



THE ROLE OF DEVOLUTION IN GOVERNANCE IN KENYA

Patrick Kasyula, Ph.D.

University of Nairobi

Abstract: Devolution in Kenya has been touted as the greatest post-independence political thunderbolt to democracy. In many quarters, it has been seen as a panacea to many years of misgovernance and national values collapse since independence. The level of accountability and transparency among public institutions had long waned in Kenya, and citizens' aloofness to national programs, projects, and values was equally dented. This paper seeks to interrogate the influence of public participation on enhancing good governance in Kenya, to determine the influence of capacity building on governance in Kenya, to determine the influence of decentralized units on governance, to explain the influence of transparency and accountability on governance and finally to establish the influence of social equity on enhancing good governance in Kenya. The research espoused a mixed-method approach where both quantitative and qualitative data were collected at the same time using proven data collection methods. The study employed both primary and secondary sources of data to achieve the study's objectives. Secondary data was collected from existing scholarly literature, including journals and books, Economic Surveys, gazette articles, and other publications. Primary data was collected from the residents of Nairobi randomly selected within the county. Qualitative data was collected using focus group discussions, observations, and face-to-face interviews, while questionnaires were used to collect quantitative data. Qualitative data was analyzed using content analysis, and quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS. The findings of the study reveal that devolution is a critical aspect of governance since it allows local governments to bring about efficient and sustainable development.

Keywords: Devolution, Governance, Public Participation.

Introduction.

Devolution in Kenya was a timely proposition for a national rebirth, where it sought to provide a political prescription to the ills plaguing the fragile country. Devolution sought to take the government closer to the people and the leaders close to the electorates, where transparency and accountability could be afforded an opportunity. Responsiveness to citizens' needs and priorities was also dealt a significant breakthrough, and the objects of devolution and the principles of devolution prescribed just the desired cure to the missing governance opportunities for the country.

Devolution is a new political and administrative relationship which aims to strengthen the constitutional status of counties. The enactment of the Constitution of Kenya in 2010 marked a new era in the history of governance in Kenya and ushered in a new system that devolves power and resources to the county level with the hope that this will enhance development, create jobs and reduce inequality. Devolution aims at devolving government duties and responsibilities to lower levels of government for effective service delivery as recorded by Khaunya & Wawire (2015) The Constitution provides for a system of governance that fosters the participation of public members in the identification, formulation, and implementation of development programs geared towards achieving Vision 2030 through devolution.

Devolved governments are expected to be more alert to the necessities of public and hence enhance good governance through improved services delivery. Management of state affairs occurred a distance

from the citizens, with most public servants perceived as enemies of the people rather than agents of change and service delivery. The country resulted in reframing public laws, policies, and institutions to win back public support and public participation. Governance as a concept is grounded in mobilizing all actors and together walking the country through its socioeconomic and political objectives to pursue its glory, development, and legitimacy as stated by Kangu (2015) Much of the efforts by the state did not deliver much, primarily due to the absence of citizen participation, as governance is mainly about the total of all efforts by applicable stakeholders for a country to prosper. Kenya had almost slipped into a scarcity of national values, such as objectivity, fairness, competence, honesty, efficiency, and discipline of public servants when acting in the public interest in general and when exercising discretionary powers in particular. As a response, citizens withdrew their participation in the governance process.

Equity is an essential value of governance in Kenya's 2010 Constitution, which is part of the country's devolution clause. While the formerly oppressed recognize the institutionalization of equity, beneficiaries of the old system frequently do not. To effectively execute the law and spirit of Kenya's Constitution, Kenyans must acknowledge that, while nature has significantly differentiated their country, successive administrations have done little to capitalize on chances for statewide development. During the two-decade constitutional review debate, this failure fueled calls for devolution.

Kenya has faced long phases of dogmatic uncertainty since independence, which have exaggerated the nation's fiscal performance and societal unity. For instance, vehemence exploded in Kenya in 2008 after the country's general elections were suspended in December 2007. Other failures do occur in Kenya occasionally. Dishonesty, financial immobility, discrimination, and deficiency are such losses. The quality of governance can be tied to these failures and periodic instability Kimenyi & Meagher (2004). Institutions are, in turn, dependent on the nature of power. These associations can occur in different forms erupting from the Constitution to indigenous government regulations to informal corporate self-accountability.

The governance structure of a country is determined by these institutions combined. Various governance systems will produce different political, economic, and social consequences. Devolution is often carried out in response to peripheral forces from organized organizations. However, for Decentralization to be successful, the conditions of subsidiarity and consensus must be followed, as observed by Kipruto & Letting (2017). Devolution has several implications for governance. First, devolved governance complicates the whole process for strategic official actors to conspire and participate in unethical acts by spreading jurisdiction over public assets and earnings. Second, when power is delegated along territorial and communal lines, it can create efficient collaboration among the devolved entities. As a result, local communities can use social pressure to push back against rent-seeking and corruption. Indeed, many countries have decentralized their administrative, budgetary, and political systems during the previous three decades.

Decentralization, the paradigm in which devolution thrives, can take many facets. The distinctions in the frameworks for Decentralization of public functions, on the other hand, are not visible. In its place, they constitute a range that spans from a consolidated context to the federal system. Within the continuum, federalization is one sort of regionalization framework. Decentralization is a practice in which administrative, political and fiscal administration responsibilities are passed from the central administration to subordinate stages of management, often at the local and regional levels as stated by Potter (2001). Devolution is not a merely a direct procedure of control transmission from the state to sub-national levels, similarly it requires some degree of coordination among the various stages of administration. The de-concentration and delegation frameworks are two different frameworks that fall somewhere between the degrees to which Decentralization exists.

Scholars have presented political and economic grounds to decentralize public-goods delivery and funding. These principles establish a theoretical framework for decentralization and other regionalization systems. Political experts give three fundamental logics for Devolution. The primary

claim is that Devolution improves consensus by conveying management nearer to the people. Secondly, Decentralization gives strategies for safeguarding democracy through vertical checks and balances by establishing many levels of government. Additionally, minorities are offered a stake in the coordination by dispersing responsibility and authority for budgetary supervision and communal provision distribution, which assists in conflict resolution. Many researchers have accurately outlined the key economic rationales for Decentralization. They suggest that Decentralization can enhance governance in delivering public services by reducing red tape.

This minimizes the likelihood of conflict between various communities. According to Anyuor (2021), Decentralization encourages competition among subnational governments, increasing the possibility that administrations would respond appropriately to local demands. As a result, governments can achieve better levels of efficiency in public resource distribution. According to Ngigi & Busolo (2019), Decentralization can improve production effectiveness by increasing answerability, eliminating corruption, and boosting cost recovery. First, Decentralization reduces the chance of confrontations between elected leaders and government personnel by removing bureaucratic barriers. Secondly, local governments are compelled by severe budget limitations, generally imposed at the subnational level, to reduce the costs of distributing communal goods and exploit cost recovery. Finally, Decentralization encourages social solidarity, particularly at the local level.

Empirical research on devolution's influence shows variable outcomes and, in some situations, is inconclusive. Decentralization, for example, enhances government responsiveness in service delivery, according to a study of India's federal state, particularly if the mass media is very vigorous at the confined level, as stated by Beasley & Burgess (2002). According to another research conducted in Italy, Decentralization may worsen regional differences in public expenditure and economic performance Wamae (2014). Limited information at the local level, according to Azfar (2001). As a result, devolution fails to provide the intended allocative efficiency effects.

Historical background of devolution in Kenya.

A survey on the history of Kenya, indicates that the nation has been a unitary state with a highly unified management throughout its independent life, with an oppressive grip over sub-national governments and other government organs, such as the legislature and judiciary. As a result, for two reasons, the country has had no genuine experience with devolution. First, regionalism was introduced in 1963 under autonomous Constitution of Kenya but did not last long. Soon after independence in 1964, the first administration of independent Kenya, led by Jomo Kenyatta, changed the Constitution, abolishing county managements and substituting them with a centrally controlled Provincial Administration and confined administration structure. Secondly, the administrations created under Kenya's Local Government Act, section 265 of the statutes, were not given major administrative, political or budgetary controls. Instead, the central government maintained authority over local governments. Many regard this complete Executive control over the country's public affairs as the source of the country's governance and economic management difficulties. Some groups argued for devolution during the 2003 constitutional convention as a measure to reduce the executive's unduly concentrated power. However, the key stakeholders did not agree on the kind and the optimum levels of decentralization to be adopted in the country for a viable and successful government.

Several governance trends have been identified in Kenya under devolution, including; increasing fiscal accountability, a new local voice through decision making, much-needed reduction in corruption and nepotism, increased local revenue collection for devolved services, enhancing the development of local laws as well as enabling communities to participate in service delivery. Devolution has introduced a new model of governance and innovation that puts the people at the center of decision-making and service delivery. Devolution is premised on a bottom-up approach to development, meaning that local communities directly participate in democratic decision-making processes, resource allocation, and coordination of their development agendas. This shift in power transfer and engagement has not been impediment free but has generally enhanced citizen participation and government access. They have created partnerships between the national government and counties instead of centralizing power from

the national government to the local level. Governance at the grassroots level ensures that local people get opportunities to make decisions and participate in the governance process because their views and concerns can be heard and accommodated. In addition, governance at the grassroots level has many advantages, including efficient use of public resources, accountability, transparency, and participation in urban development planning, among other things.

Theoretical framework.

Regulatory theory

Regulation theory is one of the most important and consequential paradigms in modern political science. The first scholar who created the theory was Robert A. Dahl, an American political scientist and the Sterling Professor of Political Science at Yale University. In his book *Who Governs?: Democracy and Power in an American City* published in 1961, he observed that while U.S. citizens are given a voice in elections, they are actually denied access to political power, because officials representing special interests make decisions behind closed doors. He went on to provide arguments supporting regulation theory, which suggests that formal institutions needed to protect democracy include free elections, separation of powers and countervailing power, as well as transparency and accountability. According to some modern scholars including O'Neill Brook (2004) and Ryfe (2006), the key focus of the theory is not that power should be dispersed but dispersed to a variety of groups and institutions with different objectives and distinctive areas of expertise or knowledge that together can check each other's behavior. At times when there are no rights-based organizations outside the government in place to regulate public policy for democracy, then it is the responsibility of the government to do so itself (Dahl 1962).

Regulatory theory can be defined as a systematic and rational explanation of regulatory agencies' powers, discretion, and limitations. According to this theory, regulators' authority comes from the statute that defines their role. In other words, it is not created by the public but given to them. Hence, when agencies act according to this regulatory theory, they interpret the statute based on their mandate and understanding of the law. A regulatory theory of governance relies on the idea that government regulation is a result of a deviation between a model proposed by the government and the actual performance of that government. The expectation of a regulatory theory is that "following managerial advice" will improve the results of governmental agencies.

Weber (1981) sought to explain why states rely on regulation as opposed to other governance strategies. He developed four models, which seek to explain all the facets of decision making involved in formulating regulatory policies and behavior. Each model has its own distinct theoretical premises about how regulatory policy impacts the outcome of behaviors that are social harmful, or socially beneficial. Max Weber developed four models of regulatory theory based on a bureaucracy's mode of legitimacy. The traditional model legitimized by custom and belief is bureaucratic in a Weberian system. The charismatic permits no opposition from its subordinates and everything is determined by the ruling individual's whim. Hegemonic presents itself as convincingly as possible to make its own interests appear to be those of its citizens. Orthodox legitimates itself through adherence to rules.

Regulatory theory of governance is an attempt to understand how public-sector organizations perform. It studies the processes behind how these organizations are developed, how they produce policy, and also how they perform. Regulating governance is important as it defines how power will be used within the state and thus how an effective and efficient system will function. Regulation within a state is made up of institutional and non-institutional means of maintaining order and rendering that order legitimate; it also assists in monitoring compliance.

Regulation is the legal framework used to direct certain acts of organizations and governments. There are many different types of regulation, but it is possible to categorize them into two primary schools of thought: First, the command-and-control approach involves centralized commands issued by a top-down position with little or no room for interpretation. The second school of thought is a market-based approach that grants discretion to those directly affected by government policies and enables the

market forces to influence economic choices. The choice then becomes whether to allow the market in its natural state or intervene through government policy.

The theory describes the nexus between social ties and economic ties and explains why existing institutional framework are developed to align their positive interactions. The notion emerged to substitute the theory of public interest which posits that organization of the society is self-regulatory and can organize its activities procedurally during its regulations. It suggests the needed requirement for the presence of a structured institutions with the required ingredients to manage its activities and preserve its operations and existence.

Regulation theory as a concept focuses on analyzing and monitoring the government that regulates certain aspects of the economy. This concept has largely been applied in governance and providing tips for better managing the country's resources. This involves initiating policy formulation, legislation and regulation that guarantee sustainable development both economically, politically and socially among all sectors of society in Kenya.

Situational analysis on the role of devolution in governance in Kenya

This is an analytical and empirical research study which describes the existing situation in Kenya with regard to devolution. The paper argues that the new devolved system of governance in Kenya is not as decentralized as Kenyans expected and envisioned it to be. It explains why devolution has failed with respect to putting more powers with the county governments, improving service delivery and respecting citizens' rights at local levels. It tells how, even though devolution was meant to make government more accountable to citizens, politicians at the national level of government still hold power over county governments and decisions affecting the people of this country. Since the adoption of a federal system of government in Kenya, local devolved governance has been a struggle with political interference by the national government and politicians.

The Constitution of Kenya, 2010, among other things, promises Kenyans devolved governance and a new relationship with their government. Since 2013–2014, when the Constitution was operationalized through elections for county governors and assemblies, these local governments have assumed powers over many government functions. During that time, the relationship between national and county governments has become one of mutual suspicion and hostility.

The government's strategic objectives and the primary responsibility of promoting good governance can accommodate the need to reinvigorate local economies, promote the strengthening of social cohesion, accountability public participation, and efficiency in service delivery. As a result, counties have been required to update strategic plans to align them with the medium-term changes. While accountability, transparency, and integrity are the three pillars of good governance and the cornerstones of development, the environment for public sector accountability still needs strengthening through reforms in policies, systems, structures, and institutional arrangements. The effectiveness and efficiency of public service delivery require robust devolved governance mechanisms at the National, County, and Ward levels to improve citizens' accountability and responsiveness to demands.

The biggest challenge that devolution faces in governance in Kenya are the lack of cooperation from county governments and the legislature. Although both institutions have made many positive strides, their respective governments cannot interact with each other to foster the growth of devolution and, ultimately, the country. Even though devolution was intended to improve service and bring governance close to the people, Kenya is yet to feel its effects. Politics breeds corruption in Kenya, and corrupt leaders have ensured that counties are not working as they should. These challenges include; lack of human resources at county governments, lack of funds for counties, politicization of development budget, inadequate funding for counties by the national government and insecurity in some counties.

Research Design and Methodology.

The methodology describes the two strategies used to establish the influence of public participation on enhancing governance in Kenya, to determine how capacity building influences governance and finally

to establish the influence of social equity on enhancing governance in Kenya. It describes the mixed methods approach where both qualitative and quantitative data were collected simultaneously using proven data collection methods. Secondary data was collected from existing scholarly literature, including journals and books, gazette articles, Economic Surveys and other publications. Primary data was collected from the residents of Machakos randomly selected within the county. The study was carried out in three phases. In the first phase, residents of Machakos were chosen, and a survey was carried out among 30 members of the public randomly selected within Machakos County. In the second phase, a sample of 20 policymakers was used as respondents. The third stage consisted of interviews with ten state governors. Questionnaires were used in phases one and two, while interviews were used in stage three. Purposive sampling was used to select the participants, including six people from the upper senate cabinet and six from the lower senate cabinet. Data was collected using face-to-face interviews with each participant, observations, and focus group discussions. Qualitative data was analyzed using content analysis, and quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS.

Findings and Discussion of the study

Public participation

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	Standard Deviation
Effective public participation engenders public values to be incorporated into various governance decisions	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	33.3%	50.0%	4.33	0.76
Public participation must be engrained in each societal process that matters to citizens	0.0%	0.0%	13.3%	30.0%	56.7%	4.43	0.73
Public participation should entail an open process where individuals and groups exchange views for all governmental and developmental issues	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	30.0%	53.3%	4.37	0.76
Public participation is and indicator of social capital critical for governance and development	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	33.3%	46.7%	4.27	0.78
Public participation entails the assurance that public contribution influences decisions of governance	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	46.7%	53.3%	4.53	0.51
Overall Mean						4.39	0.71

Devolution has become the critical mode of governance in many African countries including Kenya. Decentralization in Kenya has changed significantly the way people are governed by enabling them to participate in decision-making on issues that affect their lives and allocating sufficient funds to local authorities.

From the findings of this study, it is seen that devolution has led to increased engagement of citizens in governance because they are directly involved in decision-making. This has improved development at the county level. However, due to the weak capacity of counties, the success of devolution is yet to be realized. Public participation enhances governance in Kenya and contributes to democracy, Human security and development. This means achieving a balance between the developmental objectives and constructive participation of the citizens. In order to achieve this goal, it is necessary for the state to

articulate a policy on public participation and for this policy to be implemented by the government agencies concerned.

Public participation is an important and dynamic aspect of governance both in Kenya and internationally. It is increasingly being used to improve public service delivery. In Kenya, public participation has expanded greatly over the years and today, both national and local governments in the country are under an obligation to establish mechanisms through which the public participates in decision-making processes.

In Kenya, the Public Participation Program (PPP) has expanded access to governance for the population. Through dialogue sessions and public meetings, citizens can connect with decision makers and other stakeholders. PPP has been adopted by Kenyan local governments and has also been scaled up to all 47 counties. EU-Kenya Joint Program support enabled the PPP to take profit from an existing national infrastructure for participatory governance, thus creating a more inclusive democracy.

Capacity building

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	Standard Deviation
Devolution considers civic education as a basic structure for effective governance	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	53.3%	30.0%	4.13	0.68
Public barazas, workshops among other dissemination models need to be done for all public processes	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	46.7%	33.3%	4.13	0.73
Training and access to online data, documentation on capacity building enhances governance	0.0%	0.0%	23.3%	40.0%	36.7%	4.13	0.78
Capacity building includes all those developmental programs meant to improve citizen’s capacity to understand governance processes	0.0%	0.0%	13.3%	33.3%	53.3%	4.40	0.72
Overall Mean						4.20	0.73

Capacity building is the process by which individuals, institutions, and governments enhance their ability to do things effectively and efficiently. It is considered as one of the strategies that were deployed by donors which could make certain aspects of governance work with the World Bank, United Nations (UN), Global Development Network (GDN), and Commonwealth Secretariat as major donors providing aid for capacity development programs offered to government officials from key ministries such as Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Education.

The results indicate a positive influence of capacity building on enhancing good governance in Kenya. However, the positive relationship between these two variables could be strengthened if capacity building takes an inclusive approach to governance. In this regard, reforms of the public service should not only focus on recruiting and developing government officials, but also require the participation of NGOs and community members themselves so as to ensure that the service meets their needs.

The study reveals that capacity building in local governance affects the performance of local authorities in Kenya. Capacity building has been hailed as an answer to public sector deficits, such as corruption, low productivity, absence of vision, lack of accountability and ineffectiveness. In recent times capacity building initiatives have received much attention in Kenya as almost all donor-funded intervention plans emphasize capacity building as a core strategy for specific sectors

Many respondents agreed that capacity building helps in the identification of development indicators which can be used to measure progress within a particular timeframe. More than 50% of the respondents agreed that Capacity development contributes significantly to good governance. Capacity development is essential to good governance because it enables the state to deliver effective and efficient public services. Moreover, capacity building helps in policy formulation and more effective implementation of policies aimed at development Wanyeki, Oloo, & Kigaracha (2007).

The study reveals that capacity building encourages proficiency in governance, which is precarious in dealing with misfortunes and efficiently answering to the threats and dimension of change hence leading to good governance and integrity. The findings indicate that expanding public service delivery and improving local governance can be done through capacity building of citizens, community organizations, local governments, nonprofit organizations and state institutions

The study also demonstrates that capacity building training for elected representatives has a positive effect on service delivery at the community level. On the other hand, experience and access to financial resources do not significantly influence capacity in local governance in Kenya

Social equity

	strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	strongly agree	Mean	Standard Deviation
Devolution has promoted diversity as a guiding principle in governance	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%	36.7%	56.7%	4.50	0.63
Governance has been influenced by devolution to engender collaboration with others in order to strengthen social equity	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	26.7%	63.3%	4.53	0.68
Devolution has provided for communications that captures all voices of all citizens including the marginalized	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	16.7%	66.7%	4.50	0.78
Devolution includes the interests of all groups in the society including women and the youth	0.0%	0.0%	23.3%	13.3%	63.3%	4.40	0.86
overall score						4.48	0.74

Findings show that there is a positive relationship between the nature of governance and social equity. The findings provide empirical support for the hypothesis that organizations with high level of social equity are likely to have more participation and representation opportunities, stronger compliance with internal monitoring systems and better governance practices than organizations with low level of social equity.

The Research findings indicate that Social equity can be achieved by ensuring that basic needs of human beings such as education, health and shelter services are accessible to all as well as providing social security benefits for the vulnerable groups like children and the aged in society. Economic equity is achieved when everyone derives his/her income from wealth created through equitable distribution of resources and assets for sustainable development. Political equity is attained by ensuring that all citizens are able to participate actively and equally to form, implement and evaluate public policies that affect their lives.

The findings of this research show that many participants concur with the statement that there is a strong relationship between social equity and good governance. Good governance involves creating and building a strong connection and the management of people that encourages diversity as a very important principle in the inclusive approach. Many participants agreed that effective governance allows for mutual interaction in order to improve its focus and competence in relation to the

ingredients of social equity. A larger percentage of the participants said that good communication is very important in governance because it ensures that marginalized groups are heard and their voices hearkened to hence improving governance in the counties.

This study depicts that Social equity is an important part of governance with a positive impact on justice. Research shows that when decision makers have higher levels of equity sensitivity, they are more likely to consider the needs of others in their decisions, and they demonstrate the moral courage required to make such decisions. Many respondents agreed that the role of social equity in government has been very helpful in promoting good governance, as it is able to stop corruption in the country. It addresses all issues related to poverty hence reducing crime in the country, and enhances legal adherence by citizens. Social equality is always attached to governance which includes distribution of wealth, public spending, projects and creation of jobs among the citizens.

Decentralized units

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	Std Dev
Bringing closer offices to the people has improved service provision	0.0%	0.0%	13.3%	33.3%	53.3%	4.40	0.72
Devolution has brought offices closer to citizens	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	26.7%	56.7%	4.40	0.77
Closer offices to the people has made governance more effective	0.0%	0.0%	13.3%	33.3%	53.3%	4.40	0.72
Bringing offices close to people has improved governments responsiveness	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	33.3%	46.7%	4.27	0.78
Bringing offices closer to the people has improved interactions between the people and government	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	40.0%	60.0%	4.60	0.50
Overall mean						4.41	0.70

The findings of the study show that there is a prevailing view that devolution has positive effects on aspects of democracy and accountability. Although studies have proved that decentralization leads in improving accountability, there are concerns about the quality of implementation. When communities are involved in decision making, it upholds democracy at the grassroots level and empowers rural people through knowledge management at grass root level. It could also lead to faster decisions made at the local level than if they came from higher levels of governments or elected representatives who are located far away from them. Research findings depicts that decentralized units have been used in cases of local government restructuring, as well as at the state level to increase the efficiency of government services by reducing duplication of functions, decentralized units have also been credited with maintaining or increasing local control while improving the quality and timeliness of services.

Evidence shows that many devolved units in Kenya have introduced governance measures to increase openness, transparency, and accountability. These commitments to openness and accountability are considered important elements of good local governance by most scholars in the field. However, there is little understanding of the relationship between these policy changes and the evidence of increased openness, transparency and accountability.

The analysis reveals a positive relationship between devolved units and decentralization; the presence of devolved units fosters more decentralized public policy. Devolution seems to enhance governance because territorially-specific problems can be addressed with greater ease than when decisions are made at a more general level. Although significant devolution of political authority from the federal or central government to regional units has occurred in recent years, especially in countries belonging to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), little is known about the conditions that best

characterize the relationship between central and regional authorities and how this relationship affects the process of governance.

Transparency and governance

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	Std Dev
Devolution has facilitated more scrutiny to County budgets	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%	33.3%	60.0%	4.53	0.63
Devolution has made it possible for citizens to participate in county planning meetings	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%	30.0%	63.3%	4.57	0.63
Devolution has made it possible for county expenditure to be critiqued by citizens	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	23.3%	66.7%	4.57	0.68
Devolution has made it possible for Audit reports to be shared with the citizens	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	26.7%	63.3%	4.53	0.68
Devolution has made it possible for citizens to scrutinize government performance in development	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	23.3%	60.0%	4.43	0.77
Overall Mean						4.53	0.68

The study shows that transparency can affect governance positively as it increases the efficiency of the judicial system and provides opportunities for corruption. By increasing the efficiency of the judiciary, it has a positive effect on governance in general. In addition to its connections with better regulation through the elected public officials, transparency promotes accountability and governance in general by ensuring the people's right to know.

Analysis shows that transparency affects governance such that transparency undermines the benefits of political decentralization and increases the benefits of stability. By exploiting the exogenous variation in local transparency generated by an innovation borrowed from the private sector, relates on how it is possible to empirically identify these effects. Transparency has aided the entire growth process of counties in Kenya by disclosing information about their problems, the people's response, and how to fix the issues. Transparency is a principle that can lead to effective governance, yet it is often not shared publicly or to the full extent that it exists.

Transparency, a key word in the political sphere, is aimed at promoting honesty and reducing corruption among public officials. This idealized picture appears not to hold true for the executive in Kenya. The empirical analysis confirms that the right to information has a greater impact on corruption and transparency in countries with higher levels of transparency in politics, civil society, and business environments. Access to information consequently fosters transparency by enhancing the role of media and civil society organizations (CSOs), who are better enabled to monitor activities of the executive branch. It is found that civil society can act as a major force against corruption.

Accountability and Governance

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	Std Dev
Devolution has facilitated accountability by county officials on budgets	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	60.0%	20.0%	4.00	0.64

Devolution has made it possible for citizens to track government planning and development	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	56.7%	26.7%	4.10	0.66
Devolution has made it possible for citizens to question the performance of development projects in the County	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%	60.0%	33.3%	4.27	0.58
Devolution has made it possible citizens to evaluate county development expenditure	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%	60.0%	33.3%	4.27	0.58
Devolution has made it possible for citizens to undertake evaluation and monitoring of various projects and programs	0.0%	0.0%	30.0%	33.3%	36.7%	4.07	0.83
Overall Mean						4.14	0.66

The argument is that accountability makes governments more accountable by giving them additional incentives to act in accordance with the wishes of voters. Secondly, accountability also affects outside-in policies that are determined by takeovers and managerial interventions into companies. This paper contends that accountability creates trust and trust creates a sense of citizenship. If a government has less accountability, then this means that they do not have to answer to a higher power, and therefore they will act more to their self-interests than in the interest of the people they represent. This may lead to laws that seem corrupt, or actions that seem absolutely unjust, but there is no one really holding them accountable for these actions. Therefore, accountability can affect how much a government is able to govern. Accountability is a means of governing and managing organizations that takes responsibilities seriously.

Accountability is necessary for good governance. This can be observed in any setting, whether it be a municipality, private enterprise, or nonprofit organization. The concepts of accountability and responsibility are not written in the law books; yet they are the glue that holds society together.

Accountability, the principle that people and institutions should be held responsible for their actions, is an indispensable part of democratic governance. However, accountability depends on various types of institutions and mechanisms, and diverse forms have developed in countries at different levels of development. Recent developments in accountability reveal that accountability consists of a complex network linking multiple actors and multiple dimensions.

Accountability is important for a democratic regime to function effectively. The principle of democracy is that governing bodies are responsible to the people and can, therefore, be removed by them when they fail to perform their obligations. Yet, when it comes to the reality of governing bodies, empirically, it is not easy, if not impossible in many cases, to hold governments accountable.

Conclusion

Conclusively, there is no doubt that the devolution process has brought about great changes in the governance of Kenya, but it is yet to realize all its intended aims. Public participation in decision making has influenced the Kenyan society over time and continues to do so. It provides a platform where people can voice out their needs and feelings. Participation is therefore an essential tool in enhancing good governance where citizens get to be involved in matters that concern them. Also Public participation has played a major role in promoting democratic governance, improving transparency and accountability and contributing to more responsive, effective and accountable local government. However, the full potential of public participation remains unrealized in the case of Kenya.

Equity is an essential value of governance in Kenya's 2010 Constitution, which is part of the country's devolution clause. While the formerly oppressed recognize the institutionalization of equity, beneficiaries of the old system frequently do not. To effectively execute the law and spirit of Kenya's

Constitution, Kenyans must acknowledge that, while nature has significantly differentiated their country, successive administrations have done little to capitalize on chances for statewide development. During the two-decade constitutional review debate, this failure fueled calls for devolution. Based on my findings and conclusions from the research, it is clear that capacity building can contribute tremendous influence on enhancing good governance in Kenya and finally capacity building initiatives have done a lot of good to the people of Kenya in terms of shaping government policies that are geared towards improving public governance. Devolution is a critical aspect of governance since it allows local governments to bring about efficient and sustainable development.

Recommendations.

The study recommends that devolution should be fully implemented in Kenya. The following actions should be taken to realize these recommendations: all the stakeholders involved in the implementation of devolution should consider being inclusive in their approach, the County governments should factor in a common national plan and find ways of making it credible in their respective counties, and the central government commissions and agencies should closely monitor the functioning of county governments. Through devolution, the local governments are empowered with both human and financial resources to effectively manage resources under their control in meeting the needs of their people. The study recommended that the government initiative to amend the Constitution to remove the loopholes evident in chapter 11. Devolution and governance can be achieved through supportive constitutions and good leadership. The study was precise on the need for increased awareness among the locals on their roles and responsibilities in managing their activities and affairs. Programs to educate youth on county government operations are recommended to enhance their engagement in the planning, implementation, and participatory governance.

References

1. Khaunya, M. F., & Wawire, B. P. (2015). Devolved governance in Kenya; is it a false start in democratic decentralization for development?
2. Kangu, J. M. (2015). *Constitutional law of Kenya on devolution* (Vol. 10). Nairobi: Strathmore University Press.
3. Nyikuri, M., Tsofa, B., Barasa, E., Okoth, P., & Molyneux, S. (2015). Crises and resilience at the frontline—public health facility managers under devolution in a sub-county on the Kenyan Coast. *PloS one*, *10*(12), e0144768.
4. Wamae, J. W. (2014). Role of procurement function in enhancing performance in devolved government: A case of Machakos County. *International Journal of Social Sciences and Entrepreneurship*, *1*(11), 168-190.
5. Tsofa, B., Goodman, C., Gilson, L., & Molyneux, S. (2017). Devolution and its effects on health workforce and commodities management—early implementation experiences in Kilifi County, Kenya. *International journal for equity in health*, *16*(1), 1-13.
6. Anyuor, N. (2021). Print media and functions of devolved governance in Kenya: A study of awareness creation among residents of Embakasi east sub county, Nairobi. *African Social Science and Humanities Journal*, *2*(1), 12-26.
7. Kipruto, A. K., & Letting, N. (2017). Factors influencing provision of health care in a devolved system of government, Bungoma county, Kenya. *Global Journal of Health Sciences*, *2*(1), 13-38.
8. Ngigi, S., & Busolo, D. N. (2019). Devolution in Kenya: the good, the bad and the ugly. *Public Policy and Administration Research*, *9*(6), 9-21.
9. Article 191(40), Constitution of Kenya, 2010.