

**INFLUENCE OF MONITORING AND EVALUATION ON THE
PERFORMANCE OF CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUNDED
PROJECTS IN KURIA WEST CONSTITUENCY, KENYA**

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Abstract

This paper investigates the influence of Monitoring and Evaluation on the performance of Constituency Development Funded in Kuria West Constituency, Kenya. This research specifically examines how stakeholders' participation in M & E, technical capacity on M & E, budgetary allocation for M & E, and staff training influence the performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency. Descriptive survey research design was employed followed by stratified random sampling to subdivide the target population. The target population comprised of 156 CDF projects completed between the year 2013 and 2017 and within Kuria West Constituency. The study concludes that stakeholders' participation in M & E, technical capacity on M & E, budgetary allocation for M & E, and staff training influence the performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency at varying levels.

Keywords: Monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder participation, technical capacity, budgetary allocation, staff training, project performance.

Introduction

The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) was established in 2003 with the aim of alleviating poverty, improving service delivery, and enhancing economic governance while contributing to socio-economic development. To meet these objectives, the performance of the CDF projects is crucial. In Kenya, CDF finances a wide range of projects which includes projects in the sectors of education, health, water, agriculture, emergencies and security (NG-CDF Act, 2015). Large amounts of money are thus used by the government towards achieving the performance of these projects.

Rahman and Bullok (2005) assert that performance refers to the undertaking of a given activity in an ideal way. A project is deemed to be performing if it is completed within time, budget and undertakes what it was meant for, that is, scope. However, there are various factors that influence the performance of the CDF projects. Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) of projects is essential for the achievement project objectives as it improves the efficiency of project planning, implementation and management as a whole. Monitoring is a task that is continuous aimed primarily at the provision of early indicators regarding the performance of a project (Uitto, 2004). Additionally, Uitto asserts that evaluation refers to the thorough analysis of ongoing and/or completed activities to determine the accountability of management for project control. Evaluation assists in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of projects and consequently the performance of a project.

The need for continuous improvement and quality of performance of projects in organizations requires effective M & E as well as the utilization of the M & E results. There are several factors that help to ensure that M & E is undertaken. Stakeholder participation in M & E affects how the exercise is undertaken (Manei, 2016). Technical capacity of the M & E team affects the way the role is carried out and hence the performance of projects as a whole (Mwangi, Nyang'wara, and Kulet, 2015). Kamara and Muturi (2017) asserted that budgetary allocation and staff training were some of the factors affecting M & E. This study sought to investigate the influence of M & E on the performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency. To achieve this, the objectives of the study were to scrutinize how stakeholders' participation in M & E, technical capacity on M & E, budgetary allocation for M & E, and staff training influence the performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency.

Kuria West Constituency was selected for this study because of its uniqueness in terms of culture and traditions, namely, early marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) attitudes, child labour (Children's department office Kuria West Sub-county, 2013). Cattle-rustling is still rampant. Reports by the Office of Auditor General indicate that many CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency have been initiated but never completed. Therefore, performance of these projects is questionable. Several scholars have undertaken studies with the objective of ensuring that projects are undertaken within the stipulated cost, time schedule and meet the desired quality. However, no study has ever focused on the influence of M & E on performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency. There is need therefore to understand the influence of M & E on the performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency.

Statement of the Problem

Despite many CDF projects having been undertaken in an effort to transform the living standards of Kenyans, most of the constituents of Kuria West Constituency are still living in deplorable state (Sotundo, 2016). Enrolment to secondary schools has reduced drastically in the Constituency (Nkinina, 2015). Further, Nkinina observes that some learning institutions have CDF projects that have come to a halt owing to insufficient funds, some health centres have not been operational, and many roads are still impenetrable during rainy seasons. In Kuria West Constituency, concerns have been raised with respect to CDF budget overrun, incomplete projects as well as performance of the completed CDF projects (Kenao, 2017). Numerous studies have been carried out on the performance of CDF projects in Kenya. However, few projects have explored the effect of M & E on the performance of these projects.

Monitoring and evaluation of projects has been recognized as an indispensable management function as it plays a crucial role in project performance (Maendo, James and Kamau, 2018). Nabulu (2015) did a study in Narok East Sub-County to understand the factors that had an influence on the M & E performance in CDF. His study did not consider performance of projects but looked at M & E performance. He concluded that training of both the CDF committee members as well as beneficiaries influenced the performance of M & E. Wachira and James (2018) did a study to ascertain the critical success factors that impacted implementation of community based projects in Kiambu County, Kenya. They concluded that project ownership as

well as M & E were necessary for successful implementation of community based projects. These projects did not consider the influence of M & E on the performance of CDF projects. Further, the relatively poor performance of CDF projects despite the findings from earlier research on the factors influencing the performance of the projects points to the possibility that clear understanding has not been attained. This formed the motivation behind this investigation. This study thus sought to establish the influence of M & E on the performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency.

Research Objectives

The study sought to:

- i) To establish the influence of stakeholder participation in M & E on the performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency.
- ii) To determine the influence of level of technical capacity of M & E committee members on the performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency.
- iii) To assess the influence of budgetary allocation for M & E on the performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency.
- iv) To investigate the effect of staff training on M & E on the performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency.

Literature Review

Literature review allows a researcher to formalize the key concepts: stakeholder participation; technical expertise; budgetary allocation for M & E; and staff training on the performance of CDF projects. Literature review gives highlights on the previous studies done by other scholars and their findings. In summary, it introduces and gives an empirical review of literature on the influence of M & E on performance of CDF projects.

Stakeholder Participation in Monitoring and Evaluation and Project Performance

Mbaabu (2012) asserts that the Constitution of Kenya 2010 empowers the citizens to participate in tasks and activities that have an immediate effect on their livelihoods. This impacts on project performance. Allowing the different stakeholders to contribute makes them feel part and parcel of the project and promotes ownership of the project while taking caution so as to safeguard the requisite standards (Fadare, 2013).

Njogu (2016) did a study to establish the influence of stakeholder's involvement on performance of Nema Automobile Emission Control Project in Nairobi County, Kenya. The study concluded that stakeholders' involvement influenced the performance of the project. This study was specific to Nema Automobile Emission Control project and did not consider M & E or even CDF projects. It was therefore critical to investigate whether the same relationships exist in CDF projects as well as projects in the M & E phase. This study thus sought to fill that gap by investigating how stakeholders' participation in the M & E phase influences performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency.

Nyamongo (2017) did a study to establish the factors influencing implementation of M & E in Non-Governmental water projects in Kajiado County, Kenya. She sought to investigate how stakeholder's involvement influenced the implementation of these NGO water projects. The study concluded that involvement of stakeholders was crucial to the implementation of M & E. The study did not investigate the performance of projects as influenced by stakeholders. Constituency Development Fund projects were also not within scope. The current study sought to fill this gap through establishing the effect of stakeholder participation in M & E on the performance of CDF projects.

Technical Capacity in Monitoring and Evaluation and Project Performance

Independence is a pre-requisite for project evaluations to be effective. Independence is achieved when carried out by entities free from the control of those responsible for the design and implementation of the development intervention (Musomba et al., 2013). The proficiency of the Projects Management Committee (PMC) and Constituency Development Fund Committee (CDFC) in conducting evaluations, the contribution by all the other team members define the mode in which the findings are disseminated and understood (Wanjiru, 2008). In 2010, Kenya Human Rights Commission Report indicated that project managers are expected to be devoted during project formulation and initiation so as to ensure such projects become relevant in meeting the needs of the people. The CDF Board Strategic Plan (2011) postulates that the CDF Board and in addition, the community level organs lack in technical capacity as well as existing skills.

Mwangi et al. (2015) did a study in Laikipia West Constituency to interrogate the factors that affected the effectiveness of M & E of CDF projects. They found out that the technical competency of the projects' M & E team had a positive influence on the effectiveness of the M & E exercise. This study did not consider the effect on the performance of CDF projects. The current study sought to bridge this gap by linking technical capacity in M & E to performance of the CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency. In the study by Nalianya and Luketero (2017) on M & E systems and performance of Non-Governmental Based Maternal Health Projects in Bungoma Sub-County, it was concluded that human resource technical capacity influenced performance of projects. The influence of technical capacity in M & E on performance of CDF projects was not within the scope of his study. This study filled this gap.

Budgetary Allocation in Monitoring and Evaluation and Project Performance

A budget is a statement indicating the plan of tasks and activities in an orderly manner (Kalungu, 2009). These tasks and activities are represented in monetary values in order to facilitate the development of an integrated plan. The CDF budget is used as a tool to allocate public resources towards achieving some public value. CDF is aimed at benefiting the members of the society at grass root levels. Only 3% may be used for M & E of ongoing projects and capacity building activities while 5% is for emergency reserve (NG-CDF Act, 2015).

Gakuru and Mungania (2016) undertook a study on the budgetary allocation and the success of public sector management in Central Province, Kenya. To meet this objective, they sought to

determine the sufficiency of the budget allocation on the success of public sector management. The research concluded that the budgetary allocation influenced the success of public sector management. The study did not show the importance of budgetary allocation on M & E and/or its effect on performance hence forming a motivation for this research. Wachira and James (2018) in their study on critical success factors that impact implementation of community based projects conclude that proper management of funds including budgeting influences implementation of community based projects. Budgetary allocation on M & E as well as projects' performance was not within the scope of that investigation. It is against this backdrop that this study sought to fill that conceptual gap.

Staff Training on Monitoring and Evaluation and Project Performance

Training is an aspect of life that moulds behaviour of individuals into desired state; imparts skills and knowledge for solving emerging problems and offers opportunities for innovation and creativity necessary in addressing future challenges (Zawadi, 2004). Training is an organized activity aimed at improving the performance of the recipient through imparting knowledge so as to attain a certain pre-determined level of understanding (Armstrong, 2009). Effective training among the employees and the staff in the organization will enable them to address the intended needs and the challenges in relation to project risk management within the organization.

Maritim (2013) undertook an investigation in Bureti Constituency to establish the factors that influenced CDF projects implementation. One of his objectives was to investigate the extent to which training influences CDF projects implementation in Bureti Constituency. He concluded that the PMCs faced various challenges which included low level of education and training and this negatively influenced the implementation of CDF projects. However, his study was limited to the implementation phase and there is therefore need to establish whether these findings hold true in the projects' M & E phase. Kithinji (2017) conducted a study to establish the factors influencing the performance of women self-help groups' projects in North Imenti Constituency, Meru County. She concluded that training improves the performance of projects through disseminating the necessary information. There is thus the need to establish whether or not the same results hold for CDF projects. The current study sought to fill these gaps.

Research Methodology

Research Design

This study utilized a descriptive research design. The research sought to describe the influence of M & E on the performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency. To achieve this, the researcher reported on the parameters of stakeholder participation, technical capacity in M & E, budgetary allocation for M & E, and staff training on M & E as they were through gauging people's behaviour, attitudes, values and characteristics. This concurs with Kothari (2004) description of descriptive research design. Descriptive research design was employed due to its effectiveness in analysing non-quantifiable issues and creates the possibility of observing a phenomenon in a completely natural and unchanged natural environment (Kothari, 2004).

Target Population

The population for this study was 156 CDF projects. These were the projects that were completed in Kuria West Constituency between the year 2013 and 2014. These projects fall under the categories of Education (112); Health (22), Water and Agriculture (3), as well as Security, Emergency and civil works (19). The target respondents were drawn from the persons running the projects as well as Members of County Assembly (MCAs) to represent the general public.

Sampling Design

According to Orodho and Kombo (2002), sampling design is a process in which a number of individuals or objects are selected from a population such that the group selected contains representative elements of characteristics found in the entire group. Stratified random sampling was used to select the sample for each category. Stratified random sampling ensures inclusion in the sample of sub groups which otherwise would have been omitted entirely by other sampling methods and also because it gives more precise estimates for each stratum (Kothari, 2004).

Table 1: Sample Size

Category	Target Population	Sample (%)	Sample size
Education	112	30	33
Health	22	30	7
Water and Agriculture	3	30	1
Security, Emergency, Roads and others	19	30	6
Total	156		47

Source: Survey data (2018)

Data Collection Methods

Structured questionnaires were used as data collection instruments. The questionnaires were administered through the general drop and-pick later approach. Orodho and Kombo (2002) observe that structured questionnaires produce data that is usable in its immediate form and therefore easier to analyse. To help standardize and quantify responses from the respondents, closed-ended questions were included in the questionnaires. The closed ended questions were prepared in Likert’s scale with five items each except for the questions with less than five items. The content validity of the research instruments was achieved through expert judgement. The research instrument was made available to the supervisor to rate the ability of each item so as to make it relevant to the study. Cronbach’s alpha coefficient was used to assess internal consistency and reliability. Nunnally (1978) asserted that instruments used in basic research should have reliability of .70 or better. Consequently, 0.70 was the acceptable level of reliability for this study.

Data Analysis and Presentation

Descriptive statistics and inferential statistics were used for data analysis. Since raw data obtained from the field is complex to interpret, the data was cleaned, coded, key punched into a

computer and analysed. After the data was collected, it was edited by examining the data for errors, categorized and coded following the variables of the study. Data was then processed and analysed using SPSS version 21 software programme. To compute descriptive statistics, percentages, mean and standard deviation was used to help summarize the variables. This study sought to establish the influence of M & E on CDF projects performance. Multiple regression analysis was thus employed and the following formula used:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \varepsilon$$

Where:

Y = Performance of CDF projects

B₀ = Constant term

β₁- β₄= Beta coefficients

X₁ = Stakeholder participation of M & E

X₂= Technical capacity on M & E

X₃= Budgetary allocation for M & E

X₄ = Staff training on M & E

ε = error term

Research Findings and Discussions

Descriptive Statistics Results

The first objective was to the influence of stakeholder participation on the performance CDF projects. The results are presented in Table 2. The respondents agreed that the M & E of the projects was a responsibility that involved every stakeholder with a mean of 4.04. Individuals needed to invest their time to ensure that the process was a success for better performance of the projects. The engagement of the stakeholders by the CDFC team was an issue that many of the respondents were in disagreement yielding a mean of 2.34. This implies that participation of stakeholders needed improvement for achievement of project performance. This is consistent with the findings of Wamalwa and James (2018) who concluded that local community participation is critical for any project to guarantee successful implementation. The involvement of stakeholders in work plan reviews and in identifying corrective actions for addressing issues and risks was fairly well administered according to the respondents which yielded a mean of 3.71 and 4.34 respectively. The respondents agreed that group discussions were organized by the CDFC to measure performance of the CDF projects giving a mean of 4.14. These arguments are in agreement with the study findings by Njogu (2016) who concluded that stakeholder involvement in project identification (a phase in the project lifecycle) influences performance of Automobile emission control projects in a positive way. On the other hand, respondents were neutral as to whether stakeholders attended project site meetings and gave their contributions giving a mean of 3.44. The unwillingness to attend meetings implies lack of connection to the specific projects.

Table 2: Stakeholder Participation in CDF projects

Statement	Mean	Std.Dev
Monitoring and Evaluation projects is a collective responsibility that involves all stakeholders	4.04	1.05
Stakeholders are often engaged by the CDFC team to review of project achievements against set objectives	2.34	1.31
Stakeholders are involved in work plan review	3.71	1.23
Stakeholders are involved in identifying corrective actions to address issues and risks properly	4.34	0.91
Regular group discussions are organized by the CDFC to gauge the progress and performance of the CDF projects.	4.14	0.98
Stakeholders attend and give their contributions in project site meetings	3.44	1.31
Stakeholders are encouraged to give their evaluations on both completed phases of projects and completed projects	2.96	1.53

Source: Survey data (2018)

The second objective sought to establish the influence accorded to the level of technical capacity in M & E committee members on the performance of the CDF projects. The results are as presented in Table 3. The evaluators were neutral with regard to hiring of M & E team with the correct academic and professional qualification which gave a mean of 2.76 implying that the engagement of technical personnel to undertake the exercise of M & E of CDF projects has not been embraced. The same was echoed by Nalianya and Luketero (2017). Most respondents strongly disagreed with qualification of the current committee members as portrayed by a mean of 1.93 which implies lack of experience/skills by the current M & E team. This thus leads to inefficiencies that are consequently reflected in the poor performance of projects. The respondents agreed that the job allocation and designation was done on the basis of evaluators’ academic and professional qualifications with a mean of 4.72. This implies that although the people with technical skills may be limited, there is a concerted effort to place the M & E personnel in the areas of expertise which consequently promotes projects performance. These findings are consistent with the assertions of Mwangi et al. (2015). On the other hand, the respondents disagreed that CDF capacity building should have separate kitty from M & E with a mean of 1.73. The reason behind the unanimous disagreement could be attributed to misappropriation and embezzlement of the funds in previous projects.

Table 3: Technical capacity in M & E Team and Performance of CDF Projects

Statement	Mean	Std. Dev
Evaluators are academically and professionally qualified to undertake the M & E exercise	2.76	1.64
Evaluators possess the requisite experience and skills	1.93	1.05
Job allocation and designation is done based on Evaluators’	4.72	0.85

academic and professional qualifications.		
CDF capacity building should have separate kitty from monitoring and evaluation	1.73	0.75

Source: Survey data (2018)

The third objective sought to establish how the budget allocated for M & E influenced performance of the projects in Kuria West Constituency. Table 4 shows the findings. The results show that the community was aware of the budgetary allocation for M & E as represented by a mean of 4.01. Majority of the respondents disagreed on the assertion that budgetary allocation for M & E was characterized by a silo approach yielding a mean of 1.74 implying that there is commendable sharing of information pertaining budgetary allocation. Most of the respondents disagreed that there the project budget provided for an M & E provision that was clear and adequate with a mean 1.63. These could have stemmed from the lack of knowledge on the different activities that are undertaken in the M & E exercise. According to the research, there was clear consensus among the respondents regarding the fact that the M & E budget should be more than 3 percent of the entire budget as indicated by a mean of 3.84. The findings are also in congruent with the observations by Gakuru and Mungania (2016). Budget committees were in place for all CDF projects within the locality as supported by a mean 4.71. This implies the willingness of the M & E team to have an inclusive approach during budgeting.

Table 4: Budgetary Allocation of M & E and Performance of CDF Projects

Parameters	Mean	Std. Dev
The Community is aware of the amounts allocated for CDF projects' monitoring and evaluation	4.01	1.44
Budgetary allocation for monitoring and evaluation in undertaking CDF projects is predominantly characterized by a silo approach	1.74	1.00
Monitoring and evaluation budget should be more than 3 percent of the entire CDF budget	3.84	0.76
The project budget should provide a clear and adequate provision for monitoring and evaluation events.	1.63	0.65
Budget committees are in place for all CDF projects within the Constituency.	4.71	1.79

Source: Survey data (2018)

The fourth objective sought to establish the influence that staff training in M &E had on CDF projects performance. Table 5 represents the study findings. The respondents were uncertain on whether the CDFC undertook training needs assessment frequently to identify knowledge gaps in M & E giving a mean of 3.04. They could neither agree nor disagree as to whether the trainings on M & E were conducted frequently and this was evidenced by a mean of 3.21. Consistent with Lagat (2016), it was evident that the project staff was not properly trained on project M & E because many of the respondents disagreed with the statement as indicated by a mean of 2.12.

Majority of the respondents agreed that CDF should incorporate M & E training as a core funding requirement for the projects and short courses undertaken by the staff should be extended from their current status citing the mean of 4.79 and 4.02 respectively. These findings varied with the observations made by Harun (2017) who asserted that staff was adequately trained on M & E activities. The respondents agreed to the statement that staff training was a key determinant of how M & E was carried out as the mean of 3.89 shows. This implies that training should hence be continuous activity in order to permit the evaluators to be aware of what is expected of them. The implication is that on improving staff training pertaining M & E the performance of CDF projects will improve.

Table 5: Staff training on M&E and project performance

Statement	Mean	Std. Dev
The CDFC undertakes training needs assessment frequently so as to identify knowledge gap in M & E	3.04	1.27
Trainings on M & E are conducted frequently.	3.21	1.31
Training on M & E is factored in during the planning stage of each project.	4.13	1.59
Staff training is a huge determinant of how M & E in carried out	3.89	1.42
Project staff are properly trained on project M & E	2.12	1.10
Staff have undertaken short courses on M & E	4.02	1.49
CDF Act should incorporate M & E training as a core funding requirement for CDF projects	4.79	1.64

Source: Survey data (2018)

Multiple Regression Analysis

In this study, multiple regression analysis was carried out to gauge the influence of stakeholder participation, level of technical capacity of M & E team, budgetary allocation for M & E and influence of staff training in M & E on the performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency. The model summary is presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std Error of the Estimate
1	0.923	0.852	0.763	0.229

Source: Survey data (2018)

The results in the table above indicate the Adjusted R Squared to be 0.763 meaning that a variation of 76.3% on performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency is due to the inclusion of the four variables: stakeholder participation; level of technical capacity of the M & E committee members; budgetary allocation for M & E and staff training on M & E.

Table 7: Analysis of Variance

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	3.413	4	.853	56.560	0.001 ⁰
Residual	1.252	83	.015		
Total	4.665	87			

Source: Survey data (2018)

Critical value = 2.48

The regression model is plausible for drawing conclusions on the population parameter since the p-value is less than alpha(α) at 95% confidence level (that is, $p=0.001$, $\alpha=.05$). The F-value as per calculation was greater than the critical value ($56.560 > 2.48$) which indicates that M & E participation by stakeholders, level of technical capacity, budgetary allocation and staff training on M & E all bear a significant influence on the performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency.

Table 8: Regression Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standard Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	1.764	1.033		1.613	.001
Stakeholders Participation	.492	.112	.208	4.478	.012
Technical Capacity	.434	.098	.229	4.352	.003
Budgetary Allocation	.423	.089	.217	4.897	.002
Staff Training	.314	.115	.256	3.615	.023

Source: Survey data (2018)

From the data above the regression equation was:

$$Y = 1.764 + 0.492X_1 + 0.434X_2 + 0.423X_3 + 0.314X_4$$

Holding M & E participation by stakeholders, the level of technical capacity of M & E team, budgetary allocation and staff training on M & E to a constant zero, the performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency would be at 1.764. A unit increase in the stakeholder participation would in turn increase the performance by a factor of 0.492. The findings confirm that stakeholder participation had a statistically significant influence at 5% level of significance since the p-value was less than alpha ($p = .012$, $\alpha = 0.05$). The findings are consistent with Wamalwa and James (2018) who found community participation to be a significant determinant of project implementation. The findings are also congruent with the conclusions made by Njogu(2016).

An increase in the level of technical capacity by a unit would lead to an increase the performance of the CDF projects by a factor of 0.434. From the findings represented in Table 8 ($p=0.003$, $\alpha = 0.05$) there was a statistically significant relationship at 5% level of significance between

technical capacity and the performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency. These findings are in agreement with findings by Nalianya and Luketero (2017) that technical capacity of M & E team has a positive impact on the performance of projects.

The findings indicate that a unit increase in budgetary allocation would foster a change by a factor of 0.423 on the CDF projects performance. It was noted that at 5% level of significance, budgetary allocation for M & E had a statistically significant influence on the performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency ($p=0.002$, $\alpha = 0.05$). The findings were in harmony with the conclusion made by Nabulu(2015) that budgetary allocation for M & E influences performance of CDF projects. On the other hand, a positive unit change in staff training on M & E would increase the level of performance of CDF projects by a factor of 0.314. The connection between staff training and performance of CDF projects was statistically significant at 5% significant level ($p=0.023$, $\alpha = 0.05$). These findings are inconsistent with the observations made by Harun (2017) who asserted that staffs was adequately trained on M & E activities and hence further training was not a necessity. This implies that increasing the budgetary allocation for M & E as well as increasing the level of M & E staff training would impact positively the performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency.

Conclusion

The study concludes that M & E has a significant effect on performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency. Therefore enhancing stakeholder participation, improving on the technical capacity of the M & E team, increasing the budgetary allocation for M & E as well as undertaking staff training on M & E influences the performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency.

Recommendations

The findings of this study show that stakeholders are not sufficiently engaged by the CDFC team when it comes to reviewing the project achievements against set objectives. The study thus recommends that there is need for CDFC and other projects team officials to sensitize the stakeholders on the importance of attending meetings aimed at reviewing the set objectives so as to improve the overall performance of CDF projects. The investigation also observes that evaluators of the projects do not possess enough experience as well as skills to undertake their roles. The study thus recommends that the CDF projects committee can thus benefit from engaging personnel from the private sector who have more experience in running of projects and who can easily bring on-board transferrable skills in order to improve the performance of CDF projects in Kuria West Constituency. The percentage of funds allocated to M & E should be clearly stated by the CDF projects. The amount allocated for M & E should be increased from the current allocation so as to make sure all the CDF projects are comprehensively monitored and evaluated. Frequent staff training on M & E should also be carried out in order to get quality evaluations.

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