenda (YAA) should also undertake independent periodic evaluations of these programmes and institutions.

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