

**NEXUS BETWEEN CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND SOCIOECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT IN BUNGOMA DISTRICT SINCE 1960**

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A Research Proposal Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement for Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy in History of Masinde Muliro University of Science and
Technology

May 2022

DECLARATION AND APPROVAL

DECLARATION OF THE CANDIDATE

This research proposal is my original work prepared with no other than the indicated sources support and has not been presented elsewhere for a degree or any other award.

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ABSTRACT

Citizen participation is one of the most needed approaches to achieve socioeconomic development in the world today. It is the dream of every country to have an economy that recognizes the contribution of citizens towards socioeconomic development through participatory approach as a way of eradicating poverty and other problems faced in the community. Citizen participation in Bungoma District is institutionalized and various organs are held responsible for promoting it in cognizant of the County Government Act. However, key institutions have not fully embraced citizen participation to promote socioeconomic development hence its efficacy is questionable. The study will therefore interrogate the nexus between citizen participation and socioeconomic development in Bungoma District since 1960. Citizen participation and socioeconomic development from a historical perspective enables its in-depth understanding of the roles, challenges and opportunities and its impact as witnessed in Bungoma District. The literature reviewed reveals that citizen participation levels are low in decision making towards socioeconomic development. The study's general objective will be to interrogate the nexus between citizen participation and socioeconomic development in Bungoma District since 1960. The specific objectives will be to: historicize citizen participation in Bungoma District since 1960, examine the nature and mechanisms of citizen participation in Bungoma District Since 1960, assess the role of citizen participation in socioeconomic development in Bungoma District, evaluate the challenges and opportunities of citizen participation towards socioeconomic development and investigate the impact of citizen participation on socioeconomic development in Bungoma District. The study will be based on two theories: modernization theory expounded by Marx Weber and the participatory development theory propounded by Goethe and discussed extensively by Richard Tarnas. The theoretical framework attempts to provide the basis of development and progress in societies considering the participatory approaches. The study will employ both historical and descriptive research designs. Purposive sampling, snowball sampling and stratified random sampling techniques will be used to select respondents. Data will be collected through questionnaires, interview schedules and Focus Group Discussions. Secondary data will be obtained from libraries of higher institutions of learning, the national archives and selected websites. Qualitative methods will be used to analyze data through the descriptive and thematic approach. It is hoped that the findings of the study will be useful to the government and policy makers in deciding on the most promising strategies for future citizen participation in decision making towards socioeconomic development.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS

MINALOC:	Ministry of Local Government
VUP :	Vision 2030 Umerenge Program
DIP :	District Integrated Plan
DFRD :	District Focus for Rural Development
DDC :	District Development Committee
COG :	Council of Governors
SWOT:	Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
CDCS:	County Development Cooperation strategy
USAID:	United States Agency International Development
DPS:	Directorate of Postgraduate Studies
NACOSTI:	National Council of Science and Technology
PTA:	Parents-Teachers Association
SMC:	School Management Committee
CDG:	Capital Development Grants
CDF:	Constituency Development Fund
NGOs:	Non-Governmental Organizations
ESAP:	Economic Structural Adjustment Programmes.
NEPAD:	New Partnership for African's Development
PAR:	Participatory Research Action
COK:	Constitution of Kenya
PRA:	Participatory Rural Appraisal
ECA:	Economic Commission of Africa
IDP:	Integrated Development Planning
CFSPs:	County Financial Strategy Papers
CIDPs	County Integrated Development Plans
CCHP:	Comprehensive Council Health Plan (CCHP)
HFGC:	Health Facility Governing Committee
CHNT:	Council Health Management Team
EIA:	Environmental Impact Assessment

OPERATIONALIZATION OF KEY CONCEPTS

Development - It's the improvement of peoples' lives in terms of economic, social, political, environmental, spiritual / personal and cultural aspects. It's a process whereby people make life easier for each other by collaborating in the formulation of a vision their future and a collective action for resolution of perceived needs.

Participation -It is the involvement of the community in decision making process of implementation of development projects. It's a shift and a self-transformational process and learning by practice.

Participatory development – It is the active involvement of people in making decisions about implementation of processes, programs and projects that affect them. The basic element of participatory development is to view the term participation as the exercise of people's power in thinking and acting and controlling their action in a collaborative framework.

Community - A group of people living together with a common attachment to their place of residence. It's a place where people encounter one another "face to face."

Community Development- It focuses on participatory methodologies and ensures the involvement of the community in the decision-making process. It's the community involvement in the decision-making process.

Citizen Engagement - They are processes that are put in place by governments and organizations to unlock citizen capacities to learn, decide, be informed, act, deliberate and engage at all levels of decision making that shape their lives and their communities.

Public Participation-It involves seeking public input at the specific points in the decision-making process and on specific issues where such input has real potential to help shape the decision or action.

Community Participation – A process that directly engages the public in decision-making which considers public input in making that decision.

Socioeconomic Development - In this context, it means the improvement in education, health facilities, recreational facilities, improved income, employment and infrastructures such as roads and schools.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

This chapter includes the proposed study's background, statement of the problem, the general objective, specific objectives and the related research questions. It also provides justification, scope and limitations of the proposed study. Literature review based on the specific objectives and summary of the identified gaps have been highlighted. Theories and the theoretical model of the proposed study have been provided. The chapter sums up with a detailed research methodology for the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Citizen participation is a process in which individuals take part in decision making in the institutions, programs and environments that affect them; a process in which citizens organize themselves and their goals at the grassroots level and work together to influence the decision-making process (Hatley, 2013). It is therefore a process, which provides private individuals an opportunity to influence public decisions and a component, for a long time, of the democratic decision-making process (Parker,2002). Citizen power is simply the ability of a citizen to engage meaningfully with duty bearers / leaders / policy makers in determining and making their voices heard in as far as the running and management of the affairs of the country is concerned. Citizens have various powers that enable them to effectively participate in the governance affairs of their country, county or village (G.O.K , 2010). Davis and Simon (2013) argue that, engaging people will always be a necessary feature of the development and implementation of innovation that genuinely meets social needs because citizens have specific knowledge of the challenges

they face that no one else can claim. Engagement processes therefore enable a better understanding of problems that an innovation might address; and that citizens can be a source of innovative ideas. The importance of citizen participation cannot be understated. Its contribution in anchoring democracy is significant as it ensured inclusivity and transparency in governance, as citizens and government agencies share power among themselves (Arnstein, 1969). Further, at individual level, citizen participation increases patriotism, trust in public institutions, self-development and commitment to public goods. This in turn increases social inclusiveness and social capital (Raymond, 2001).

The roots of citizen participation which is a fundamental tenet of democracy can be traced from Ancient Greece. Democracy is a compound of two Greek words: *demos* meaning the citizens within a city state, and *kratos*, meaning power or rule (Arblaster, 2002:15). The term was originally used to describe the ruling practices of the ancient Greek city-states. For the Greeks, *demokratia* meant specifically, “rule or government by the common people” that is rule by those who are uneducated, unsophisticated and poor. Because this people made up the majority of the citizenry, democracy was identified as it often is today, with majority rule (Ball, *et al.*, 2017). Many Greeks thus understood democracy to be a form of class rule- government by and for the benefit of the lower or working class. As such, it stood in contrast to aristocracy, rule by the *aristo*- ‘the best’ – those supposed most qualified to govern (Ball, *et al.*, 2017). Many contemporary democratic theorists and activists look back to that era with great affection. They see in the city states a model of participatory democracy that modern liberal democracies fall far short of achieving (Garner, *et al.*, 2013).

The Greek city-states practiced direct democracy. More specialized and time-consuming tasks were allocated to a smaller number of office holders (Garner, *et al.*, 2013). Jury service was also a feature of Greek city-states, so that all citizens had a chance to exercise justice. Plato and Aristotle argued that, democracy basically amounted to mob rule, and was an aberrant form of government, although Aristotle did consider democracy less bad than tyranny and oligarchy (Cunningham, 2002:7). Indeed, much of what we take to be democratic today originated in North America before colonization (Garner, *et al.*, 2013). Ronald Wright (1992), suggested that the indigenous six nations were very influential in creating the basis for democratic norms of government in North America. The Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayoga, Seneca and Iroquois nations lived together in peace for some two centuries under their “Great Law of Peace.” US Founding Father.” Benjamin Franklin was so taken with the idea of Great law that he wrote in 1751:

“ It would be a very strange thing if Six Nations of ignorant savages should be capable of forming a scheme for such a Union, and be able to execute it in such a manner as that it has subsisted ages, and appears indissoluble; and yet that a like Union should be impracticable for ten or a dozen English colonies” (Wright, 1992:115-16).

The French and American revolutions of the 18th C turned the tide of world history in favor of democracy. Both proclaimed democracy to be one of their goals, based on European and First Nations models (Garner, *et al.*, 2013). The framers of the US constitution, most notably James Madison (1751 - 1836), were very keen to rid themselves of the absolute monarchy of King George III. But they were equally concerned about the consequences of introducing majoritarianism. The potential for the ignorant masses to be

swayed by powerful orators meant that the majority tyrant was an ever-present threat. The American Revolution (1776) led to the creation of a constitutional republic independent from Britain and gave practical expression to the principle of representation (Heywood, 2013). The French Revolution (1789) set out to destroy the old order under the banner of “liberty, equality and fraternity,” advancing democratic, ideals and sparking an ‘age of revolution’ in early 19th C Europe (Heywood, 2013). The Russian Revolution (1917), the first ‘Communist’ revolution, provided a model for subsequent twentieth century revolutions, including the Chinese Revolution (1949), the Cuban Revolution (1959), the Vietnamese Revolution (1979) and the Nicaraguan Revolution (1987-91). These revolutions re-established the link between revolution and the pursuit of political democracy (Heywood, 2013 : 86).

Democracy became even more popular after the 17th C because of a number of social and economic developments during the Industrial Revolution of the late 18th and 19thC. The most important of these were the growth of cities, the spread of public education, the improvements in communication and transportation such as the telegraph and rail road. Each of these developments helped to spread literacy, information and interest in political matters among the populations of Europe and North America thereby contributing to the growing faith in the common people’s ability to participate knowledgeably in public affairs (Ball, *et al.*, 2017). In democracies, citizens are presumed to be important stake holders in that they are able to participate either directly or indirectly through elected representatives in the formation, adoption and implementation of the laws and policies that affect them. Citizen participation thus is a fundamental part of public government relationship in democracies (Roberts, 2004; Jacob *et al.*, 2009; Bryson *et al.*, 2013).

Governance encompasses formal and informal processes of decision-making and management of domains of collective community interest or concern (Kooiman, 2003).

Ensuring and promoting effective citizen participation seems even more relevant in developing regions like Latin America, South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa as they face critical social and economic challenges such as poverty, inequality, poor provision of basic services, low accountability and high levels of corruption among others (Wamper and McNulty, 2011). Many new participatory institutions are located in developing countries with weak states, broad and intense poverty levels, nascent civil societies and low intensity democracies, which means that these institutions are being inserted into high stakes political environments in which the misallocation of resources, time and authority can have devastating impacts on the lives of ordinary citizens (Wamper and McNulty, 2011). In Latin America, citizen participation plays a role in consolidating countries' democratic transitions and in overcoming persistent challenges such as corruption, poverty and inequality. Great efforts have been made to cultivate a vibrant citizen that can participate in the policy process and make decisions to improve their own lives.

Latin American's economic growth in the last two decades means citizens have seen a rise in large -scale development projects being implemented in their communities. As these projects usually affect the livelihood of the communities right to be informed and consulted about these projects. With a strong social mobilization, political will on the part of some governments and progressive courts, there are rich experiences coming from Latin America on the right of citizens to participate and be consulted regarding development projects. Latin American countries' legal framework have in many ways set the foundation for citizen participation mechanisms. Many countries have acknowledged

citizen consultations in their constitution, and several have complementary laws that strengthen them (Nickson, 2011). As a result of democratic transition, governments increasingly acknowledge that public management concerns society as a whole, thus the need to allow citizens to participate in public decisions that go beyond elections (Dagnino, 2010).

In the United States, citizen participation in public affairs such as the planning process is quite often seen as a good in and of itself, and as part of the philosophic tradition of the United States. It is viewed as a cornerstone of democracy and many argue that the cultural history of the United States involves a constant effort to strengthen the active role of citizens in community and governmental concerns; participation has emerged as a matter of right, whether acknowledged or not (Burke, 1979). Denying opportunities for citizen involvement is often decried as a betrayal of the democratic tradition (Fagence, 1977). In addition to being facilitated through a political culture that emphasizes participatory activism, citizen participation in the planning process is also facilitated through U.S governmental structures. For instance, there are more opportunities for citizen participation in the United States relative to other countries such as the United Kingdom (Johnson, 1984). While citizen participation in public affairs seems to hold a sacrosanct role in U.S political culture and sensibilities, the issue of citizen participation in the planning process seems to be problematic. This is partly because there is also the countervailing force in U.S political culture and history of Hamiltonian and Madisonian centrism, where there is suspicion of the ability of the “masses” to contribute constructively to governance (Stivers, 1990; Friedman, 1987). It appears as though little

of the ambiguity surrounding this issue has been mitigated since Arnstein (1969) stated in her oft-quoted article, “ A ladder of Citizen Participation” that:

“ the idea of citizen participation is a little like eating spinach: no one is against it in principle because it is good for you”.

Writing on West Africa, Krawczyk and Sweet-Cushman (2017), noted that local citizen engagement is especially important in West Africa which struggles with issues of poor governance, undermining governmental legitimacy, institutional capacity and ethics. To combat this, enhanced citizen participation in this region is viewed as an increasingly important aspect of democratic development. Citizen participation in local government can improve the management of public resources, reduce corruption by increasing the accountability of public servants and political leaders. Ghana’s decentralization concept was initiated to promote popular grassroots participation in the administration of the planning, implementation, monitoring and delivery of services to improve the condition of living of the rural poor. This link between participation and the local governance in Ghana has become an important means of improving the effectiveness of services and empowering the local people to participate in the socioeconomic development that affect their lives. Article 35(6) (d) of Ghana’s 1992 Constitution urges the state to make democracy a reality by embarking on the decentralization project to offer great opportunities for greater citizen participation at all levels of decision making (Ahenkan, *et al.*, 2013). The desire to increase citizen participation in local governance was a deliberate and concerted effort by the government to eradicate the economic, social, cultural and political challenges that contribute to poverty. Consequently, the

development planning and budgeting systems in Ghana have become bottom-up and the inputs of all stakeholders are expected to facilitate the process of integrating stakeholder interest into the planning and budgeting process at the district level (Ahenkan, *et al.*, 2013).

The conception of citizen participation in South Africa is largely linked to the planning and management of development projects at the local sphere of the government (Ababio, 2004; Moset, 2021; Madzivhandila and Asha, 2012). This is because local municipalities are regarded as the sphere of government that is closer to the people and the pillar of democracy. The South Africa democratic government adopted a developmental approach to local governments in order to eradicate the legacy of the past apartheid regime. Municipalities can therefore play a developmental role in ensuring that people are at the center of local government initiatives. For this reason, municipalities in South Africa are required through legislative frameworks to encourage the involvement and participation of the ordinary members of the society in decisions that affect their well-being.

Rwanda has been implementing a decentralization policy since 2000. This has much contributed to the advancement of national development, good governance and service delivery. The Government of Rwanda adopted a participatory approach towards improving the well-being of its citizens. To this end, all plans from village to national level should aim to develop the citizen (MINALOC, 2014). The government has implemented different development programmes including Vision 2030 Umurenge Program (VUP) and Ubudehe using a participatory approach where citizens in a village decide themselves on what socioeconomic development projects they should prioritize. The approach has proven to yield positive results and sustainability of the programs

through ownership. Local economic development and community development were critical elements in realizing Rwanda's Vision 2020.

Further, the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) responsible for decentralization, good governance, local finance, community development and social affairs established National strategy for local Economic Development (Murebwayire, 2016). The strategy enhanced implementation effectiveness of EDPRSII, Vision 2020, District Integrated Plan (DIP) and the Community Development Policy through improving co-ordination among stakeholders, focusing on both community and local economic development while placing businesses and communities as a priority in answering issues that affect people's needs in areas of development, local resource management and realizing tangible and sustainable outcomes (MINALOC Strategy 2013-2018).

Soon after independence in Kenya, the government come up with an economic development blue print and tabled the paper in parliament entitled," African Socialism and its Application to Planning in Kenya," more famously known as the 'Sessional Paper No. 10 of 1965. In this paper the government outlined the measures for development of which the participation of the people comprised mainly of self-help initiatives in form of fundraising for local development (Republic of Kenya, 1965). No involvement in the policy making process was initiated as it was considered that the people were not learned enough to be able to appreciate the intricacies of policy analysis. Thus, people's participation in the governance of the country and localities was constrained to the electoral process where through universal suffrage, people elect the leader of their choice and through the "Harambee " spirit, they contributed funds for developmental activities of their areas such as construction of gabions (Kiruthu, *et al.*,2011).

In 1979, the then President Daniel Moi launched a development plan focused on the theme, “alleviation of poverty.” The plan emphasized among other considerations, an enabling for extensive participation in a bid to ensure that the welfare of every Kenyan is improved and decentralizing decision-making and implementation so as to involve those upon whom plans affect directly (Thomas, 2000). Later, on in 1983, the government began an initiative called the District Focus for Rural Development (DFRD) aimed at changing the format for development planning from the top to down and sector based set up for the integrated, participatory and bottom-up format. The key protocol blank of this plan was the District Development Committee (DDC) which was a consultative forum that came up with plans to co-ordinate the implementation of the District Development Plans (Ndi,2010).

Citizen participation has been adopted in Kenya since the promulgation of the new constitution in 2010 and the establishment of the new government under the new constitution. Specifically, citizen participation has been entrenched in the Kenya Constitution (2010) as a national value and principle (Article 20) (2)), in environmental management (Article 69 (i) (d)), in parliament business (Article 118 (1) (b), as an object of devolution in governance and management of urban areas and cities (Article 184 (1) , (c) , in county assembly procedures (Article 196 (1) (b)), in public finance accountability (Article 201 (a)), and as a function and power vested on respective county government { Fourth Schedule, Part 2 (14)} (Government of Kenya, 2010).

Citizen participation in Kenya's devolved system of government has had challenges such as limited support from the political class and low levels of civic education (Kenya school of Government, 2015). However, there has been a success story in Makueni County whose participation models has been lauded by the World Bank (2016). In this model, the County has been able to have citizens identify their development priorities, down from the local level with their involvement in prioritization, planning and setting of the final expenditures. In addition, the County allows the citizens to be involved in the implementation of the projects.

The citizen participation model in Makueni County is an all-inclusive bottom-up system that involves the public from the village level to the County headquarters. The public engages through elected development committee members representing villages, a cluster of villages, sub-wards, wards, sub-counties and the county. The development committee members at every level are custodians of progress within their respective areas. The structure has provided Makueni County with a solid foundation for comprehensively involving the public at inception, budgeting, implementation and oversight of development projects. Several committees sit and deliberate together and prioritize opportunities for development and the desires of the people. This guarantees that the projects desired by the people are the ones that get implemented. Witnessing of Makueni participatory models has resulted in citizens becoming part and parcel of the process though committees on the ground approving all development projects conceived for implementation (Council of Governors, 2020). In Makueni's public participation model, the village is the focal point of interaction of citizens. This is because village members tend to meet more regularly irrespective of whether the meeting is convened by the

government or not. It was practical, therefore, to identify the village as the main entry point for public participation to infuse the ideals of good governance right from the grassroots level (Council of Governors, 2020).

The Bungoma County Public Participation Bill, 2015 is an act of County Assembly of Bungoma to provide for the establishment of legal framework for facilitating and streamlining public participation in County Government enhancing service delivery and for connected purposes. Public participation includes the processes and methods designed to consult, involve and inform the public or stakeholders in order to allow those who would potentially be affected by the decision, any policy, legislation program, project to have input into the process. The purpose of this act is to enhance, promote and facilitate public participation in the County Government. Specifically, it aimed at facilitating the implementation of constitutional provisions set out under Article (I) on sovereignty of the people, Article (10) on national values, Article 35 on access to information, Article (37) on the right to petition, Article 48 on access to justice, Article 174 on the objectives of devolution and Article 196 on public participation by the County Assembly (Republic of Kenya, 2020).

Public participation in Bungoma County is institutionalized and various organs are held responsible for its promotion in cognizant with the County Government Act. The Governor has the overall responsibility to lead, enable and report on public participation in the county. The governor executes this role through the various county departments and agencies and at all levels of the decentralized system, including Sub-County, ward, village and urban centres. Section 30(3) of the County Governments Act stipulates that the

governors shall promote and facilitate citizen participation in the development of policies, plans and service delivery in the County (Republic of Kenya, 2020).

Much effort has been made in the past to improve citizen participation in Kenya's governance affairs. Prior to 2010, citizen participation was largely nominal and based on the good will of the government. Development processes were largely centralized using top-down approach to planning with major decisions made from the capital city, Nairobi. The involvement of decentralized agencies including the provinces and districts was largely limited to the transiting to the public information and decisions already agreed upon in Nairobi. Such decisions were implemented in the field through the local authorities and provincial administration with minimal input of the citizens.

In a study on 'factors influencing community participation in County development projects in Kenya, a case of Bungoma South Sub-county', Situma (2018), asserts that project execution had significant level of community participation in decision making, community resource mobilization and project ownership. This aspect contributes to project completion. The SWOT analysis undertaken by the Bungoma County Government in 2020, shows that there is lack of village administration to further decentralization, administration and public participation undertakings.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Citizen participation in development processes is critical for the sustainability of socio-economic development. Among other things, involving citizens in decision making and in contributing time, ideas, materials and other resources results in them identifying with

the development initiatives. Devolution and public participation are perhaps two of the most paradigmatic innovations of the constitution of Kenya. Citizen participation is recognized in Article 10 of the Constitution of Kenya as one of the Country's national values and principles of governance. Further Article 174 (c) provides that the object of devolution is to enhance the participation of people in the exercise of the powers of the state and in making decisions affecting them. Article 174(d) recognizes the rights of communities to manage their own affairs and further their social, economic and political development.

Citizen engagement and implementation of innovations remain relevant with respect to socioeconomic development projects which are designed to generate sustainable economic and social benefits for local communities and for the population in general. They are essentially community driven in nature and aim at redistributing national resources to the community to bring facilities and services closer to people in order to alleviate poverty, create employment and eventually raise people's standards of living through better schools, health care facilities and so on (Ngacho and Das, 2017). Mukui (2005) argues that lack of legal framework for citizen participation in planning and implementation, incomplete decentralization that does not empower the beneficiary communities and non-participatory process have delineated citizen from identification with the social-economic projects resulting in lack of ownership and sustainability.

However, the actualization of the constitutional promise and expectations on citizen participation has faced diverse challenges, some arising from inadequate skills and experience among County Governments. Challenges on inability to manage the processes, limited appreciation of its usefulness and sheer citizen apathy have hindered the

realization of meaningful engagement of the citizen's in public governance processes towards socioeconomic development (Council of Governors, 2020).

Since the promulgation of the consultation of Kenya (2010), the County Government of Bungoma has put efforts in creating an enabling environment for citizen participation towards the realization of socioeconomic development. A number of laws and policies have been enacted and further adopted the County Public Participation Guidelines (2017) which define the framework for citizen engagement and also aims at empowering the citizens to demand for effective participation in governance (Republic of Kenya, 2020). However, the nature and extent of citizen participation contemplated by the constitution and devolution laws in Bungoma District has not been fully achieved by the County Government. Basing on the SWOT analysis undertaken by the County Government of Bungoma in 2020, results indicate that standards for citizen participation and the mechanisms for co-ordination are yet to be developed. Important policies, legislations and guidelines on citizen participation are not fully developed. Similarly, key institutions and agencies have also not fully embraced citizen participation in a bid to promote socio-economic development. In view of the above analyzed situation, the efficacy of citizen participation in promoting socio-economic development is questionable. It is against this backdrop that this study will interrogate the nexus between citizen participation and socio-economic development in Bungoma District since 1960.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

To undertake an in-depth examination of the proposed study, the general and specific objectives are provided. The general objective is well stated in the title of the study while

specific objectives have been derived from the general objective to enhance the depth and breadth of the interrogation.

1.3.1 General Objective

The study's general objective will be to interrogate the nexus between citizen participation and socio-economic development in Bungoma District since 1960.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the study will be to:

- i) Historicize citizen participation in Bungoma District since 1960.
- ii) Examine the nature and mechanisms of citizen participation in Bungoma District since 1960.
- iii) Assess the role of citizen participation on socioeconomic development in Bungoma District.
- iv) Evaluate the challenges and opportunities of citizen participation on socioeconomic development in Bungoma District.
- v) Assess the impact of citizen participation on socioeconomic development in Bungoma District.

1.4 Research Questions

- i) How was the historical trend of citizen participation in Bungoma District since 1960.
- ii) What is the nature and mechanisms of citizen participation in Bungoma District since 1960
- iii) What is the role of citizen participation in socio-economic development in Bungoma District.
- iv) What are the challenges and opportunities of citizen participation in the quest for socio-economic development in Bungoma District.
- v) What is the impact of citizen participation on socioeconomic development in Bungoma District since 1960.

1.5 Justification of the Study

This section provides academic justification of the study emanating from previous studies. Philosophical justification explains how the study will contribute to the general knowledge while policy justification provides information to the County Government of Bungoma and other stakeholders on policy formulation in regard to citizen participation.

1.5.1 Academic Justification of the Study

Various studies have been undertaken on citizen participation in Political Science, Public Administration and in Project Planning and Management disciplines in Kenya and in Bungoma particularly. Scholars have developed into the study determinants of public participation in governance(Kirwa, 2019; Mbithi, 2018). Other researched work has been done on ‘factors influencing public or community participation in county development projects’ (Situma 2018; Odege 2014; Mutwiri 2016). Similarly, ‘the influence of citizen participation on the performance of County programs’ has been studied (Madubwe, 2018) Kinyanjui and Misaro (2013) examined the socio-economic status and participatory development in Kenya; Omolo, Maphail and Wanjiru (2018) researched on inclusive and effective citizen engagement in participatory budgeting in Makueni County and Mutisya (2018) interrogated the impact of public participation on Makueni County’s development programs.

It is also important to recognize that there exists literature written by historians on the same concept. Njogu (2013) edited a book on citizen participation in decision making, towards inclusive development in Kenya. International organizations have also researched, written and published reports on citizen participation, for instance, Transparency International Kenya (2018), on a case study of public participation frameworks and processes in Kisumu County, USAID (2020); Kenya County Development Cooperation’s strategy (CDCS) and Intergovernmental Relations, Technical Committee, published a report on, ‘The Status of Public Participation in National and County Governments.’

From the above cited works, it is evident that this area of study has been researched on by other academicians and stakeholders in pursuit of knowledge in various disciplines. However, most of the studies focus on determinants and factors influencing citizen participation on local governance in Kenya at large and Bungoma District in particular. Minimal research has been done to interrogate the historical trend and efficacy of citizen participation on socio-economic development. This study therefore intends to fill the lacunae by interrogating the nexus between public participation and socio-economic development in Bungoma District since 1960.

1.5.2. Philosophical Justification

This study will be guided by both utilitarian and constructivist philosophies. Utilitarianism postulates that the action of citizen engagement in decision making derives either happiness or pleasure or the opposite. Utilitarianism was a school of moral philosophy of which Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832), a friend and associate of James Mill, was the principle advocate. Developed in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, most notably in Bentham's *Principles of Morals and Legislation* (1789), utilitarianism as a doctrine held, first that individuals are rationally self-interested beings who are motivated primarily by their desire both to achieve happiness or pleasure and to avoid unhappiness or pain; and second that the moral 'rightness' of human action can be measured by its tendency to promote happiness or pleasure. This theory of morality is grounded on the fact that pleasure and freedom from pain are the only intrinsic values in the world. Grounded on this theory, citizen participation is intrinsically good because as first

postulated by Aristotle, it draws upon and develops the highest human capacities (Strives,1990). Indeed, citizens derive pleasure in their actions towards decision making in socio-economic development in their communities. Other scholars also speak of the inherent goodness of citizen participation. According to Kweit and Kweit (1990), many believe that participation, is essential for individuals to fully realize their potential as humans.

Bentham's fundamental axiom, which underlies utilitarianism was that all social morals and government legislation should aim at producing the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people. In society and government, therefore, policies, laws and institutions should all be judged, above all by their tendency to promote the desirable goal (Jones, 2001). The philosophic radicals drawing their intellectual inspiration from Betham and Mill's principles believed that individuals sought to maximize their own happiness and well-being, but also that the overriding purpose of the government was to promote the general happiness. In response to this assumption, the Constitution of Kenya (2010) under (174(d) recognize the right of communities to manage their own affairs and further their development. Citizen engagement in decision making to further their socio-economic development produces pleasure amongst the community members (Mbithi, 2018). Generally, utilitarians have supported democracy as a way of making the interest of government coincide with the general interest; they have argued for the greatest individual liberty compatible with an equal liberty for others on the ground that individuals are generally the best judges of their own welfare and they have believed in the possibility and desirability of progressive social change through peaceful political processes (Drivers, 2014; Mill, 1985).

Utilitarianism is a consequentialist theory. Thus, it is the consequences of our actions that determine whether those actions are right or wrong (Mill, 1863). In this way, citizen participation in decision making is determined by the outcome it brings to the society. If their decisions are put in consideration, then the likelihood is that they will participate in making decisions toward some socioeconomic development. From this theory, philosophers posit that democracies will be more likely to offer better protection of civil, political and human rights; engender a more active civil society; have greater government accountability and responsiveness to a larger segment of society; and experience more peaceful, stable and predictable alternations in power. All these outcomes may be linked to such development outcomes as better education and health standards, more transparent investment environments and thus greater and more sustainable economic growth (Olson,1992).

This study will also be anchored on philosophical assumptions drawn from the constructivist perspective. This perspective and other social constructivist, believe that people seek understanding of the world in which they live and work in their own ways by developing subjective meanings of their experience (Crotty,1998). Constructivism perspective is particularly important for this study as it postulates a believe that knowledge is made up of large social interpretations rather than awareness of external reality (Stake, 1995). Hence the study will be anchored on participants' interpretations and the primordial goal will be to explore different ways of citizen participation and how they interpret their experiences and knowledge of participation in decision- making on socio-economic development in in Bungoma District.

The research reflects on the constructivism assumptions that learning is an active process. That an individual need to do something in order to learn, it is not a passive activity. That individual citizen engagement and participation in decision making provides opportunities to learn through interactive discussion activities in contribution of ideas. Further, constructivist assumption is that learning is a social activity in which humans engage with their world and makes sense of it based on their world and makes sense of it based on their historical and social perspectives and that the basic generation of meaning is always social, arising in and out of interaction with a human community (Crotty,1998).

1.5.3 Policy Justification

Citizen participation and engagement is a paradigm innovation that is well articulated in the Constitution of Kenya (2010) which provides an opportunity for citizen input in development processes. This study will guide policy makers and stakeholders of Bungoma County in particular in regard to citizen participation on socio-economic development. It will provide information to the County Government of Bungoma on how best it should conduct public participation by understanding its citizens and therefore design a more effective tool for public participation to reach the population.

The study will help the County Government of Bungoma in reformulation of policies that will enhance citizen participation in relation to socio-economic development. It will be important that the County Government policy makers provide a policy for the norms and standards for effective citizen participation. The policy will provide for a holistic

definition of public participation, the values and principles, key elements and infrastructure for effective citizen participation.

More importantly, it will enable policy makers to enhance on mechanisms of citizen participation in decision making concerning socio-economic development, citizen participation must therefore be able to reach the affected persons as well as those who can provide critical information for decision making. It will further enable the county government policy makers to develop a comprehensive stakeholder mapping for purposes of public participation by all county institutions and agencies including identifying categories of stakeholders, capacities, interest and influence and means of engaging them.

Furthermore, policy makers will be able to prioritize programs and initiative targets geared towards citizen participation and engagement in decision making concerning socio-economic development. Such initiatives will realize the milestones made towards achieving development agenda in the County. To engage effectively, citizens not only need awareness of their roles and responsibilities but knowledge and skills on how to execute their responsibilities. Therefore, policy makers will undertake coordinated and integrated capacity building to empower all actors engaged in development.

It will also help to bring out the latest scenarios of development and governance at grassroot levels which will help policy makers to identify the loopholes and their own weaknesses in involving citizen in the development processes. In turn it will enable them to formulate appropriate legislations and policies for future implementation of socio-economic development projects.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study will be significant in informing the governing body of Bungoma County on citizen participation in regard to socio-economic development. The challenges highlighted will guide the County Government governors and other stakeholders to strategize in order to come up with workable solutions. The participatory nature and roles of citizens will give a clear picture of the scenario about citizen participation in Bungoma County. As such, it will guide policy makers on where to enhance their programs for effectiveness of the process. This study will also guide researchers who will venture into examining the usefulness of the community in making decisions about their socio-economic development projects.

1.7 Scope of the study

The study is about citizen participation in relation to socioeconomic development of Bungoma District since 1960. The study attempts to interrogate the historical development of citizen participation, the nature of participation, the role of citizens, the challenges and opportunities and the impact as linked to socio and economic development of Bungoma District. The geographical scope is Bungoma District in Western Kenya since it is one of the counties that has adhered to the constitution of Kenya (2010) on implementing Article 174 (c) that provides for citizen participation in decision making to manage their social, economic and political development. More so, in the past, the economy has dwindled and with the global and national transformation, Bungoma County stands at a crucial turning point in its socioeconomic and environmental development (Bungoma County Agenda 2040 ,2018). The historical scope begins from 1960 up to the present time. The First

Lancaster House Conference held in 1960 was an important milestone in Africa's political development in Kenya as Africans were allowed to participate in governance through the Council of Ministers setting a ground for citizen involvement in governance. The people being studied are the inhabitants of Bungoma District.

1.8 Limitations of the study

The study might encounter some of the constraints during data collection ranging from vastness of Bungoma County to uncooperative members of the public and the busy County Officials. It will also cover groups of people and stakeholders who are heterogenous in nature in terms of levels of literacy, socioeconomic status and political affiliations, which may pose a challenge in accessing the diverse groups of people. To deal with the challenge of vastness of the region, the researcher will apply purposive sampling to cover the area of study. In dealing with uncooperative members, the researcher will involve local authorities who will explain the importance of the study to them. Confidentiality of the information will also be emphasized. Further, appointments will be made to meet the county officials who are the key informants. To tackle the diverse nature of the respondents, different research tools will be administered that will suit the various groups.

1.9 Literature Review

This section reviews the literature of the study based on the outlined objective. The literature begins by analyzing the concept of citizen participation and the legal provisions of citizen participation. The first objective of historization of citizen participation in Bungoma District will be reviewed, secondly, the nature and mechanisms of citizen participation, third, the role of citizen participation in socioeconomic development, fourth, the challenges and opportunities of citizen participation and lastly, the impact of citizen participation in socioeconomic development. This work will be reviewed basing on other scholars' work.

1.9.1 Conceptualization of Citizen Participation

Citizen participation is the process which provides private individuals on opportunity to influence public decision and has long been a component of the democratic decision-making process. The roots of citizen participation can be traced to the ancient Greece and Colonial New England. Before the 1960s, governmental processes and procedures were designed to facilitate external participation. Citizen participation was institutionalized in the mid-1960s with President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society Programs (Cogan and Shape, 1986). Anyanwu (1981) and Oduaran (1994) view citizen's participation as implying much more involvement; it calls for other features namely democracy or democratic participation and education. They define citizen's participation in community development as the involvement of community members in the affairs or activities that are designed to enhance the development of the community. Citizen participation in community development develops pride of ownership in the people after successfully

completing a community development project. Oduaran (1994), states that citizen participation in community development is educative and therefore an essential ingredient of any educational process. According to Oduaran (1994), it leads to behavior modification or even the consolidation of the values of self-help. Jackson (1962) and Billington (1974), contend that freedom and the right to make decisions on the early American frontiers was the shaping force in grassroots democracy i.e people's right to participate. The point being stressed by the above writers is that the idea of citizen participation in community development should be based on democracy thus free enterprise and the rights of community members (Anyanwu, 1981).

Reynolds (1969) argued on participation as the important aspect to be taken into consideration by the government when planning or deciding on matters that affect the public. This implies that the public are given a chance to voice their concerns through the proper mechanisms provided by the government agenda. The author presents two types of participation which are induced and indicative participation. Induced participation covers those situations in which the public is being encouraged to accept a plan already drawn up and settle except for details. The relative probability that the public can deliberately influence events in accordance with their interest is low. Indicative participation covers those situations in which the public is relied on to provide indicators and directives, which are used in establishing the basic aims and assumptions of the planned procedure. The relative probability that the public can influence events is higher in this case (Draai and Taylor, 2009). Mafunisa and Xaba (2008), have also shown that there are three types of participation of local communities and individuals. The first type of participation is physical participation which entails being present using one's skills and

efforts. The second type is mental participation whereby individuals participate in conceptualization of activities, decision making, organization and management. The third type is emotional participation which implies that people are assuming responsibility, power and authority.

Arnstein (1969) asserted that, “citizen participation is a categorical term for citizen power”. This citizen power is actually the power for the public to put forward their needs and problems which are meant to be addressed by the government. Arnstein has been known for his analogy of the ‘ladder of citizen participation’ whereby he presented the eight rungs of the ladder for levels of participation. These eight rungs are manipulation, therapy, information, informing, consultation, placation, partnership, delegated power and citizen control. Ile and Mapuva (2010), have grouped these eight rungs of the ladder into three levels of participation whereby manipulation and therapy are considered to be non-participation, informing, consultation and placation are labelled degrees of tokenism, and delegated power and citizen control are considered to be the degrees of citizen power. This analogy has been used to portray what different governments embark on during the planning and decision-making processes.

The level of citizen power is regarded to be the stage to present public participation because in this level, the government delegates power to the citizen to initiate and decide on any program at their domain. This is where people decide independently and their decisions are reflected in the government agenda especially with the matters which affect them directly or indirectly. This degree of citizen power follows from bottom-up approach of policy or project implementation because the decisions carried by people reflected the problems they experienced. This bottom up approach sees the process as involving

negotiation and consensus and building (Ile and Mapuva, 2010). Citizen participation entails this negotiation and consensus building unlike the one-sidedness presented by the level of non-participation and degree of tokenism whereby there are no consensus and negotiation between the government and the citizen. Mafunisa and Xaba (2008) argued that participation is important to make sure that the government addresses real needs of communities in the most appropriate way. It also contributes to building an informed and responsible citizenry with a sense of ownership of government development. “Participation becomes an attractive strategy not just for policy improvements but for drawing disaffected citizens back to the political mainstream” (Bishop & Davis, 2002). Citizen participation is understood by these scholars from the perspective of policy making whereby they argued that, “Participation is expectation that citizens have a voice in policy choices.” Such participation takes many forms from community meetings to citizen advisory committees, administrative law and more recently the idea of citizen as customers (Bishop and Davis, 2002).

Citizen participation serves as a tool for convincing the people that only they and others will reap the benefits of development projects in their communities. This in turn engenders readiness on the part of the citizens to place long-term goals ahead of their current needs. Christenson and Robinson (1980), reveal that citizens become involved in community affairs only when certain conditions present or deficiencies are noted. Bellah (1985) views citizen participation in community development from the perspective of benefits to be gained and costs to be borne. Herbartian (1976) notes that public involvement in community development results in better decisions. He, however argues that decisions that involve citizens are more likely to be acceptable to the local people.

Cook (1975), notes that citizens' participation can legitimize the project or program; its plans, actions and leadership. Voluntary participation in community development can reduce the cost for personnel needed to carry out many of the duties associated with community action. Thus, citizens can voluntarily participate in community development activities when they have an appropriate organizational structure available to them for expressing their interest (Sills, 1966). Oduaran (1994); Adekola and Oyebamiji (2008) and Onyenemazu (2008) emphasize the use of community structure and good leadership in community development, which accounts to a large extent, to the success of grassroots projects and programs. Citizens will voluntarily participate in community development projects and programs when they see it as an important aspect of their lives, whether threatening or not.

Public participation and sustainable socioeconomic development have become central and interconnected terms in present day development discourse. According to Economic Commission of Africa, ECA (2004), citizen participation has been proposed as an essential pre-condition for sustainable development. "One of the fundamental prerequisites of the achievement of sustainable development," states chapter 23 of Agenda 21 (the declaration emerging from the 1992 Rio de Janeiro UN conference on Environment and Development), is broad public participation in decision making about development is fundamental to achieving lasting and sustainable solutions. Modern democratic life requires an active role from the members of the public.

The importance of citizen participation cannot be overstated. Its contribution in anchoring democracy is significant because it ensures inclusivity and transparency in the governance

process, with citizens and government agencies sharing power among themselves (Arnstein, 1969). It ensures government responsiveness to citizen needs and increases the legitimacy of the government's decisions and institutions (Raimond, 2001), making public participation a process and not a single alone event. Citizen participation is seen as a form of empowerment and vital part of democratic governance. It is part of a 'people first' or 'people centered' methods of management, which avoids centralized, hierarchical decision making. The Kenya Constitution 2010 provides viable proposals aimed at achieving participatory governance.

1.9.2 Legal Provisions for Citizen Participation in Kenya

The Constitution of Kenya makes citizen participation a central part of Kenya's governance system. Participation of people is recognized in Article 10 of the constitution of Kenya 2010 as one of our national values and principles of governance. Further Article 174(c) provides that the object of devolution is to: "*enhance the participation of people in the exercise of the powers of the state and in making decisions affecting them.*" Article 184(1) (c) also requires that mechanisms for participation by residents be included in the national legislation relating to urban areas and cities governance and management (Republic of Kenya, 2010). The centrality of public participation cannot therefore be over-emphasized.

The rationale of public participation is based on the foundation that the people of Kenya have sovereign power which they have delegated to state actors at the national and county levels. The sovereignty must be respected and institutionalized in all processes of governance. The Constitution of Kenya demands transparency, accountability,

participation and inclusiveness in governance. The County Government Act, Kenya (2013) and other devolution laws mandate county governments to engage citizens in planning and policy making processes, facilitate public communication and access to information, establish citizen for a and conduct civic education among others.

The Constitution provides for the participation of the public in the exercise of the powers of the state and in making decisions through indirect and direct involvement of the people in the process of policy making (Article 232 (d) and participation in the legislative business of the National Assembly, Senate and County Assemblies. (Article 118 (1) (a) (b) , 124 (1) (b) , 124 (4) (c) , 196 (1) (a) (b). The point is to fortify the entailed constitutional gains through practically consistent legislations. Article 196 of the constitution further provides for citizen participation in the proceedings of the County Assembly, Republic of Kenya (2010). This will enhance responsible governance and accountability. Closely related to leadership and integrity, are the national values and principles of governance that should guide the country and as individuals in spirit and practice. These are defined in Article 10 (2) of the constitution. Some of the constitutional and legal provisions for citizen participation are shown in the table below.

Table 1. 1: Constitutional and legal provisions for citizen participation

Article 1(2) of the The Constitution of Kenya	All sovereign power belongs to the people of Kenya. The people may exercise their sovereignty directly or through their elected representatives
Article 10 (2) a,b,c	The national values and principles of governance include: democracy and participation of the people; inclusiveness; good governance, integrity, transparency and accountability.
Article 27	The constitution guarantees equality and non-discrimination. Hence, public participation should ensure equality and non-discrimination.
Article 33	Public participation should respect the freedom of expression of all participants.
Article 174 (c)	Objects of devolution are; to give power of self-governance to the people and enhance their participation in the exercise of such powers in decision making.
Article 174 (d)	Communities have the right to manage their own affairs and to further their development.
Article 232 (1) (d)	The values and principles of public service include the involvement of the people in the process of policy making and (f) transparency and provision to the public of timely and accurate information.

Fourth Schedule Part 2 (14) The functions and powers of the county are to co-ordinate and ensure the participation of communities in governance. Counties are also to assist communities to develop the administrative capacity to enhance their exercise of power and participation in governance at the local level.

The Public Finance Management Act Section 207 County Government are to establish structures, mechanisms and guidelines for citizen participation.

County Government Act Section 91 The County government shall facilitate the establishment of modalities and platforms for citizen participation.

The County Government Act Sections 94,95,96 Counties shall establish mechanisms to facilitate public communication and access information using media with the widest public outreach. Every county shall designate an office for ensuring access to information

County Government Act Section 100 and 101 County governments should create an institutional framework for civic education.

Source: Ministry of Devolution and Planning (2016)

The overall responsibility to facilitate and report on citizen participation in the county government is on the Governor of the County Government. This is to be done through the various departments and agencies of the county and at all levels of decentralization (sub-county, ward, village, urban and city areas.). In the case of the County Assembly, the responsibility is on the speaker of the County Assembly and chairpersons of various committees of the House. The legal provisions for the same are as follows, according to the County Government Act, Kenya 2013

Governor

As per section 30 (3) (g) of the County Government Act, the Governor should promote and facilitate citizen participation in the development of policies, plans and service delivery in the county.

County Executives

Committee: Section 46(2) (g) of the County Government Act provides that the county executive committee should bear in mind the need for all participatory decision making.

Sub- County Administrator

Under section 50 (3) (g) of the County Government Act, the Sub-County administrator is responsible for coordination, management and supervision of the general administrative functions in the sub-county including the facilitation and coordination of citizen participation in the development of policies, plans and service delivery.

Ward Administrator

Under section 5 (3) (g) of the County Government Act, the ward administrator is responsible for the coordination, management and supervision of the general administrative functions in the ward including the facilitation and coordination of citizen participation in the development policies, plans and service delivery.

Village Administrator

Under section 52 (3) (g) of the County Government Act, the village administrator is responsible for coordination, management and supervision of the general administrative functions in the sub-county including ensuring and coordinating the participation of the village unit in governance.

County Assembly

Article 196 of the Constitution provides that the County Assembly should facilitate public participation and its involvement in its committees, the legislative and other business of the assembly.

The literature on legal provisions of citizen participation in Kenya gives this study the legitimacy to interrogate a matter mandated by the constitution. More importantly, it provides a basis for the researcher to examine the organizational structure or citizen participatory mechanisms at the county level which is at the same time fundamental in identifying respondents. This literature will therefore provide a foundation on which the researcher will interrogate the nexus between citizen participation and socioeconomic development in Bungoma District since 1960.

1.9.3 Concept of Socioeconomic Development

Socioeconomic development is a key concept central to any problem of change in the socio-economic sphere. Its significance is aptly expressed by Stemplowski (1987), who states that “the concept of development functions as both a product of an optimistic vision and an articulation of social interests, and a tool of analysis”. Socioeconomic development embraces changes taking place in the social sphere, mostly of an economic nature. The definition of socioeconomic development as a series of change involves stating what characterizes those changes and what determines them; and therefore, refer to the character of processes and goals of changes making up this type of development (Fritz,2004)

In order to understand this concept, it is important to define development. Generally, development is defined as a state in which things are improving. In the socio-economic context, development means the improvement of people’s lifestyles through improved education, income, skills development and employment. It is the process of economic and social transformation based on cultural and environmental factors. Socio-economic development, therefore, is the process of social and economic development in society (Fritz,2004). It is measured by such indicators as gross domestic products (GDP), life expectancy, literacy and levels of employment. For a better understanding of socioeconomic development, we may understand the terms separately. Social development is the process that results in the transformation of social institutions in a manner that improves the capacity of the society to fulfil its aspirations. It implies a qualitative change in the way the society shapes itself and carries out its activities such as through more progressive attitudes and behavior by the population, the adoption of more

effective processes or more advanced technology (Fritz,2004). It also refers to the complexity of social dynamics (the interplay of social structures, processes and relationships) and focuses on the social concerns of the people as objectives of development and people-centered participatory approaches to development (Chukuwka,2001). Indicators of social development provide comparative information about areas such as income, poverty, employment, employment security, education, health, crime and civic participation (Estes, 1988). On the other hand, economic development is the process of raising the level of prosperity through increased production and consumption of goods and services. It is the development of the economic wealth of countries or regions for the wellbeing of their inhabitants.

The purpose of economic development is to improve the social and material well-being of all individuals and social institutions with the goal of achieving the highest possible level of human development (Fritz,2004). Socioeconomic development, therefore, requires the integration of economic and social development. Progress is the quality of social and economic life should only be seen as progress if it is rights based and minimally affects, conserves or improves the natural environment (Dukes and Karen,2001).

The nature of socioeconomic development is determined by development processes or development targets. Generally, those processes are internally ordered sequences of change in states of affairs, or stages in which some states determine other states that follow them. From an activist point of view, two basic types of models or processes can be distinguished as spontaneous and target-oriented processes. Spontaneous processes in a socio-economic system are not targeted on any final states as specified development goals resulting from people's intentional and rational activity. They are not intentionally

activated and steered by people, being a principle of a self-organizing character. In turn, target-oriented processes in a socio-economic system are guided by the activity and behavior of people steering, control) and designed to achieve certain specified final states that can be goals of this activity (Sztompka,2002).

The basis for determining axiological character of socio-economic development is a division of values into entity or activity oriented. In the entity-oriented approach, a distinction is made between individual and public values. Individual or personal values concern people's situation in life. Some are autotelic in nature; those are values that people appreciate in themselves, e.g. justice (Grzegorzczuk,1983). Others are instrumental which embrace what individuals strive for, what goals they want to achieve and what needs to satisfy. Among personal values, Bunge (1996), counts biological ones e.g. health and longevity. Psychological ones e.g. a sense of well-being. Public values refer to activity in the sphere, especially to goals set in socio-economic policy. They express what human communities and social groups seek, as well as their collective needs. In the activity oriented, which refers to kinds of activity pursued, values are divided into economic, social, political, cultural and ecological (cf. Hillier,1999).

Social values concern the existence and conditions of a community of people (e.g justice and quality of life) and those potential and actual objects that satisfy people's collective needs e.g prosperity, safety and health living standards). This especially refers to how social values relate to economic values. Such values are treated as superior to the economy (Supra-economic). Prosperity is a supra-economic value since it embraces not only economic components, but also such elements as the satisfaction of specified needs. Social

values occurring at the level of economic values e.g a population's standard of living may compete with economic values e.g. full employment.

Cultural values concern the inventive and educational spheres and the satisfaction of people's needs in this field. They refer to both human behavior(learnings) as well as symbolic (scientific knowledge) and material products (a work of art) Examples of such values are the effective of learning, universality of education or scientific advances. Socio-economic development as an object of evaluation mostly involves an assessment of its role as an instrument used to work changes in socioeconomic reality and socioeconomic systems in particular. Several issues are addressed especially of economic nature thus development as growth, modernity as the current development stage, the role of development in the transformation of societies and economic and the ethical aspect of development.

Within the theory of development, analytical models of stages of socio-economic development are distinguished. It is a fairly widespread opinion that the present-day stage of development is termed modernity. It is supposed to mark a transition from traditional to modern society. The conception of modernity itself is a model or type of development is equivocal. Sztompka (2002) define modernization as a "society advancing in an intentional, premeditated, planned way towards a recognized model of modernity, usually to the standard of an existing society regarded as modern". According to Chalaj (1998) "One cannot put the equality sign between modernization and modernity. In comparison with the traditional one, a modernized society displays fundamentally different parameters. The concept of modernization refers to a combination of processes that accumulate and interact, Viz. generation of capital and mobilization of resources,

development of productive forces and growth in labour efficiency, urbanization, popularization of schooling, secularization and ethical values and norms (Harvey,1992; Chojnick,1993).

1.9.4 Historicizing Citizen Participation in Bungoma District since 1960

To understand the history of citizen participation in Bungoma District since 1960, it is imperative to understand the history of citizen participation from the global point of view. Citizen participation is a fundamental principle and tenet of democracy and therefore cannot be discussed as a separate entity without tracing the origin of democracy. In cognizant of the stated notion, this literature review will delve into the history of democracy from a global point of view narrowing down to the district level which will provide a strong base for the interrogation of the objective under study.

In ancient times, societies were ruled by individuals with wealth, physical strength or power but even in those times, these persons had to work for the well-being of those they ruled. Most of the time, these rulers governed within the paradigms of their traditions, societal norms and laws. They also consulted the powerful members of the society on the same matters. Gradually those with whom consultation became customary evolved into councils, estates and parliaments. The idea of consensus seeking then broadened to include the masses, and this is how democracy came into being (Nathaniel, 2001). It is very interesting to observe that democracy has its roots in the far distant past. It is not the

birth of the last hundred years of the world's history. A long series of world wars, incident to building of states, obscured the democracy of primitive societies (Gillin, 1919).

The birthplace of democracy was ancient Greece, particularly Athens. Throughout most of the second half of the 5th C B.C the period renowned as the Golden Age of Athens. Athenians called their *polis* a democracy. Not everyone willingly accepted this state of affairs but those who did seemed to embrace democracy enthusiastically (Ball, *et al.*, 2017). This is evident in the words attributed to Pericles, the most famous leader of the Athenian democracy in his Funeral Oration;

“ Our form of government does not enter into rivalry with the institutions of others. We do not copy our neighbours but are an example to them. It is true that we are called a democracy, for the administration is in the hands of the many and not of the few. But while the law secures equal justice to all alike in their private disputes, the claim of excellence is also recognized; and when a citizen is in any way distinguished, he is preferred for public service, not as a matter of privileged but as a reward of merit. Neither is poverty a bar, but a man may benefit his country (Polis) whatever be the obscurity of his condition.”

Pericles and the democrats, however, believed that most citizens were capable of governing if only they could afford to take the time away from their farms and work (Ball, *et al.*, 2017.)

In the fourth and fifth centuries B.C, however, those who favored democracy found themselves facing a different criticism. This was the complaint that democracy is a dangerously unstable form of government (Ball, *et al.*, 2017). Plato believed that

democracy is dangerous because it puts political power into the hands of ignorant and envious people. Because they are both ignorant and envious, they will be easily swayed by demagogues, literally, leaders of demos-who will flatter them, appeal to their envy and turn citizens against citizens. He further argues that people had neither the moral nor the intellectual capacity to participate in governance and proposed that the government be entrusted to a small elite of highly trained men, the philosopher kings who were of superior moral fibre and intellectual capacities (Nathaniel, 2001). Aristotle, though he was more sympathetic towards democracy than Plato, believed it to be a corrupt form of government. Although he felt that persons of education and wealth should have considerable influence in public affairs, he also held the view that the principle of numbers must be recognized if the government was to be based on consent (Nathaniel, 2001).

The Renaissance and Enlightenment periods became catalysts of change in Europe. Renaissance began with the revival of the learning of ancient texts, rediscovering knowledge that had been lost or forgotten during the Middle Ages also called the Dark Ages. The Protestant Movement in the 15thC which created schism in the Christian church also contributed to the rise of modern democracy both directly and indirectly, though Martin Luther, the founder of the Protestant movement was a firm believer in the authority of princes and had no use for democracy (Colliers, Encyclopedia 80). The protestant and the Catholics had to learn to coexist peacefully despite their religious differences. This spirit of tolerance became an accepted practice in politics too.

The French and American revolutions of the 18th C turned the tide of world history in favour of democracy. Both proclaimed democracy to be one of their goals, based on European and First Nations Models (Garner *et al.*, 2013). The framers of the US

constitution, most notably James Madison (1751-1836), were very keen to rid themselves of the absolute monarchy of King George III. But they were equally concerned about the consequences of introducing majoritarianism. The potential for the ignorant masses to be swayed by a powerful orator meant that the majority tyranny was an ever-present threat (Garner, *et al.*, 2013). Therefore, the Founding Fathers established a directly elected legislature, the House of Representatives, but at the same time set strict limits on its power. John Locke and Montesquieu undertook the task of writing the American Constitution. Both Locke and Montesquieu were inspired by democracy in ancient Greece.

The French Revolution of 1789, radically transformed the social order in France and recast ancient democracy into a new mould (Nathaniel, 2001). The French Revolution was the first successful attempt by a European nation to establish a government by the people. French revolutionary ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity not only affected France but also the whole of Europe. The medieval institutions of monarchy and feudalism got a severe blow from the revolution and while monarchy endured in a dilute form, feudalism could not survive in Europe. The French Revolution promoted idea of democracy and popular sovereignty in Europe.

The Industrial Revolution also contributed to the evolution of democracy in Europe due to a number of social and economic developments in the 18th and 19th centuries. The most important of these were the growth of cities, the spread of public education, the improvement in communication and transportation. These developments helped spread literacy information and interest in political matters among the population of Europe and North America, thereby contributing to the growing faith in the common people's ability to participate knowledgeably in public affairs (Ball, *et al.*, 2017). More so, the Industrial

Revolution created a middle class, which as it became stronger, struggled for the right to vote and eventually achieved it. The middle class organized itself in the form of interest on their government to grant them political participation.

In the 19th C Britain, arguments for democracy tended to centre on two concerns: self-protection and self-development. According to the “philosophical radicals” or “utilitarians” the duty of the government was to promote the greatest happiness of the greatest number. The best way to do this, they concluded, was through representative democracy, which enables every man to vote for representatives who will protect his interests. John Stuart Mill (1806-1873), maintained that political participation is valuable because of the opportunity it provided for self-development. Mill believed that democracy strengthens civic virtue among the common people through “the invigorating effect of freedom upon the character.” Political participation, not merely voting for representatives, but direct participation at the local level- educates and improves people by teaching them discipline, sharpening their intelligence and even sharpening their morality (Ball, *et al.*, 2017).

Although the democratic theory focused on the need to protect individuals’ rights and interests, it soon developed an alternative focus; a concern with the development of human individuals and the community (Heywood, 2013). Jean-Jacques Rousseau developed the model of developmental theory in which he believed the general will to be the ‘ true’ will of each citizen in contrast to his other ‘private’ or selfish will. His theories helped to shape the modern idea of participatory democracy taken up by the New left thinkers in the 1960s and 1970s. This extols the virtues of a ‘participatory society’, a society in which each and

every citizen is able to achieve self- development by participating in decisions that shapes his or her life.

The literature reviewed from the global point of view will enable the researcher to approach the historization of Citizen participation in Bungoma District in a chronological order of events. By examining the events that led to the development of democracy will enable the proposed study to interrogate various circumstances and situations that led to and promoted citizen participation in Bungoma District. It also provides a base to critically analyze milestones and myriads of undertakings by the governing structures to provide forums for citizen participation. Furthermore, the researcher will also seek to understand the prominent personalities and organizations that initiated citizen participation. However, it provides a gap for the researcher to delve into the history of a smaller geographical region thus Bungoma District as opposed to the global region.

Simiyu (1995) studied on ‘The Democratic Myth in the African Traditional Societies’, expounding on democracy during the pre-colonial period. He notes that when colonialism come to Africa, it did not find pure democratic tradition and base, as others have argued but rather various mixtures of rudimentary democratic-institutions and despotism. Some of the institutions ranged from mild ones and hardly noticeable models like in the so-called acephalous societies, to quite brutal ones in the highly centralized states which tended to deny any democratic practices. It is the contention that if modern Africa is to build democratic socio-political and economic institutions and mechanisms, we have to understand the nature of power, authority, government and politics in traditional African societies without bias. In cognizant of this literature, it provides a foundation for the

proposed study to analyze any features of citizen participation in the pre-colonial community of Bungoma District.

Simiyu (1995) further observes that the composition and structure of the centralized and class structured, by and large, on the whole of the African continent hardly were there any democratic traditions in pre-colonial days. The first general principle which seemed to lie at the base of nearly all African political systems was the concept of hierarchy. The societies and therefore the political organizations were conceived in hierarchical structure with little or no horizontal checks and balances. The second was the insular type of structures, in other words, structures without upward mobility or open recruitment outside the laid down rigid rules and procedure. The age-set systems which were found in the majority of the African societies tended to thwart or contain the aspirations of the more volatile, active and probably intelligent younger generations. In some cases, the age-set system might have combined with the class structure to suppress forever the aspirations and rights of the lower echelons of the society. The political power and life in the 19th centralized states such as Buganda, Rwanda, Nkore, Bunyoro, Karagwe and Wanga revolved around the personality of the king and his aristocratic entourage. The social stratification of these states was based on the relationship of the ruling family, the positions in the state and the roles played by the commoners (the subjects) hence there was no chance for upward mobility. Simiyu (1995) concludes that the kingship system of governance did not provide room for inclusivity of all people in access to poverty, decision-making process, role recruitment and settlement of disputes. These basic areas of the democratic concept and practice were left for the ruling or royal classes and the middle class with positions. Members within the lower class never took part in the

decision-making process and had no authority which was quite undemocratic. In a nutshell, the essence of these political systems was the relative exclusion of the common man from the centers of power, both economic and political. He further concludes that, in Black Africa, whether the political system was that of the highly centralized states or of amorphous non-centralized communities, it did not belong to a democratic tradition. However, there were rudiments of democratic principles and practices especially in non-centralized communities due to the unsophisticated nature of the economy, technology and the social system. This reviewed literature provides a basis to examine the origin of participatory democracy in the community of Bungoma District from the pre-colonial period. The author has dealt so much with the centralized states and therefore provides a gap for the proposed study to examine the decentralized state during the pre-colonial period in Bungoma District.

Maxon, (1994) gives an account on “colonial roots of democracy”. He observes that by the end of 1945, legislative councils were formed by the colonial government in East Africa but had large unofficial majorities and were unrepresentative of the populations at large and could hardly be said to represent the ‘public.’ Africans had only been appointed members of these councils in 1944 and 1945 and constituted a small minority of the membership. The colonial state controlled the agenda of the legislative councils throughout the interwar period. The most significant sphere of expansion of the scope and impact of the colonial state was in its role of economic manager and arbiter. This represented a continuation of its central economic role (Lansdele,1986). Democratization of the administrative structure play virtually no part in colonial policy. For Kenya, administrators held paternalistic, authoritarian values that were fundamentally antithetical

to the concepts of democracy (Berman, 1974). In the name of efficiency, order and warfare, Africans were “acted upon” not “consulted with” by colonial rulers (Macguire, 1969).

The arena of local politics was diverse nevertheless. The domain for local political articulation varied from mission station to chiefs *barazas* to a district wide political organization (Maxon, 1994). Most of the local protests sought not the overthrow of colonial rule but rather to work within the colonial system. It reflected the desire of individuals and groups to improve their ability to cope with the colonial situation by obtaining greater access to western education, agricultural improvement, enhanced opportunities to commerce, greater employment opportunities and more equitable treatment when employed (Maxon, 1944). The author points out that Africans during the colonial period used protests a way of projecting their voices to be represented in administration. This literature only gives a clue on what the colonial administrators engaged in to provide a leeway for African representation and therefore creates a lacunae for the proposed study to examine the historical development of citizen participation by identifying the chronological steps undertaken by the colonial government to pave way for inclusivity of Africans in administration.

Maxon,(1994) further observes that after World war II , the colonial office in London sought to work towards decolonization of African empire. They wished to promote policies that would co-opt and incorporate African political systems that would eventually be modelled on that of Britain. This meant ditching indirect rule and its main beneficiaries, the colonial chiefs and accommodating the educated elite. At the same time, the colonial government sought to promote economic development and welfare in the colonies as a

major new initiative after the war (Throup,1988). The colonial office sought to foster democratization through a start of the local government level. In 1947, the colonial office issued a famous dispatch which placed emphasis on “the development of an efficient and democratic system of local government” where proficient management of local services would help to raise the standard of living where a place could be found for “the growing class of educated men”(Cell, 1980). The British government also sought to foster economic development and an increase in social welfare services through the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts (Cell, 1980). The colonial state also took a much more direct part in promoting rural development and much more direct part in promoting rural development and in the overall management of the economy. The colonial government set out to capture the peasantry through programs that emphasized crop and soil conservation techniques, better transportation and the inauguration of co-operatives as marketing mechanisms.

At independence, Kenya’s Constitution provided for a federal system of government, intended, as part to ensure that political power is decentralized where regional and local governments focus on the needs of the federal regions. The main essence of federal system was to ensure that different regions receive their equitable share of political influence and thus development. This was such that no group of regions would coalesce, obtain and maintain the veins of the centralized national government to the developmental advantage of the regions in power and to the developmental detriment of the excluded regions (Chieni,1999). In terms of development, in 1965, the government came up with an economic development blueprint and tabled the paper in parliament entitled “ African Socialism and its Application to Planning in Kenya,” more famously known as the

Sessional Paper No.10 of 1965. In this paper, the government outlined the measures for development of which the participation of the people comprised mainly of self-help initiatives in form of fundraising for local development (Republic of Kenya, 1965). No involvement in the policy making process was initiated as it was considered that the people were not learned enough to be able to appreciate the intricacies of policy analysis. Thus, peoples' participation in the governance of the country and localities was constrained to the electoral process where through universal suffrage, people elect the leaders of their choice and through the “*Harambee*” spirit they contributed funds for development and even got involved in the developmental activities of their area (Chieni, 1999).

In 1979, President Daniel Arap Moi launched a development plan focused on the theme, “alleviation of poverty” . The plan emphasized on an enabling environment for extensive participation to ensure that the welfare of every Kenyan is improved, decentralizing decision-making and the implementation process as to involve those upon whom plans affect directly (Thomas, 1980). Later on, in 1983, the government began an initiative called the District Focus for Rural Development (DFRD) aimed at changing the format for development planning from the top-down and sector based set up to the integrated, participatory and bottom-up format. The key practical plank of this plan was the District Development Committee (DDC) which was a consultative forum that came up with plans to co-ordinate the implementation of the district development plans (Ndii, 2010). Before the promulgation of the 2010 constitution of Kenya, citizen participation has largely comprised the ‘*Harambee*’ initiatives and the decentralized District Development Committees.

Public participation in Bungoma County is institutionalized and various organs are held responsible for promoting it in cognizance with the County Government Act. The Governor has the overall responsibility to lead, enable and report on public participation in the county. The governor executes this role through the various county departments and agencies and at all levels of the decentralized system, including sub-county, ward, village and urban centres. Section 30(3) (g) of the County Government Act stipulates that the governors shall promote and facilitate citizen participation in the development of policies, plans and service delivery in the county (Republic of Kenya, 2020).

1.9.5 Nature and Mechanisms of Citizen Participation

Scholars have argued in their works about different mechanisms or channels for public participation and how the effectiveness of these mechanisms can involve the citizens in decision-making with regard to matters that affect their lives. These mechanisms are said to be participatory mechanisms whereby Fung (2006) argued that, “they are used to enhance the legitimacy of public action, justice in public governance and effectiveness in the implementation of public decisions.” Nyalunga (2006) outlined mechanisms for public participation in local government which are direct or indirect advice and support, ward committees, traditional authorities and civil society organizations.

Around the world governance actors, analysts and activists are grappling with the issue of how best to engage citizens in government decision making especially its policy making processes. The reality is however, that currently citizen participation in policy making is primarily reduced to participation by the elite, organized civil society in the form of predominantly non-governmental organizations (NGOS), business and other interest groups

with access to resources. Crenson and Ginsberg (2002) refer to this monopoly of participatory processes by elite forces as ‘downsized’ democracy.

Participation mechanisms that are established to channel citizen input are not accessible to the majority population in societies characterized by inequality, particularly marginalized communities and sectors and therefore do not automatically benefit the poor people and groups that have long faced social exclusion (Manor, 2004). The question then, is how can mechanisms be developed to enable the poor and unorganized to influence policy making to build democratization with inclusion (Manor, 2004).

It is important to note that a system of good governance requires both the mechanisms of control and for the effective action. Openness and deliberation are to be valued, but they lose their lustre in a system that lacks the capacity to act with effective action (Dubnick and Romzek, 1991). Good governance requires the capacity to act and therefore bureaucracy and professional expertise are also central to good governance. The management context may vary and a particular organization form may change, but a large part of the daily work of government may be undertaken by full time professors, administrators and other employees (Hirschman, 1970).

The last three decades have seen a rise in citizen involvement in public affairs throughout the world, promoted by government and by organized groups of citizens interested in enforcing their rights or enriching the policy process and agenda. Three major arguments have been behind the increase in these types of initiatives. First, by involving citizens in the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies, it is argued that these policies will reflect better citizens’ needs and will be seen as more legitimate, which will

help to ensure their sustainability and effectiveness over time (Holder and Zakharchenko, 2002). Secondly, as a result of the democratic transition that many countries experienced since the 1970s there was a shift in the political paradigm, leading to a more mainstream acknowledgement that the decision-making process and the political space are not an exclusive area of the government, underscoring the need to involve other actors such as the civil society and the private sector in public affairs and the relevance to government accountability towards citizens (Huntington, 1991). Third, citizens' involvement in oversight and monitoring activities of the government ensures greater control and strengthens accountability (Holdar and Zakharchenko, 2002).

Citizens in Latin America are engaged in various participation initiatives that aim at achieving different goals. Citizen participation initiatives include: citizen consultations, participatory budgeting, local citizen councils and multi-actor dialogues. Citizens engage in policy decision in a number of different ways. From deciding what policies should be implemented and how to assess development priorities, influencing questions of how natural resources are used and making decisions about budgets and public spending, citizen participation initiatives facilitate public's involvement in a variety of policy questions (Wamper and McNulty, 2011). This reviewed literature will enrich the present study in terms of content as it provides a basis to ascertain participatory initiatives that leads to positive outcomes. Apart from enriching the study, it also provides a lacunae to interrogate the nature and mechanisms of citizen participation in decision making towards socioeconomic development in Bungoma District. The reviewed literature focuses on participatory initiatives geared towards improving the formulation and effectiveness of public policies and oversight of public policies and government spending thus concerned

about good governance. The present study envisages that grassroots participatory mechanisms will be able to capture the marginalized groups which the researcher will delve into.

Dube, *et al.*, (2002) in a study on ‘peace building through public participation mechanisms in local government in South Africa’, examined the transformative role of participatory processes and good governance played as peace-building mechanisms to achieve positive peace in the Mbizana Local Municipality. Findings revealed the existence of a weak public participation framework which relied upon the implementation of public consultations particularly via road shows on the infrastructure development plan and the municipal budget. Interaction with ward committees revealed that citizens yearn for a sustained communication channel with the municipality. It was also noted that public participation has been institutionalized through the Public Participation Unit (PPU). The literature provides a base for analysis of the nature of participation and participatory processes in the proposed study. However, Dube *et al.*, (2021) has only examined one participatory mechanism while identifying challenges associated with its application in peace building. This study tends to fill the lacunae by assessing the participatory mechanisms as institutionalized by the Constitution of Kenya (2010) and how they have been effectively used to engage citizens in decision making towards socioeconomic developments in Bungoma District. The study also deals with a wider region of Bungoma District as opposed to a smaller region dealt with in the literature reviewed.

Fourie (2001) examines mechanisms to improve citizen participation in government and its administration and points out a number of traditional mechanisms. These include: the introduction of user groups, liaison panels, public questions and answer occasions, forums

to improve planning decision making and policy implementation (Starling, 1992; Ball, 1995; Barnes *et al.*, 1996). He goes beyond traditional mechanisms and engages citizen responsibility in participation. Accepting citizen responsibility means that there should be co-operation between public administrators and citizens so that there can be joint action and joint responsibility (Thornhill and Hanekom, 1995). The researcher postulates that it is important to facilitate citizen involvement; enhance the education of citizens; stress the role of mentorship and support and enhance administrative capacity by equipping officials with the necessary skills to meet the demands of the citizens. He further pays attention to the issue of providing a valuable service close to the citizen, building partnership and trust by following certain strategies and lastly maintaining citizen enthusiasm for participation in the administration of the government. However, Fourie (2001) has only focused on how to improve and encourage citizen involvement in governance. He also highlights the traditional mechanisms but does not indicate how they have been effectively used by citizens. This proposed study intends to examine the institutionalized participatory mechanism and how they have effectively engaged citizens in decision making towards socioeconomic development in Bungoma District. The gap identified indicates the weakness in the institutionalized participatory structures which this study intends to examine.

Skenjana and Kimemia (2003) in their study on ‘existing mechanisms for public participation at local government level’, cites ward committee as the formal forums for citizen participation which are mainly established in local municipalities to enhance participatory democracy and to serve as advisory bodies to councilors. The main functions of the ward committees include advising the ward councilor on policy matters that affect

the ward; and community information to communities living in those wards. The mechanisms exist as the most broadly applied and accepted model for community participation in South Africa. They further discuss that, to ensure inclusive community participation through ward committee system, the Municipal Structures Act require that the formation of the ward committees should reflect the diversity of local interests and gender equity (Republic of South Africa 1998a). The Local Government Policy framework requires processes, mechanisms and procedures of public participation to take into consideration the special needs of the disadvantaged groups in society. They further show that a credible vindication resides in the levels of public participation in development planning processes at the local level. For instance, the introduction of the integrated development planning system in 2001 required that all municipal councils develop strategies for community involvement which include the Integrated Development Planning (IDP) Communication strategy, the community outreach programs and stakeholders' involvement strategy. These strategies would supposedly lead to significant improvement in the level of community involvement in general and in getting away from consultant driven approach planning and policy making. The literature reviewed points out institutionalized participatory processes that would encourage citizen participation and therefore laying a foundation for this study. In contrary the ward committees identified as a participatory mechanism only capture a few representatives of the citizens. More so, the strategies for community involvement proposed only seem to capture the elite society and ignore the marginalized. However, in this study, the researcher will delve into participatory mechanisms that capture all social classes of citizens up to the grassroots levels to ensure engagement in decision making towards socioeconomic development.

Friedman *et al.*, (2003) in his study on public participation found that communities do attend mass meetings in big numbers. The limitation, however was lack of discussion and deliberation as they were dominated by questions about the promises that are not realized.

In a study on “Dynamics of Public Participation in Local Government in South Africa,” Tshoose (2015) identifies several possibilities for re-engineering the present system of public participation in local government. Such possibilities would include recognizing existing community structures and spaces that could feed into the invited spaces provided by the government, for instance, community policing forums, ratepayers associations, traditional institutions, citizen assemblies and religious bodies. More so, educating citizens in order to participate actively in promoting their own developmental needs. In addition, he points out that the government should develop partnerships with non-governmental organizations that have been working in local communities on similar issues. Councilors in the local sphere should be assessed by the community representatives in terms of identified key deliverables, and political parties should be held accountable if they fail to deliver (Deacon and Piper, 2008).

Roberts (1997), contend that the governance process in which the community planning is combined with benchmarking and performance monitoring, is a vital link for reconnecting citizens through the participatory process and for developing a more visible measure of accountability. Communities and governmental organizations should engage residents and partner with them in all aspects of programming and policy-making in order to define performance standards and measures of success that will enhance public perception of accountability (Roberts, 1997). This would imply that if the government is developing a strategy to meet its constitutional obligation of realizing a specific socio-economic right,

it must engage with the community during decision making, planning, implementation and evaluation process (Ray, 2008). Leibenberg (1998) posits that for democracy to function efficiently, it must have the following ingredients; the notion of good governance must be the pillar of democracy; good governance and the agenda for its discourse have to entail good and properly functioning mechanisms for human rights protection; viable strategies for economic growth and wealth distribution and public participation (Rode, 2013; Liebenberg 1998; Henricks, 2014). In the literature reviewed, Tshoose (2015) examined the dynamics of public participation in local government where he highlighted the current emphasis on citizen and accountability initiatives. These is a clear proof that there is need to improve mechanisms for public participation for instance, municipalities must establish participation mechanisms that are accommodative of all kinds of people in their areas. These mechanisms must put into account the realities and disparities that exist amongst vulnerable and poor people. The researcher has dwelt much on citizen participation in relation to local governance but the proposed study will delve into the nexus between citizen participation and socioeconomic development in Bungoma District. It will also seek to question this concept critically in order to determine the nature and mechanisms of citizen participation in a bid to establish the reality of the implementation of citizen participation. It will therefore interrogate the formalized invited spaces and other alternatives available.

Ayodele and Abiodun (2016) in Nigeria identified the structure and mechanisms of public participation for local government planning and development with special attention accorded to the Makoko/Iwaya communities in Lagos State. Following an in-depth interaction with five Heads of Traditional Councils in these communities, they revealed

that “ face to face” participation mechanisms prevailed. On the other hand, the use of technology driven participation mechanisms was not often considered due to the realities that pervade the communities. They argue that, of course, technology driven participation require some level of literacy and relative availability of electricity to charge and recharge available mobile phones. The emergence of information technology was rapidly changing the dynamics of public participation and its potential impact on local planning (Ferraz de Abreu, 2002; Kingston, 2002; Hanzi, 2007, Twitchen and Adams,2011). The level of influence posed by information technology (IT) on public participation, however, varies from continent to continent. Despite this, the potentials of information technology in mobilizing the public to engage in local planning processes abound. For instance, technology-based tools provide strong support for democratic innovations through localized planning systems and participatory democracy (Twitchen and Adams, 2011). More so, their findings reveal that the commonly used participation mechanism is public hearing as practiced in these communities through town hall meetings and community stakeholders’ meetings. They reveal that three classes of experts have hard regular meetings with the communities using the town hall platform. These were the Nigerian Police, health officials and varying non-governmental organizations (NGOs). They argue that beyond the presence of citizens who are willing to participate in the town hall meetings, and the presentations made by the experts, this medium affords the people of these communities to speak out what they have in mind, whether it will further the course of the gathering or not. That, communities have varying associations such as Association of Artisans, Youth Movements and Landlords Association that attend town hall meeting on invitation. Equal representation by these associations increase the depth of opinion

polls in this type of gathering, put together for the purpose of local planning and development. The reviewed literature provides a base for the present study basing on the qualitative methodological approach implored. However, the researchers dealt with a narrow scope of participatory mechanisms and only used one category of respondents and therefore failed to capture a wider scope of participants thus eliminating citizens at grassroot levels. It therefore provides a gap which the proposed study will fill by interrogating the nature and mechanisms of citizen participation.

According to Oduor *et al.*, (2015), public participation can be done through local referenda, town hall meetings and visiting development project sites. Public Finance Management Act (2012) provides for citizen participation in public financial management in devolved governments in such areas as the formulation of the County Financial Strategy Papers (CFSPs), County Budget Estimates and County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs). Section 137 of PFM Act (2012) further provides for public participation through the county budget economic forum which has representatives nominated by various organizations. In a research by Oduor *et al.*, (2015) involving Isiolo, Kisumu, Makueni and Turkana Counties in Kenya established that decentralized structures for devolution were set up to Sub-County and County ward levels with administrators appointed for each. Through these structures, citizens are able to attend public forums for development projects. The study further revealed that citizen participation in the budgeting process was done mainly through public hearings in sub-counties. This literature only reveals that committees are put in place which are representatives of the larger population for citizen participation. Its limitations are that it may only capture the elite in society and marginalize the illiterate and poor who may not be able to voice their opinions. However,

this study will delve into the nature and participatory mechanisms that will capture grassroots citizens as they endeavor to make decisions towards socioeconomic development. Oduor *et al.*, (2015) further acknowledge that the public participate in legislature processes in counties in Kenya by contributing to county assembly bills. That the public in Kenya can directly participate in development programs, budget preparation, law and policy making. However, citizens report low levels of awareness on important county functions and documents, legal mechanisms and need for their public participation. Thus, there is limited direct public participation in County Governments in Kenya, (Kanyinga 2017; Papa 2016; Oduor, *et al.*, 2015; Wanjiru 2013).

Kelekye (2016), in her study on ‘determinants of citizen participation in devolved governance in Kenya’ reveals that public *barazas* was the only form of participation known to the participants in the old constitution that was enabled by coercive mobilization means applied by the provincial administrators. Participants suggested ways thought fit to participate in county governance which include: attending *barazas*, seminars organized by the County Government and choosing representatives to developmental committees. Other ways stipulated in the constitution include attending consultative meetings, inspections, and attending county parliamentary proceedings. It was indicated that people were not fully aware or knowledgeable on the responsibility of participation in the new constitution. The literature reveals that the researcher sought to find out the knowledgeability of the citizens about their participatory mechanisms or nature of participation. In contrary, this proposed study will examine participatory mechanisms put in place by the county government and how citizens have been effectively engaged in making decisions towards socioeconomic development in Bungoma District. This work

will fill the gap of interrogating the efficacy of institutionalized participatory mechanisms in relation to socioeconomic development.

Gitegi and Iravo (2016) studied ‘factors affecting public participation in Uasin Gishu County in Kenya.’ It was established that the County provides information to citizens regarding public participation, county budgets and development projects. Information disseminated via a county website, social media, radio, television, newspapers and public announcements therefore indicating that citizens obtained information about public participation forums through websites and other social media platforms, radio television and newspapers. Researchers established low levels of awareness on public participatory mechanisms. This literature reveals sources of dissemination of information about citizen engagement activities that only capture the elite society but delineates the illiterate and poor. The study does not go further to examine the participatory structures in the county that will engage the citizens. The proposed study will therefore delve into the interrogation of the nature and mechanisms of citizen engagement in relation to socioeconomic development in Bungoma District in an attempt to fill the identified lacunae.

However, from the literature reviewed, there is a general consensus that the nature and extent of participation contemplated by the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and the laws have not been achieved by either level of government and more specifically at the County levels. While a lot of public participation efforts have been made in both levels of government, there is no clarity on what constitutes adequate participation, the nature of the participation that meets the constitutional threshold or the most effective mechanisms for public participation. Studies on public participation is taking place in most of the processes in the devolved system of governance at both levels of government (IGRTC).

1.9.6 Role of Citizen Participation in Socioeconomic Development

Citizen participation is a global phenomenon and the international community encourages developing countries to involve people in development (Sidor, 2012). The United Nations, World Bank and other donors who fund development projects require participatory approach involving local communities. The need for bottom-up approach to the development is highly appreciative in creating sustainable development. Bottom-up approach to decision-making and implementation of development projects is better than top-down (Sidor, 2012). Bottom-up approach makes people close to the development activities.

Citizen participation in decision-making process is one of the most important aspect of a democratic process. Major elements of democracy are participation and involvement of people in matters that affect their life. Community participation is likely to be effective depending on its representativeness, independency, earlier involvement of stakeholders, level of influence and transparency in decision making process (Baum 1999; Nampila, 2005). When people are not involved in development projects, they are likely to oppose or boycott them. A good example is the house project in Khayelitsha in South Africa where commercial banks decided to build houses and loan them to poor Africans without involving the people in the project design and implementation (Tadesse, *et al.*, 2005)

Citizen participation enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of government policies and services. Government should intend to involve citizens at every stage of every government initiative in the community. Ultimately the responsible government ensures that citizens

understand and actively consider the policy options presented to society. This can improve the efficiency of policies created during the implementation of the project. Sidor (2012), argues that the main goal of the authorities involving citizens is to improve the quality of decision making and service. The objective of public participation is to build credibility with the affected parties, facilitators and end-users of projects. Additionally, identifying public concerns and values, developing consensus among parties of interest, users and tax payers. The process upon fulfilment offsets government citizen conflict arising from marginalization, misappropriation of public resources and missing priorities by the government. According to Devas and Grant (2003), citizens know and are more confident about what they want from the government and therefore need to be involved in government decision making.

Various writers and theorists of participation provide some criteria to evaluate the level of people's participation in development projects. Rowe and Frewer (2000) suggest two criteria to evaluate public participation process. The first criteria is representativeness and recommend that people's participation must represent sample of the affected population. Independence is another criterion which simply means that people should participate in development processes willingly without force from external and not depend much from outsiders. Earlier involvement recommends that people should be involved in development projects from early stages ie planning and design processes. On influence, people must have influence of the leaders during the planning and implementation.

Muro and Namusonge (2015) argue that if it is of the fact that if community members are not effectively involved or not engaged in development works, the consequences are poor socioeconomic wellbeing with increasing levels of poverty. Effective participation

involves peoples' concerns in analysis, decision making, planning and program implementation as well as in the activities without the involvement of external agencies. Involving local people in planning can increase their commitment to the program and it can help them to develop appropriate skills and knowledge to identify and solve problems of their own (Muro and Namusonge, 2015). It also helps to increase the resources available for the program, promote self-help and self-reliance and improves trust and partnership between the community and leaders, they add. They further argue that if you involve the local community in a program that is developed for them, they will gain from these benefits and develop a sense of ownership. Gitegi and Iravo (2016), argue that public participation in governance is a concept that is highly embraced by most democracies in their world, basically seen as the epitome and measure of effective governance and that experience has shown that public participation strengthens democracy and governance; increases accountability; improves process quality and results in better decisions; manages social conflicts and enhances process legitimacy (Gitegi and Iravo, 2016). These studies explicitly explored the significance of citizen involvement in decision making and further exacerbated on the positive outcomes of citizen engagement ranging from developing a sense of ownership, promoting self-help and self-reliance to good governance and legitimacy. The studies only give a glimpse on the role of citizen engagement in decision making towards social economic development. However, its strength is that it provides a basis on which the present study will build on to fill the lacunae by conducting an in-depth exploration of the role of citizens in decision making towards socio-economic development in Bungoma District.

Mosses and Iravo (2015) on the other hand argue that, citizen participation means that citizens are part and parcel of what happens in their society or country and that the citizens are part of the decision-making process on matters that affect them. Communication is a two-way consultative process namely bottom-up and top-bottom which has to take place before any decision is reached; and citizen participation is one of the vital and indispensable pillars/ principles or rather tenet of a democratic government. Myers and Hirsch (1999), view community participation as an active process by which client groups or beneficiaries influence the direction and execution of the development program with a view of enhancing their well-being in terms of income, personal growth, self-reliance, spiritual development and other values they cherish. The community only plays a role to influence the direction of the leaders of development programs. The notion of community participation in international development discourse commonly used to refer to the involvement of local people in decision making process and evaluation of development projects as well as implementation.

Murebwayire (2021) studied on “ the role of citizen participation in planning process for local economic development in Rwanda”. The study reveals that residents are aware of planning and budgeting processes and have also contributed in the priority identification. That the gap between the level of awareness and participation is explained by the facts that some of the channels for awareness do not allow participation or it is not free of cost if they allow. For instance, radio and television are the channels that informed most of the citizens about the process. However, participation in priority identification over radio and television requires telephone calls which involves costs to the citizens and reduces their ability to participate. Findings also indicate that proper civic education on the importance

of taxes in district development improves citizen's awareness and citizen responsibility which in turn increases revenue collection due to reduction of tax avoidance and tax evasion behaviors among citizens. Murebwayire (2021), further argues that participation of citizens in planning have a positive bearing on performance contracts preparation through which citizens improve ownership of policies and programs pursued by the government and supports home-grown solutions. Additionally, implementation of performance contract has positive implication on social equity and inclusiveness. However, this study dealt with citizen awareness in the process of budgeting and planning, identification of priorities, implementation of priorities identified by citizens and contribution of citizen participation on District Revenue Performance and Citizen Participation on Local Government Performance Contract using quantitative research design. However, the researcher was only limited to a few aspects and did not explore the role of citizens in decision making towards socioeconomic development. This study will delve into an in-depth and qualitative discussion about the role of citizens at grassroots levels in decision making towards socioeconomic development in Bungoma District.

In Uganda, community participation in primary school's development began soon after independence in 1963. During the colonial period, the provision of primary school education was the role of the religious institutions. The missionaries were the major providers of primary education in the Country and aimed at converting large numbers of Africans to Christianity (Passi, 1999). The Government of Uganda after independence realized that the majority of the population failed to have access to primary education. Therefore, in 1963, the government established its own administrative machinery and School Management Committee (SMC) to manage primary education. The government

influenced people and the community to participate in primary school development. In order to ensure effective community participation in school development, the government established Parents-Teachers Association (P.T.A). The government assisted primary school education through Capital Development Grants (CDGs) to cover the costs of erecting buildings, payments of teachers' salaries, buying furniture and equipment (Passi, 1999).

Ebuku (2016), in his study on the “ role of community participation on socioeconomic development in Serere District in Eastern Uganda” revealed that participation of the people is vital in any development programs and perhaps important to the locals since they were willing to actively participate in any development programs. It was also established that whatever people got involved in benefited them directly, but were always negative upon development programs that were dictated on them. Ebuku (2016), posits that health, school and water projects attracted the highest level of participation. The researcher concluded that decentralization of resources through community involvement was an effective tool in alleviating poverty in rural areas. However, more benefits could be realized by increasing awareness on the importance of development projects. A significant relationship between individual and household level of participation and its corresponding socio-economic status translated to community satisfaction with community participation / bottom-up approach to development. The research study cited out that the most development programs that were successful were from non-governmental organizations due to the fact that NGOs take their time investigating people's needs and challenges them also employ various techniques of ensuring that communities, people or beneficiaries get involved in the program. Ebuku (2016), derives

the fact that a strong relationship exists between community participation and socio-economic development and thus community participation plays a significant role in development. Participation of community in development projects leads to capacity building which enables the community to be more effective and efficient in the process of identifying, implementing, monitoring and evaluating of developmental projects. (David, *et al.*, 2009). The researcher dealt with how the civil societies and non-governmental organizations engaged the community in deciding on the most appropriate development projects. It also explored the significance or outcome of citizen involvement in community development projects but dealt less on the role played by citizens in decision making towards socio-economic development which this study will delve into.

Gathu (2014) analyzed the impact of devolution on economic development potentiality in Kenya using comparative case analysis with studies from Brazil. The adopted research design was library based, where different materials including books, journals, magazines, newspapers and other electronic sources were analyzed. The study found that devolution contributed to improved economic development in Kenya. The study however, recommended that constitutional provisions should be followed to the latter to ensure success of devolution. The study however, had weaknesses, its research design was library based which most likely led to unclear findings and hence incorrect generalizations which cannot be applied in the Kenyan context. It therefore provides a lacunae for the present study to apply a descriptive research design using qualitative methods to interrogate the role of citizen participation in socio-economic development in Bungoma District. More so, the study dealt with devolution as the independent variable in relation to socio-

economic development but the present study seeks to interrogate the concept of citizen participation in relation to socioeconomic development.

Wamugu and Ogolla (2017) investigated the role of stakeholders' participation on performance of Constituency Development Funds (CDF) projects in a case study of Mathira East Constituency. The study's main objective was to establish the role of stakeholder's participation on performance projects. The study used descriptive research design and quantitative and qualitative data collected and analyzed by descriptive and inferential statistics. The study concluded that stakeholder participation especially at the project initiation stage enhances project performance and therefore recommended for a strengthened stakeholder participation. Wamugu and Ogolla (2017), study had significant strength particularly the research design used was most appropriate in achieving the objectives and also the findings were more detailed and clearer. However, the study only concentrated on the elite in society and failed to recognize the role of the citizens at grassroot levels. This proposed study will fill the gap by capturing the significant role played by the local citizens in socioeconomic development in Bungoma District since 1960.

Mutinda (2019) studied on "public participation and accountability systems in development projects implemented by Kitui County Government". The study adopted a descriptive research design and utilized both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. The study revealed that public participation was at a very low index performance which cannot guarantee success of devolution and hence achievement of socioeconomic development as envisaged might be a toll order. The study also found that the methods of participation mostly were non-participatory where participation is done

purely for conformity and views of citizens were not considered at all, and where the government officials were the key decision makers. On accountability, the study found that the level of adherence to accountability system was low at 58.73 percent. The study's strength is its methodological approach that provides a basis for the present study. The researcher does not identify the role played by citizens as much as he points out the non-participatory mechanisms as envisaged in Arnstein's ladder of participation. It therefore provides a lacunae for the present study to delve into the role played by citizens in decision making towards the achievement of socioeconomic development.

1.9.7 Challenges and Opportunities of Citizen Participation

Chambers (1998) observes that the necessary starting point of a process of participation that brings sustainability is social inquiry and analysis undertaken by the people themselves. In essence, people need to understand the social reality in which they live, before they venture to act on it to change it. Dudley (1993) adds that to improve the quality of the action, it is essential to listen to the intended beneficiaries during problem identification. Cook and Kothari (2002) focused on the sorts of issues that arise when complex and highly contextual concepts like "Community empowerment" and capacity for "collective action" are translated to the needs of the development projects that are on tight timelines. In such contexts, they note that project implementation whose own initiatives are often poorly aligned with the needs of the projects may choose to gloss over differences within target groups that underscores local power structures and to short change the difficult and more time intensive tasks of institution building in favor of more easily deliverable and measurable outcomes. For sustainability to be realized, community participation needs to be incorporated in all stages of the project cycle, not injected after

the main decisions on local level project activities have been taken by other stakeholders (Hentschel, 1986). The argument in the literature point out why it is necessary to involve the community and criticize project implementers who initiate projects that are not aligned with the community's needs but do not show why citizens are alienated from participation. To fill the gap, this study will critically examine the challenges and opportunities associated with citizen participation that place the elite at the top while alienating the common people in decision making towards socioeconomic developments.

Hugo and Thompson (1995) observe that involving beneficiaries in planning is quite challenging and that all too often planners and policy makers hear only what they want to and adopt methods of listening which ignore the more challenging or awkward views and testimonies. Chambers (1998) adds that most agencies only offer passive participation where the intended beneficiaries are only informed about decision already taken to change their lives. Yet genuine participation should allow people to become agents and not just objects of the development process (Hugo,1995). Chambers (1983) agrees with this argument when he notes that the poorest sections of the community such as women, disabled, the old and the poor are always excluded from planning, thereby their interests are not catered for by development projects. He says that they are often inconspicuous, inarticulate and unorganized, their voices may not be heard at public meetings in communities where it is customary for only the big men to present their views.

Strachan and Peters (1997) add that unless the whole community is consulted and involved in the planning and development activities, it is hard for people to feel a development activity, it is hard for people to feel a sense of ownership. Evade (1995) supplements by asserting that the development projects will have little impact and may not even reach

their most important objectives unless they are participative. In the field of health care, improvements in health require the involvement of communities as active partners rather than as passive recipients (Green, 1994). However, he argues that merely contributing resources by the community does not necessarily imply that the community will have ownership over the project. Yet the notion that all intended beneficiaries are necessarily either interested in decision about project activities or have all the free time and energy to attend meetings or donate labour and other resources is again naïve.

Alesina and La Ferrara (2000) examine the role of heterogeneity on participation using survey data on group membership in the United States as well as data on US localities. They found that participation in social activities is significantly lower in more economically unequal or more racially and ethnically fragmented societies. The researchers also show that heterogeneity has the most significant impact on participation in groups where excludability is low and significant interaction among members is necessary. In a similar study, La Ferrara (1999), looks at the role of inequality on group participation in any group. In addition, she reports that groups in more unequal communities were less likely to take decisions by vote and more likely to report misuse of funds. The literature reviewed reveal heterogeneity and inequality on the basis of socioeconomic status and racial or ethnic fragmentation amongst groups that affect participation in social activities. More emphasis is put on engagement in social activities. However, the study provides a lacuna for the proposed research to examine how these factors pose a challenge to citizen participation by alienating them from undertaking participatory activities in decision making towards socioeconomic developments. The researcher will further interrogate how the social structure in Bungoma District affects

citizen participation. At the same time, it will delve into opportunities for citizen participation that have not been interrogated in the reviewed study.

Citizens' perceived level of influence in public decision making has been used to describe their level of participation in the government's decision-making process, with low levels of participation being attributed to a low perception by citizens of their influence in the governance process (Schlozman, *et al.*, 2012). According to McComas (2003), citizen desire to engage in public participation was associated with the perceptions that their ideas would have some influence on the decision-making process. These findings are consistent with those of Williamson and Scicchitano (2014), whose results showed that citizens would not attend public meetings if their input was not appreciated and was not incorporated into decision making.

Leighley (1995), criticizes the 'standard socioeconomic model' of political participation which emphasizes that a citizen's socioeconomic status and civic orientation are key predictor of participation. The model posits that an individual with higher socioeconomic status has a much higher likelihood of participation than others. Leighley (1995) critiques this view and argues that it ignores the role that mobilization plays in public participation. Furthermore, the model considers the wealthy and the elite in society for participation and ignores the marginalized like the poor and the illiterate. However, this literature presents a gap to examine socioeconomic status as a challenge to citizen participation which has not been addressed in the model.

Beyle (1968) and Mbithi, *et al.*, (2018) measured institutional determinants of public participation by examining gubernatorial performance and vested power. They contend

that a good institutional indicator of public participation lies in the governor's performance and willingness to place certain legislative powers and also support mechanisms that would lead to more and better public participation initiatives in their jurisdictions. Beyle (1968) and Mbithi *et al.*, (2018) only reveal that good performance of the governor is an indicator of citizen participation but does not show how non-performance can keep off citizens from engaging in governance processes. This proposed study will fill the gap by interrogating how non-performance of the governor and other leaders will affect citizen participation in decision making towards socioeconomic development in Bungoma District. Herina (2011) argues that professionalism on the part of the governor may lead to professionalism in local institutions and therefore to more open citizen participation.

Berry *et al.*, (1993) contend that political culture influences public participation. They find that a strong motivation to achieve successful participation and ensuring that the participation process is devoid of partisan politics about a high level of public engagement. Their findings are reinforced by Fagatto and Fung (2009) who note that public participation is successful when those who hold participatory meetings have political authority and use the input to address citizen's needs through good performance. Further, Nabatachi and Amsler (2014), observe that political culture may be affected by the degree of professionalism of elected officials and citizens' participation of the government. The researchers reveal that political culture is a strong motivation to public engagement in governance especially when it is accompanied by good performance of the leaders. However, they do not examine how it may be detrimental to citizen engagement. Citizens' political affiliations determine their decisions towards positive socioeconomic

development which at times may be negative and thus pose a challenge to the whole process. This study will therefore examine how political culture and political affiliations of citizens pose a threat to meaningful citizen participation towards socioeconomic development.

Adamson (2010) identified major barriers to the achievement of community empowerment, which include low level of community capacity; lack of capacity of local authorities to work in community sensitive ways; local authorities reported considerable human resource difficulties in supporting attendance at partnership board meetings; institutionalized resistance in relation to community empowerment; perception gap between community members and statutory service providers in the partnership context and authoritarian of local government members. Khalifa (2011) studied the planning process with participation in some of the West Bank novelty municipalities in Palestine. He highlighted some challenges which faced participation in the planning process such as political participation, lack of resources and tribalism. He further indicated dominance of the municipality administration, community's misunderstanding of the planning process, poor organization and political affiliations poses a challenge to citizen participation.

The literature analyzing public participation suggest that participatory processes and systems in South Africa lack transformative qualities and are marred by a mixture of neglect, lack of service delivery, corruption, infrequent feedback, limited involvement and inexperience on the part of planners and officials (Lues, 2014; Tsheola *et al.*, 2014; Mubangazi and Gray, 2011; Booysen, 2009). Access to information for instance is said to be inadequate and uneven as are the capacities of citizens and officials to understand the technical format in which information is presented (Houston, 2001). The participation

that does occur tends to be brief, in the shape of sporadic inputs that decorate particular stages of planning and programming cycles. When they do, feedbacks are perfunctory (Friedman, 2006). Commentators have questioned the gravity with which public participation is being embraced in local government practice (Buccus and Kick, 2006; Mathekga, 2006). The emphasis, they argue, is placed on meeting various performance targets and service delivery requirements, with public participation featuring as an appendage to those priorities. In the local sphere, municipal officials tend to act as gatekeepers and controllers rather than as facilitative bodies that enable communities to have a greater voice and control over resources and resource allocation. The municipalities are accused of being either unwilling or unable to share the decision-making power with communities, especially in relation to project identification. Mechanisms are mainly geared towards seeking communities' input into already formulated policy responses. The perception amongst members of the community is that public participation, if and when it occurs, involves the presentation of pre-determined positions and programs for limited feedback or information sharing only (Buccus and Hicks, 2006). On the contrary when community inputs are solicited, it is often accompanied by poor facilitation of the participatory process. It is deduced that the key to effective participation can be determined by the willingness on the part of the government to be accessible to citizens and the poor in general (Naidoo, 2003; Atkinson, 2002). The poor cannot gain a voice through structured participation forums because they are usually disorganized and they lack the capacity to participate in grassroots survivalist organizations because the government does not provide participatory spaces in which they will be free to express themselves (Friedman, 2006). The above literature reviewed strengthens the present study

as the researchers have identified the challenges associated with citizen participation ranging from poor organizational skills to alienation of the citizenry especially at the grassroots levels in terms of their views and opinions and even provision of favorable participatory forums. It therefore, lays a foundation on which the present study will build on in interrogating the challenges affecting citizen participation towards decision making in socioeconomic development. However, on the contrary, it presents a lacunae to establish the opportunities available for citizen participation, an aspect that was not captured in the reviewed study.

In a study done in Rwanda on the influence of citizen participation on performance of socioeconomic development projects, it confirmed the existence of citizen participation in deciding on how the problem of drought in their area was to be solved. Implementation of at least one of the activities of the project and the channel through which to report the challenges encountered by the projects positively influenced the performance of socioeconomic projects (Karenzi *et al.*, 2019). These findings emphasize that citizen participation was critical for performance of socioeconomic development projects in Rwanda, and that it helps to create a sense of ownership of the projects within the citizenry, helps increase productivity, develops a culture of problem solving and further the citizens' knowledge with respect to monitoring and evaluation of socioeconomic development projects (Karenzi, *et al.*, 2019). Literature reviewed reveals that citizen participation play a fundamental role in socioeconomic development by revealing the benefits of citizen participation which include creating a sense of ownership, increase productivity among others. However, it does not reveal that there are challenges associated with the whole process which this proposed study intends to delve into.

Furthermore, it confirmed statistically that citizen participation has significantly influenced performance through activities which makes planning, management and implementation of project plans easy precisely because of a sense of ownership developed (Karenzi, *et al.*, 2019). However, the researchers do not reveal the inclusivity of the diverse population regardless of the socioeconomic status which this study will interrogate while identifying the challenges associated with it.

Kilewo and Frumence (2015), in their study on community participation in developing and implementing Comprehensive Council Health Plan (CCHP) in Tanzania, reveal that lack of awareness among citizens, lack of awareness on the role and responsibilities of Health Facility Governing Committee (HFGC), lack of management capacity of members of HFGC and lack of financial resources for HFGC activities in their respective areas culminate to undermine community participation. Similar to other studies reviewed, researchers have based on the weaknesses or challenges emanating from the organizational structures and how they have hampered community participation. The study is also confirmed to one social project which does not give an adequate representation or generalization of diverse socioeconomic projects. This study will therefore delve into an in-depth interrogation of organizational, attitudinal and community challenges of citizen participation in decision making towards socioeconomic developments in Bungoma District.

Pennington *et al.*, (2009) concluded that the participation challenges include the limited support from city staff, lack of suitable funding diversity with the community and the traditional hierarchical decision making. Foot (2009) mentioned community culture, organizational structures, lack of information, lack of respect for community

representatives, time shortage, lack of obvious changes or learning and lack of skills in engagement of local governments representatives as community participation challenges.

In a study done by Omunu (2008) on the “challenges of community participation in development projects in Uganda” observes that communities are not well oriented to understand the objectives of the projects and their stake in ensuring that, the project takes off or achieves a common goal. Their response and participation therefore become reactive and not sustainable. At implementation level, communities are made to imagine that they are toeing a line planned to benefit the donor and that they are passive beneficiaries. During project evaluation, communities imagine that they are being judged. The well-intentioned strictness to follow the formal rules of accountability within an informal rule of accountability within an informal community leads to failure to understand the values and attitudes of the community in which the project is new and foreign. The author identifies the weaknesses in the organizational structures towards citizen participation but does not interrogate the issue within the community itself that contribute to passive participation which this study will attempt to interrogate.

Hao, *et al.*, (2022), in their research study on ‘Enhancing Public Participation for Sustainable Development in Bungoma County’ conclude that, in governance and for long-term socio-economic development, holistic citizen participation is unavoidable. Citizens gain platforms to present development proposals based on their socioeconomic and geographical needs while the government gains insights and information to support feasible long run sociopolitical and economic environments. In Kenya, such stability between the public and the government appears to be imperfectly orchestrated, with a lack of a centralized system of citizen needful service delivery, imprudent accountability of

public resources and their utility, skewed policy program priorities and imperfect governance structures and institutions, among other things. They argue that the integration of public participation is that such public policy processes appears to have been underemphasized. Furthermore, there appears to be little information in the public domain about citizens' important role in government programs. The findings revealed that non-existent government structures have weakened citizen participation, negatively affecting development sustainability, and that factors such as, public awareness and willingness to participate in public decision making play a significant role in determining the extent to which people are involved in public decision-making

1.9.8 Impact of Citizen Participation on Socioeconomic Development

One of the key objectives of participation is to incorporate local knowledge and preferences into the decision-making processes of governments, private providers, civil societies, communities and donor agencies. When potential beneficiaries are able to make key decisions, participation becomes self-initiated action also known as “exercise of voice and choice” or “empowerment.” Participation is expected to lead better designed policies and development projects, more effective service delivery and improvement in the targeting of benefits. It also enhances social cohesion because communities recognize the value of working in partnership with each other (Chauya, 2015).

Community participation is mostly applied as one of the key ingredients for poverty reduction. Indeed, intention of community participation in development policy and practice is to promote the active engagement of individuals working in collectives to

change problematic conditions as well as influence policies and programs that affect the quality of their lives or the lives of others (Mansuri, and Rao, 2003). In other words, community participation helps to develop people's capacities or abilities to recognize and improve their inherent potential and provides them with opportunities to influence and share power ie power to decide and to gain some control over their lives (Samah and Aref, 2011)

One of the avenues of dealing with the challenges of poverty and unemployment; and with similar challenges therefore has been the need to invest in socioeconomic projects. They are expected to empower the communities by providing them with employment and help alleviate poverty (Rutherford, 2000). They contribute to socioeconomic development which is a process of social and economic development in a society, measured by indicators such as life expectancy, literacy levels and levels of employment. Changes in less tangible factors, such as personal dignity, personal safety and freedom from fear of physical harm, as well as the extent of participation in civil society are also considered (Rutherford, 2000). One of the critical challenges today, however is how citizens can participate to ensure that investments made in socioeconomic projects translate into wellbeing for the population. Key factors in confronting the challenge include existence of governance and citizen participation that impact on society's social and economic development process (Bingham, *et al.*, 2005). The literature reviewed is significant to this study since it gives a glimpse of the impact of citizen participation on socioeconomic development by pointing out indicators such as life expectancy, literacy and employment. It will therefore enrich the present study in terms of content. However, it has only mentioned a few indicators which provides a gap for the proposed study to interrogate

other indicators of socioeconomic development as a result of citizen participation in Bungoma District since 1960.

Delli Carpini, Cook and Jacobs (2004) published a review article in the *Annual Review of Political Science* which reviewed the empirical research bearing on the theoretical expectations of public deliberation and its contributions to citizen engagement. The focus on this review was on the role of a particular participation process thus public deliberation on citizen participation and general public outcomes primarily, and on political decision-making outcomes secondarily. The review takes a theory-based approach to evaluation in its assessment on several theorized benefits of public deliberation. They postulate that citizens become more engaged and active in civic affairs and citizen tolerance for opposing viewpoints. It also improves citizen understanding and ability to justify their preferences. More so, political decisions will be more considered and informed and faith in democratic processes enhanced. They also argue that, community social capital will increase through deliberative experiences and legitimacy of the government will increase as people have a say in and better understand of its workings. However, the overarching question guiding their review was, “What is the impact of discursive participation and public deliberation on civic engagement?” The major conclusion was that the impact of deliberation is highly context dependent. It varies with the purpose of deliberation, the subject under discussion, who participates, the connection to authoritative decision makers, the rules governing interactions, the information provided, prior beliefs, substantive outcomes and real-world conditions. As a result, although the research summarized demonstrated numerous positive benefits of deliberation, under less optimal

circumstances it can be ineffective at best and counter-productive at worst (Delli, Carpin, Cook and Jacobs, 2004).

Mansbridge (1983) in her study where she employed direct observation of deliberation in combination with in-depth interviews with participants concluded that deliberation can take different forms depending on both the nature of the issue under discussion and the makeup of the group. More so, that processes where consensus is sought are most effective when participants share underlying common interests and social bonds and when there is an identifiable solution. That citizen satisfaction depends heavily on choosing the correct model for the issue and groups involved. From the work of Gastil (2000), who carried out a number of case studies of 'real world' deliberative initiatives including qualitative research on the Kettering Foundation's National Issues Forums, it was revealed that long-term deliberative processes can produce priorities and solutions that are acted upon by local policy makers; deliberation develop coherent collective interests and strong bonds among citizens.

Other studies of real- world deliberative initiative have produced more negative findings about deliberation impacts. For example, Berry's (1993) study of efforts to increase citizen involvement in policy decisions in five us cities revealed a failure to increase participation rates. Other studies have reported intense feelings of dissatisfaction and frustration among participants in these types of processes (Mendelberg and Oleske,2000). These findings suggest that the impact of deliberation is complex and context dependent and does not assure either citizens satisfaction or government responsiveness. However, there is a remarkable degree of convergence in public participation literature reviewed above about the need for more rigorous study in the impact of citizen participation on

socioeconomic development. The study fails to produce research evidence on the benefits of citizen participation in decision making towards development that will inspire or inform subsequent public involvement processes. It has only dealt with social and psychological benefits or impact in relation to participation deliberation but does not deal with findings on socio-economic development which this proposed study intends to fill the gap by interrogating the social, economic and political impact of citizen participation towards socio-economic development in Bungoma District since 1960.

Murombo (2008), in his study on, “ Beyond Participation the Disjuncture between South Africa’s Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Law and Sustainable Development” critically analyzed public participation provisions in the environmental impact assessment (NEMA EIA) regulations with specific reference to the extent to which they create more space for effective and informed participation. He argues that sustainable development may not be achieved without sustained and legally mandated efforts to ensure that development planning is participatory. Public participation allows for the integration of the socio-economic impact of a project into the environmental decisions in the NEMA EIA regulations governing public participation illustrate a disjuncture between the regulatory framework and the idea of sustainable development as enshrined in South Africa environmental laws. The author shows that while there is a connection between sustainability and EIA on the one hand and the notion of public participation on the other, such a connection must be reinforced by clearly defined legal provisions. Murombo (2008) establishes the connection between EIA as a strategy for the implementation of integrated environmental management and public participation. He poses the following questions; does the involvement of members of the public necessarily make the

development process that they are engaged in sustainable? If not, why then is public engagement necessary? It is submitted that the concept of sustainable development focuses on the needs of the people and the need to limit development to sustainable levels. He argues that, to understand the needs and to properly determine whether a given project meets the needs of any generation, it is important for the opinions of that generation to be heard. More importantly, public engagement brings with accountability and transparency, qualities that may make it difficult for project proponents to externalize the environmental costs of development activities. Public scrutiny can lead to good decisions and therefore sustainable development. This assumes that the level and degree of participation is of a certain quality and depth. Thus, EIA as a technique of implementing sustainable development is one of the effective frameworks within which public participation in environmental decision making can take place (Barton, 2002).

Murombo (2008) concludes that the theory of public participation, which is currently focused on notice and comment procedures, must give way to an announced and sustained participatory framework, which ensures that the public participates from the early stages of project design and also after authorization. He elaborates on the inevitable complementary nexus that exist between a participatory environmental decision-making process and the achievement of sustainable development. Sustainability is ultimately measured by reference to what the citizens or public consider to be sustainable given their social, economic and political circumstances before and after project implementation. However, all too often the propensity for project proponents and government departments is to presume to know what is sustainable and therefore in the best interest of the citizens. In the reviewed literature, the author gives a discourse on public participation impact on

socioeconomic development in relation to environmental decision-making process as enshrined in the South Africa's legal provisions. This literature strengthens the present study as it avers that there is a connection between good decision making and sustainable development and Environmental Impact Assessment as a technique of implementing sustainable development is one of the effective frameworks within which public participation can take place. On the other hand, it provides a lacunae to interrogate the social, economic and political impact of citizen participation on socioeconomic development in Bungoma District, an aspect that has not been captured in the reviewed literature.

Towah (2019) studied "the impact of good governance and stability on sustainable development in Ghana" where he conducted a thematic analysis of the data and generated three primary thematic labels that were critical to the central question under study. The primary themes were active governance, effective governance and fair governance. He argues that an active governance anticipates and responds to the needs of its citizens and evolving development challenges with deliberate targeted and proactive planning and delivery which is essential to getting the business of development done. It also requires public administration that can collect revenues honestly; allocate and invest public funds wisely; and manage public goods including land and natural resources for the benefit of all. The national development initiatives in Ghana have created major impact and pushed for sustainable development. The researcher posits that, Ghana provided an enabling environment for its citizens to take part in decision making, ensuring that they actively participate in the policy decision making that impacts their lives. He established that the inclusivity allowed the public to access services as and when needed. In cognizant of the

objective of the present study, the authors postulate that the inclusion of citizens in decision making impacts on sustainable development. Furthermore, the author points out how active governance builds trust amongst the citizens who then promote sustainable development. He argues that effective governance is a prerequisite for establishing the integrated policy making capacity that is needed to drive sustainable development. That, a sustainable development response to the complex and interlinked challenges that countries face today demands policy making that views economic growth, social development, poverty reduction, equity and sustainability, not as competing goals to be traded off against each other; but as interconnected objectives which are most effectively pursued together. Effective governance has helped the country to focus on three main pillars; economic, social and environmental sustainability (Dery, 2014). It is further postulated in the study that fair governance matters to sustainable development because it holds the key to building stable and secure societies and driving inclusive growth within the finite boundaries of our planet. Fair, accountable and reliable governing institutions build trust between government and the people; institutions need to be free of corruption. The public should also be meaningfully engaged in governance and citizens should be allowed to participate in shaping the decisions that impact them. The author further postulates that the reasonable level of democracy in Ghana has resulted in a relatively lower level of corruption compared to the other countries in the sub-region, with the country being ranked as the seventh least corrupt nation in Africa (Meres, 2017).

The Ghanaian case indicates that there is good governance. No society can achieve sustainability, stability and progress unless and until good governance practices guaranteed by democratic values are cultivated (Alliance for Development 2014.)

Sustainability allows for effective use of resources leading to futuristic planning such that resources are used while considering future generations and economic performance (Werlin, 2005). The findings indicate that, assessing Ghana using the main indicators of education (i.e basic literacy rate), health (i.e reduced mortality rate) and economic performance (i.e increased per capita income), the good governance policy environment has enabled the nation to make impressive achievements. The literature reviewed provides a gap for the present study in the sense that the author interrogated the independent variable of good governance in relation to sustainable development, but the proposed study will delve into interrogating the objective of the impact of citizen participation as it attempts to establish the nexus between citizen participation and socioeconomic development in Bungoma District since 1960. The author employed both qualitative and quantitative research methods which is a strength of the study.

Zogeye and Nuwatuhaire (2020) in their research on “Success of Community Participation in Development Planning for Socio-economic Transformation in Rwanda, Gakenke District” posits that the people are told what to do and to approve during local meeting and yet development process should put into account the primacy of the people, that is, participatory development must be consciously based on people, their needs, their analysis of issues and decisions. In the same spirit, people should move from being objects to become subjects. Sethi (1987) stresses that conventional modes of rural development, explicitly or implicitly, treat people as objects of change and the relation the development agent and the people often take the form of a subject acting upon an object (rural) people who have been told what to do. The outcome is a delivery approach that is an attempt to bring development to people through delivery of knowledge and resources from outside.

They show that when the district development strategy is approved by incorporating some minor inputs from the community, there is no feeling of ownership of community to the strategy. The overall process thus can practically be referred to as non-participatory in nature, as merely priorities from the community are not incorporated in the district strategy due to budget, time constraints or more visible projects (physical construction, for example) preferred by local governments in place of needs of citizens which are sometimes not visible. Therefore, this kind of community participation is often used as a word of fantasy wherein the community has no role to play unless and until a comprehensive detailed plan is prepared by the development authority. Findings further revealed that , low community participation accelerates poverty rate because when more local needs are valued and prioritized more local conditions are improved. People's engagement in the development planning and implementation of policy can help to generate a highlighted sense of public value for what government does. In the same line, Boeninger (1992) stress that: “ the involvement of citizen's in development planning and implementation enables the formulation of realistic plans that are in line with local circumstances and conditions.” In the same view, Vandama and Poter added, “ People have the right to participate in decision making which directly affects their living conditions. Social development can be promoted by increasing self-reliance”. In other words, without people's involvement, the wellbeing of people is not enhanced, thus poverty persists.

Regarding the relationship between community participation in development planning process and poverty reduction, a number of respondents recognized that strong

community involvement in this process could play an important role in poverty reduction. This idea is supported by Okley, (1999) who stated that:

Program activities must be based on bottom-up approach. Only through this sort of approach can the program attain any meaningful and lasting success. The community awareness of the necessity and effectiveness of their active participation in their own development will ensure that the progress shall continue over after the formalized project ends”

In the same vein, Kaur (2000) added that:

“Community participation in development planning is a proven instrument for more sustainable output and multiplies the rate of successful realization of development by people because it is more likely to produce a set of outcomes actually desired by the community”

It was concluded that community participation is a top-down approach whereby community participation is often used as a word of fantasy wherein the community has no role to play unless and until a comprehensive detailed plan is prepared by the development authority. In Gekenke District, needs and priorities from the community are not put into account as needed in the district development strategy; this situation contributes certainly to the role of poverty of the district because implemented projects are not responding to the direct needs of communities. The authors reveal in the literature reviewed that citizen engagement in decision making and development planning has a direct connection with poverty reduction and on the contrary low community participation increases poverty.

This literature strengthens the present study by identifying poverty reduction as an indicator of socioeconomic development. The study used both qualitative and quantitative methods through direct and indirect interaction with the respondents. The exploratory method aimed at examining the diversity in the way communities benefit from their participation in development planning process. The reviewed literature therefore provides a foundation for the proposed study to interrogate other performance indicators of socioeconomic development in relation to citizen participation. The researcher will employ qualitative methods in an attempt to establish an in-depth understanding of the impact of citizen participation on socioeconomic development in Bungoma District Since 1960.

Kinyanjui and Misaro (2013) in a study on ‘Socioeconomic Status and Participatory Development in Kenya’ reveal that Constituency Development Fund Projects have immensely contributed in lessening rampant poverty levels witnessed in the study area prior to its inception. Before the introduction of CDF, poverty was highly prevalent among the households who lacked basic facilities like water. The numerous anti-poverty projects were perceived to have cumulative household’s socioeconomic progress. They further argue that a significant relationship between household level of participation and its corresponding socioeconomic status translated to citizen’s satisfaction with CDF anti-poverty projects. They show that water, youth and women group projects and health/dispensary projects attracted more participation than any other projects funded through CDF. Furthermore, research findings indicated that overall participation in projects was encouraging, however there was need to encourage more households to actively participate in the projects to maximize benefits. They reveal that participation in

capacity building activities was extremely low. This scenario was attributed to the CDF management committee citing that there were minimal allocations to capacity building exercises within the location. In addition, attendances of capacity building sessions were by males rather than females and finally the locals' perception were that development can only be attained through bottom-up approach. To sustain CDF's impact towards alleviating poverty, they pointed out the need for locals' wider participation in the selection of members of CDF committee since active involvement of the locals at the grassroots level will create supplementary room for varied needs and skills.

Kinyanjui and Misaro (2013) further found that there were many economic challenges that faced the residents within the area of study. The projects were hailed to be of great input to livelihood improvement. Interestingly, health, school and water projects attracted the highest level of participation. The authors concluded that projects perceived to have multiple benefits based on respondents' development needs attracted participation at different levels. The research concluded that decentralization of resources through CDF was an effective tool in alleviating poverty in rural areas. However, more benefits can be realized by increasing awareness on the importance of participating in CDF Projects. The authors of the study were able to establish alleviation of rampant poverty as a result of CDF initiated projects such as water and health/dispensary which attracted more participation. However, on the other hand, they reveal that participation in capacity building was low and therefore need for participation. This study provides a platform on which the present study will build on as it has attempted to show that alleviation of poverty basing on water projects. The proposed study will therefore fill the lacunae by

interrogating more impact of citizen participation in socioeconomic development. It will also enrich the study in terms of content and analysis.

1.9.9 Research Gap

From the above reviewed literature, a number of gaps have emerged. These gaps have been identified basing on specific objectives, the geographical region and the research design. From the academic point of view, its justified that most studies have been carried out in the fields of public administration, political science and social studies from the global perspective to the local level. It is further noted that they deal with single aspects of citizen participation in relation to varied dependent variables such as the role of citizen participation, determinant factors for citizen participation, and the impact of citizen participation (Papa, 2016; Oduor, *et al.*, 2015; Wanjiru 2013). However, little has been done on the historization of citizen participation. The literature gives the history of democracy which provides a base to build on and historicize citizen participation in relation to socioeconomic development in Bungoma District since 1960.

It is also revealed that most of the participatory mechanisms were designed to capture the elite or literate in society (Dube, *et al.*, 2021). That they did not accommodate all kinds of people and therefore depicted disparities. Additionally, most of them only captured single participatory mechanisms that excluded the majority (Kimemia, 2013; Kalekye, 2016). This therefore provides a gap for the present study to delve into the institutionalized participatory mechanisms and how they have involved the people from the grassroot levels in society.

Further, it is noted that citizens are alienated from participatory processes if there are low levels of participation since their opinion and views are ignored or not put in consideration (Adamson, 2010; Hugo and Thompson, 1995). Studies majorly assess the challenges emanating from the citizens but less has been done on assessing the weaknesses in the organizational structures of citizen participation. However, opportunities to improve citizen participation have not been explored in most of the studies. This, therefore, provides a gap to interrogate the weaknesses of the organizational structures that pose a challenge to citizen participation and the opportunities available for improvement. Studies also point towards challenges on political engagement but little has been mentioned on challenges towards socio-economic development which this study intends to interrogate.

The literature reviewed on the role of citizen participation reveal that most studies dealt with the aspect of citizen awareness of their roles in local governance and socio-economic development (Ebuku, 2016; Murebwayire, 2021). They also show how the NGOs and civil societies took the initiative to reach the people to seek their opinion. This provides a gap for this study to interrogate the role played by citizens from the grassroots levels towards decision making in socioeconomic development. It intends to point out their roles as stipulated in the Constitution of Kenya (2010) and interrogate its effectiveness in relation to socioeconomic development in Bungoma District.

It is also postulated in the literature review that active engagement of individuals in development programs works towards alleviation of poverty. Studies also point out increased life expectancy, improved literacy and employment levels (Rutherford, 2000; Kinyanjui and Misaro, 2013). Positive impact from the political dimension such as active in civic affairs, ability to justify their preferences and legitimacy of governments have

been identified. Study findings are focused on social and psychological benefits and therefore provide a gap to delve into the impact of citizen participation in socioeconomic development for the economic and social wellbeing in the society. In interrogating the impact, the study will establish the nexus between citizen participation and socioeconomic development in Bungoma District since 1960.

Research studies have been done from the global point of view in developed countries such as America and developing countries such as Latin America and the African continent and in some counties in Kenya. Little has been done to interrogate the proposed research in Bungoma District which the study intends to cover this geographical region. In terms of research design, most studies adopted a quantitative method using quantitative methods of analysis. However, the researcher in the proposed study will employ historical and descriptive designs using qualitative methods. It will also employ a thematic and descriptive method of data analysis which has not been used in most studies. The study will also delve into the depth, breadth and width of the aspect of citizen participation in relation to socio- economic development in Bungoma District since 1960.

1.10 Theoretical Framework

The study will be anchored on two theories, thus the Modernization Theory and the Participatory Development Theory. Both theories will provide a theoretical framework on which the proposed study will attempt to interrogate the nexus between citizen participation and socioeconomic development in Bungoma District.

1.10.1 Modernization Theory

The term ‘modernization’ has been determined from many angles. One orientation to the phrase ‘modernization’ conceptualizes it as a process of social change (Huntington, 1968; Inkeles, 1969; Lerner, 1958; Levy, 1966). While another perspective considers modernization as a response to change (Eisenstadt, 1966). In historical context, modernization tends to describe a process of transformation and revolution in which modernization is formed. As an instrumental tool, modernization is a tool for change, environmental control and developmental ways (Baryshnikova, 2009). Lerner (1958) stated that modernization was a mental transformation towards the progress of economic growth.

Modernization theory originated from the ideas of German sociologist Max Weber (1864-1920), which provided the basis for the modernization paradigm developed by Harvard Sociologist Talcott Parsons (1902-1979). The theory looks at the internal factors of a country while assuming that with assistance, “traditional” countries can be brought to development in the same manner more developed countries have been. Modernization theory used to explain the modernization process that a nation undergoes as it transits from a traditional society to a modern one. Modernization theory is still relevant even today and this study will be anchored on it in examining citizen participation in socioeconomic development.

The modernization theory is an economic theory that is rooted in capitalism. The concept of modernization incorporates the full spectrum of the transition and drastic

transformation that traditional society has to undergo in order to become modern (Hussain *et al.*, 1981). It became dominant in the 1950s and 1960s, pointing out differences between the developed or rich nations and the less developed or poor nations of the world. It encompasses many different disciplines as it seeks to explain how societies can react to that progress. Similarly, the theory will run across the study explaining how citizens in democratic politics respond to socioeconomic development programs. Mouton (2001), points out that the theory was an attempt to provide a theoretical framework to describe the road that newly decolonized countries of the 1960s need to take in order to reach their development destination. There were several factors which posed a threat to capitalism and this led to the development of modernization theory. This include the Post World War II's deepening poverty in some countries, ideological competition from communism and the increasing unrest in some countries. Modernization theorists (Parson, 1939; Rostow, 1960; Lewis, 1954; Lerner, 1958) aimed to explain why poorer countries failed to evolve into modern societies and to reduce the spread of communism by presenting capitalists values as the solution to poverty. According to the modernization theory, internal factors in the countries such as illiteracy, traditional agrarian structure, lack of communication and infrastructure are responsible for underdevelopment.

The relationship between modernization and democracy has been researched in comparative politics. Many studies show that modernization has contributed to democracy in some countries (Lipset, 1959). There is an academic debate over the drivers of democracy because there are theories that support economic growth as both a cause and effect of the institution of democracy and socio-economic development in the community. Lipset observed that democracy is related to economic development, first advanced in

1959 has generated the largest body of research on any topic in comparative politics (Lipset, 1959). Economic performance affects the development of democracy in at least three ways. First, they argue that economic growth is more important for democracy than given levels of socio-economic development. Second, socioeconomic development generates social changes that can potentially facilitate democratization. Third, socioeconomic development promotes other changes like organization of the middle class which is conducive for democracy (Diamond *et al.*, 1999). All the various aspects of economic development - industrialization, urbanization, wealth and education are so closely interrelated as to form one major factor which has the political correlated as to form one major factor which has the political correlated democracy (Lipset, 1963; Rostow, 1971; Apter 1965). In the 1960s, some critics argued that the link between modernization and democracy was based too much on the example of European history and neglected the Third World (Frank, 1969). The realization of democracy is not based solely on an expressed desire for that form of government but democracies are born as a result of the admixture of certain social and cultural factors. They argue that the ideal social and cultural conditions for the foundation of a democracy are born of significant modernization and economic development that result in mass political participation (Inglehart and Christian, 2009).

It is essential to have a proper understanding of the intellectual roots of the modernization theory. As a result of the rapid technology and economic development of European societies in the 19th c, enlightenment philosophers proposed that it was modernity and the reformation of the cultural attributes of European societies that served as an elixir for the economic growth and development of their societies (Smith, 1982). Rooted in this theory,

the study underscores that the society plays a major role in promoting socioeconomic development in varied ways and its response to the technology advancement. These intellectuals equated economic growth and development of European societies at the pinnacle of cultural achievement and social development and in the process relegated other societies and cultures to lower 'stages' of development (Schech and Haggis, 2000; Smith, 1982). This narrative implied that other non- western societies, such as Africa, contained cultural attributes which inhibited economic growth and development (Rostow, 1960; Lewis, 1954)

The theory received scholarly attention from Weber (1958) and Tonnies (1887) when they differentiated between *gemeinschaft* (community) and *gesellschaft* (society), as a way of understanding different ways of human integration and interaction, which are occasioned by their cultures (cited in Nisbet 1969:190-192). Based on the arguments of Weber (1922) and Tonnies (1887), a society then refers to groups held together through anonymous, rule bound more transparent formal contracts and universalistic principles. In other words, they referred to the community as a form of collective life in which people are united through traditions, interpersonal contacts and informal relationships (Weber, 1922; Tipps 1973:2000)

Implicit in these narratives of Tonnies (1887 and Weber (1922) is the belief that modern society empowers the individual to take actions and decisions that will prosper or protect their interests and they can then establish structures and means to protect themselves from the vagaries of weather, governments, greed and the selfishness of others (Cited in Nisbet, 1969: 191). Basing on the argument , the study envisages that the democratic Government of Kenya through its constitution has empowered its citizens to participate in decision

making towards the socioeconomic development of their communities and for this case, Bungoma District. While the modern traits and culture frees the individual, the traditional traits are characterized by the community which governs individuals by controlling and influencing their perceptions of the world, as well as their values, actions and even the way in which they conduct their business (cited in Nibset, 1969:192). This justifies the argument in the study that participation in decision making is partly influenced by their attitudes and perception about the outcome of their actions of participation.

Much of what we know as modernization theory is firmly anchored in and traceable to the narratives of social change (Giddens, 1971:137-138; Tips, 1973:200). One of the well-known postulations on the modernization theory of development was that made by Rostow (1960) who identified five stages of economic growth which every nation desiring development should go through in its bid to join the community of industrialized and developed countries of the world. These stages are the traditional society stage, the transitional stages (Pre-conditions for take-off), the take-off stage, the drive to maturity and the last stage of mass consumption (Rostow, 1960). Rostow (1960) theorized that the reason for poverty and under-development in developing countries was that they had not travelled a historical path which involved transforming their cultures from traditional to modern ones, which the western countries had travelled through. This means that until developing countries like Africa go through the five stages of economic growth, as outlined in the thesis of Rostow, development will continue to elude them (Rostow, 1960). Other intellectuals theorized that it is the cultural values and attributes of developing countries which constitute impediments to development and until the values of the

Western countries are imitated, development will continue to elude them (Lewis, 1954; McClelland, 1964).

Myrdal (1968:93) asserted that culture is an essential variable in enhancing either modernization or impoverishment of a society. He posited this because cultures are the transmitters of values which influence entrepreneurial decisions, investment behavior and attitudes towards business as well as other things that are related to commerce and industry. He explained that:

“the conflict between articulated specific traditional valuations and the modernization ideals can be expressed in terms of the costs to the latter through lost opportunities” (Myrdal, 1968:92-93).

Lewis (1955:14) concurred with this view when he proposed that culture has a very important role to play in engendering commercial instincts, behaviors and attitudes in an individual and it has a concomitant effect on society as a whole. This theory will be postulated in the study examining the attitudes and behavior of individuals on participation in decision making towards socioeconomic development. The pivotal thrust of modernization theory is the notion that Western values and practices are the basis of modernizing and developing the non-European and developing parts of the world (Lewis, 1955; Parsons, 1937). That, the transition from traditional society of the past to modern society as it is found in the west entails Africa to navigate the same development trajectory already pioneered by countries in the developed world (Mabogunje, 2000).

Rostow (1956) and Apter (1965) connects democracy and good governance to positive political and economic development. David McClelland in, *“The Achieving Society”*

(1967), approached modernization from the psychological perspective with his motivation theory, where he argues that modernization cannot take place until a given society values innovation, success and free enterprise. Equally, much of the research on which contemporary development policy is based, confirm some of the modernization theories basic assumptions that there is a mutually supporting relationship between legitimate political authority and the generation and distribution of wealth and that effective government needs to be responsive and accountable (Barkan, 1994:87-89). Similarly, the argument in this study posits that citizen participation in decision making towards socioeconomic development all depends on good governance that is transparent and accountable.

However, modernization theories have been criticized on different fronts. The first major criticism is charged against being pro-western in their analysis. Their bias against Third World Countries by almost entirely condemning everything found therein and extolling all western values as being developed. The western societies are presented as the ideal to which all societies should aspire to develop along their lines. The modernization theorists therefore created the catch-up mentality in the psyche of the Third World Countries. The modernization theorists therefore created the catch-up mentality in the psyche of the third world countries. The theory outrightly ignored the obvious fact that the forces that breeds development in the north resulted in the underdevelopment in the south (obi.*et al.*,2016). So, the theory has been highly criticized for regarding development as an autonomous process; disregarding other issues associated with development in the analysis of the concept of “tradition” as deployed by modernization theorists some problems were discernable. First, there is an emphasis on the obstacles to development by characterizing

as “traditional” anything in developing societies which appeared to be such an obstacle. This made most of their policy recommendations in the Third World Countries fail.

Modernization theory is criticized for failing to consider the poor as the counter force in poverty reduction initiatives. By ignoring the involvement and participation of the target community, and in this case Bungoma District, modernity achieves the marginalization of their commitment, creativity and support of the invention strategies. The invention strategy becomes imposed and fails to construct adequate notions of both the causal power structures and the role of human agency in shaping social relations in general. The premise encourages the foreign powers to prescribe the route to Africa’s development. For instance, in the 1980s, Africa was a victim of International Monetary Fund and imposed Economic Structural Adjustment Programmes (ESAP). Matunhu (2011) opines that ESAP project failed because it was developed with total disregard of the cultural, social, political and traditional values of the recipient countries.

Perhaps the most crippling weakness of the modernization theory is its oversimplified view of social change (Coetzee *et al.*, 2007: 101). Human nature has a propensity to resist change in favour of the status quo. Change is resisted because it brings in elements of uncertainty. For instance, development strategies such as New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) were drafted, packaged and sent to Africa for implementation. Because of its elitist nature, NEPAD has received condemnation from many African Heads of States and Governments.

Another weakness associated with modernization theories in studying development today is its reference to the nation-state as the only unit of analysis. It is assumed that all societies

can potentially follow a single path of evolutionary development from tradition to modernity. It simultaneously ignores the world's historical development of transitional structures that constrain and prompt national development along diverse and parallel paths. In this sense, the modernizers committed intellectual parochialism.

Criticism against modernization theory is hinged on its contention that in modernized societies there is secularization of functions instead of religion as determinism of functions. But some scholars like (Smith, 2003; Kamrava, 1993) argue that religion has surfaced as a foundation for political mobilization in parts of the Third World like; Middle East, Africa, the Caribbean, Asia and Latin America. According to these scholars, the new trend undermines the secularist assumptions of modernization theorist. They stress further that religious politics has been partly a response to the failure of governments to secure economic prosperity and social wellbeing and equally a reaction to the failure of secular ideologies to deliver socioeconomic development; as well as the response to the undesirable consequences of modernity, including political repression, economic and political corruption, loss of cultural identity and community dislocation.

Modernists erroneously present the development theory as a dichotomous movement from an original terminal situation to an achieved situation with the help of the developed countries (Sach, 1992:1). This depicts modernization as the process of change whereby external factors have an impact on the individual and on culture. In this case, it is about the abandonment of an individual's cultural values in favor of that of the former colonizer. Modernization of culture entails a change in the broader values, norms and attitudes of the larger context within which people in Africa find themselves.

Marx emphasized economic determinism, arguing that a society's technological level shapes its economic system, which in turn determines its cultural and political characteristics. Weber on the other hand, argued that culture was not just an epiphenomenon of the economic system but an important casual factor that can shape economic behaviors as well as being shaped by it. The classic versions of modernization theory were deterministic, with the Marxist version tending towards economic determinism, and the Weberian version sometimes tending towards culture and politics are mutually supportive, like the various systems of a biological organism.

It cannot be denied that modernization theories are still relevant in the study of development today. Despite the criticism heaped on them. With respect to the Third World countries, modernization theories raised the questions and identified the issues which remain core to an understanding of the Third World politics and development. Many are still plaguing these societies such as, what effects does lack of effective political institutions have on political institutions? What are the relationships between political norms, structures and political behavior? And so on. Further, their recommendations that there should be greater interaction between developing nations and developed nations in order to bring about the much-needed development of the Third World cannot be wished away.

1.10.2 Participatory Development Theory

Participatory Development Theory is broadly understood as an active involvement of people in making decisions about implementation of processes, programs and projects that

affect them. (Slocum, Wichhart, Rocheleau and Thomas - slayter,1995). The basic element of participatory development is to view the term participation as the exercise of people's power in thinking and acting and controlling their action in a collaborative framework. This study envisages that citizen participation is fundamental in decision making and plays a great role in achieving sustainable socio-economic development. The participatory development approaches posit that all stakeholders collaborate in any development activities from the very beginning of project identification, prioritization, planning, implementation, evaluation and monitoring. This study will be anchored on this theory as it pinpoints out the key involvement of citizens in decision -making towards socioeconomic development in Bungoma District.

According to Waishbord (2001), participatory theorists criticized the modernization paradigm on the ground that it promoted a top-down ethnocentric and paternalistic view of development. They argued that the strategic model proposed a conception of development associated with a western vision of progress. The top down approach of persuasion models implicitly assumed that the knowledge of governments and agencies was correct, and that indigenous populations were either ignorant or had incorrect beliefs (Cypher and Diethz,1997; Wayman and Fussel, 1996).

Modernization theory surmises that for developing countries to develop they need economic growth along the path already travelled by western countries (Hulme and Turner, 1990; Peet and Hartwick 1999; So, 1996). This has been heavily criticized and other development theories have highlighted the disparities. As participatory approaches advanced, they highlighted the weaknesses inherent in traditional, top-down approaches focused on single disciplines and reductionist paradigms (Johnson and Walker, 2000).

Agrawal and Gibson (1999) identified the limitation of the state in top-down resources conservation practices and emphasized popular participation as the remedy for these shortcomings. Mompoti and Prinsen (2002) made a similar observation of the uniqueness of an individual as an entity who is capable of making unique contributions to decision-making (Chambers, 1993, Kelly 2011)

Dissatisfaction with traditional development theories led to the re-examination of the purpose of development towards the search for alternative conceptual explanations. A host of development scholars (Roodt, 2001; Pendirs, 1996; Rahman, 1993; Chambers 1992; Conyer and Hills, 1990; Dodds, 1986) began to articulate the concept of ‘ participatory ‘ or ‘people centered’ development. This theory encourages the involvement of all stakeholders in the process of development (Burkey, 1993, Rahman, 1993; Oakley , 1991) and will be used to the development initiatives that exists in the Third World Countries. It is also geared towards achieving a sense of ownership and sustainability of the projects (GTZ,2002). In cognizant with the study, the theory will interrogate the nature and participatory mechanism of citizens that allow for decision making processes that are geared towards a sense of ownership of socioeconomic projects in Bungoma District. The participatory approaches give a greater emphasis on building capacity, empowerment, self-reliance and can also challenge perceptions, leading to a change in attitude and agendas (Farm Africa, 2002)

Friere’s model of participation proposes a change of strategy where students are on equal terms with their teachers, and for the case of this study, the citizens and the government, and that, it is only possible in a transformational model (Gadotti, 1994). Friere’s model and participatory model in general proposed a human centered approach that valued the

importance of interpersonal channels of communication in decision-making processes at the community level (Siddiqui, 2008). This assumption will be exacerbated in the study to assess interactive participation of citizens that assume that people participate in joint analysis, which leads to action plans and the formation of new local institutions or the strengthening of the existing ones. People take control or ownership over local decisions and so they have a stake in maintaining structures or practices.

For participatory theorists and practitioners, development required sensitivity to cultural diversity as well as other specific points that were ignored by modernization theorists. The lack of such sensitivity accounted for the problems and failures of many projects (Coetzee, 2001). The main essence of participatory development theory is an active involvement of people in making decisions about implementation of processes, programs and projects which affect them (Slocum, Wichhart, Recheleau and Thomas-Slaytar, 1995). Participatory development approaches view the term ‘participation’ as the exercise of people’s power in thinking, acting and controlling their action in a collaborative framework. Basing on this assumption, the participatory approach will cut across the study justifying the consideration of the cultural diversity of Bungoma citizens and their involvement in decision making towards the prioritization and implementation of socioeconomic development projects.

Roodt (2001) and Dodds (1986) have noted that the participatory development approach stresses the participation of the majority of the population especially the previously excluded components such as Community Based Organizations, women, youth and the illiterate in the process of development programs. This approach view development as a process which focuses on community’s involvements in their own development using

available resources and guiding the future development of their own community. The wishes of an individual never super-imposes on those of a group. This approach emphasizes concepts such as capacity building, empowerment, sustainability and self-reliance (Pendris, 1996; Rahman, 1993; Conyers & Hills, 1990).

According to the belief of participatory development theory, the answer to the problem of successful Third World development is not found in the bureaucracy and its centrally mandated development projects and programs, but rather in the community itself. This study postulates that citizen participation in decision making is connected and determines the effectiveness of the implementation of socio-economic projects. This ultimately empowers and leads to self-transformation and self-reliance thereby ensuring sustainability (Korten, 1986, Rahman, 1993).

In this context, the Chinese Philosopher, Lau Tse, argues that the principles of the participatory approach include; inclusion of all people or representatives of all groups who will be affected by a decision or a process such as the development project. Equal partnership entails recognizing that every person has skill, ability and initiatives and has an equal right to participate in the process, regardless of their status. Transparency requires that all participants must help to create a climate conducive to open communication and building dialogue. Similarly, all stakeholders have equal responsibilities within each process which will be depicted in the study in assessing the role of citizens in socioeconomic development projects and how their involvement promotes mutual learning and empowerment (Dennis, 1997).

In discourses around sustainable development, a range of participatory methodologies, methods and techniques have been proposed in order to operationalize it. Despite the fact that important differences exist among the various methodologies, they have in common that they primarily perceive the process in which actors supposedly participate as a process of planning, decision making and social learning (Cees, 2000). A number of participatory methodological approaches have been adopted to bring about sustainable development at the community level.

This research study will be anchored on Participatory Research Action (PAR) as it interrogates the connectedness of citizen participation and socioeconomic development in Bungoma District since 1960. According to Allen and Unwin (1997), PAR is a systematic learning process in which people act deliberately by remaining open and responsive to opportunities. It is the process of using critical intelligence to inform action and developing it so that social action becomes praxis (critically informed committed action). Checkland (1992) noted that PAR is contingent on authentic participation, which involves a continuing spiral of planning; acting (implementing plans), observing (systematically), reflecting and then re-planning and so that the spiral goes round again.

Kemmis & Mc Tagger (1998) indicated that PAR establishes self-critical communities of people participating and collaborating in the research processes of planning, acting, observing and reflecting. It aims to build communities of people committed to enlightening themselves about the relationship between circumstances, actions and consequences and to emancipating themselves from the institutional and personal constraints, which limit their power to live by their legitimate and freely chosen social values.

Participatory development, at its core places faith in the ability and willingness of individuals and communities to work together for the common good (Ostrom, 2015) and is based on the belief that community participation is not only a right but also enhances the quality and appropriateness of development outcomes. It also contributes to local long-term self-reliance and self-determination by enhancing local decision making and the creation of local institutions (Chambers, 2012). This assumption of participatory theory will be well explored in this study in assessing the participatory activities and mechanisms of citizen in Bungoma District as a way of exercising their democratic right as enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya (2010). The study postulates that citizen participation in decision making towards socioeconomic development enhances trust in governance as well as the development outcomes.

However, this participatory approach is not without criticism. Since its inception, there has been numerous critiques and associated offshoots to participatory development. Critiques are focused on the question of “ how much participation?” It can really be thought of as a spectrum where at one end you have consultation , telling people of what’s going to happen to autonomous development (where people are completely in control of all aspects of planning and action). Debates range from cost/benefit analysis to existential arguments about what it means to be human. Chambers (2003) championed a new approach of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) after bringing into spotlight the poor results of outside experts doing planning for communities.

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) conceptualizes mutual learning and the goal is to enhance communication, respect, listening and learning between development workers and those they serve (Cornwall, 2002) in order to achieve more applicable “useful

outcomes” (Mohan, 2008). Participatory Rural Appraisal is a form of mutual learning which acknowledges that the illiterate, poor and marginalized people can represent their own lives and livelihoods and do their own analysis and come up with their own solutions. (Chambers, 1997). This study will explore the abilities of all groups of citizens in their participation towards socioeconomic development hence adopting the Participatory Rural Appraisal methodological approach to community participation. Participatory Development theorists would wish to see local communities making, rather than only contributing to, important decisions (Cornwall, 2002). They hope that this will lead to civic engagement, where people are able to determine the way their communities should function (Mohan, 2008).

Drawing from existentialists thinkers, Friere, (2002) argued that the essence of humanity is our ability to create meaning and make national decisions. Thus, any denial of that ability or imposition on one’s person’s choice on that of another person is essentially robbing that person of their humanity. He wrote:

“ Every prescription represents the imposition of one individual’s choice upon another, transforming the consciousness of the person prescribed to, into one that conforms with the prescriber’s consciousness. Thus, the behavior of the oppressed is a prescribed behavior, following as it does, the guidelines of the oppressor ” (Freire 2000).

Another critique of participatory development theory is its over- emphasis on technical solutions verses helping people to work through the tougher social and organizational

dilemmas such as community involvement, decision making procedures, the establishment of efficient social compacts, organizational development capacity building and empowerment (Power, *et al.*, 2002). Participatory projects have been criticized for potentially putting peoples in compromising situations and causing “psychological and physical duress” on vulnerable populations by positioning in competition with elites (Mansuri, 2004).

When compared with traditional forms of development, participatory development approach is sometimes criticized for being costly and slow. A project may take longer if one has to engage, work and come to consensus with local communities than if one did not have to do these things (Jennings, 2000). This approach may also have higher startup costs than traditional development. In addition, it is also criticized for reaching a smaller population than traditional development approaches. Community dialogue and argumentation may initially involve only a few individuals where dropped food aid reaches hundreds of people (Jennings, 2000).

More so, there is little evidence of the long-term effectiveness of participation in materially improving the conditions of the most vulnerable people or as a strategy for social change. Whilst the evidence for efficiency receives some support on a small scale, the evidence regarding empowerment and sustainability is more partial, tenuous and reliant on assertions of the rightness of the approach and process rather than convincing proof of outcomes (Cleaver, 1999). Participatory development, at its core, places faith in the ability and willingness of individuals and communities to work together for the common good (Ostrom, 1990). In this sense, participation has become an act of faith based on three main tenets: that participation is intrinsically a ‘good thing’ (especially for the

participants), that the focus on ‘getting the technique right’ is the principal way of ensuring the success of such approaches and that considerations of power and politics on the whole should be avoided as divisive and obstructive (Cleaver,1999). However, despite the criticism, studies show that participatory development approach is better at addressing local needs and are generally more relevant to local population than traditional development projects and also contribute towards equitable outcomes so long as elite capture of participatory mechanism is avoided (Osmani, 2008).

1.11 Research Methodology

This section will discuss the methods and how research data will be collected, analyzed and presented to understand the nexus between citizen participation and socio-economic development in Bungoma District since 1960. It further presents the study area, the population of the study, sampling procedures, data collection tools and data analysis procedures. This chapter sums up with a discussion of the ethical consideration and limitation of the study area.

1.11.1. Research Design

A research design is a framework for the collection and analysis of data that will be used to answer the research questions (Bryman, *et al.*, 2012). It is the conceptual structure within which research is conducted and constitutes the blue print for the collection, measurement and analysis of data (Kothari, 1984). The study will employ historical research method to collect information systematically as regards the historical trend and development of citizen participation in Bungoma District. Historical research involves studying of a problem that requires collecting information from the past which entails

understanding and experiencing past events (Moore, 2018). It requires interpretation of trends in the attitudes or events of the past and generalization from these past events to help guide the present or future behavior (Moore,2018). A descriptive design will also be employed to understand the role and challenges of citizen participation. A descriptive research determines and reports the ways things are; such as possible behavior, attitudes, values and characteristics (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). This design is adopted to explore the attitude and behavior of citizens in relation to socioeconomic development in Bungoma.

1.11.2 Study Area

Bungoma County is one of the forty -seven counties in Kenya. It borders Kakamega, Trans Nzoia and Busia Counties (See fig.1.1) . Bungoma District was established in 1902 by the colonial government for effective administration of the colonial government for effective administration of the colony among other district headed by the British District Commissioners. The County lies between latitude 00 28' North and 10 30' North of the equator and longitude 340 20' East and 350 15' Easter of the Greenwich Meridian. The County Covers an area of 3032.4 Km² . It borders the Republic Uganda to the North West, Trans- Nzioa County to the North-East Kakamega County to the East and South East and Busia County to the West and South -West (See fig.1.1).

Administratively, the County is divided into nine Sub-Counties, forty-five wards and two hundred and thirty-six village units. These Sub- Counties include; Mt. Elgon, Sirisia, Kabuchai, Bumula, Kanduyi, Webuye East, Webuye East Webuye West, Kimilili and

Tongaren. Politically, the County has nine (9) constituencies and forty-five (45) County Assembly wards (See fig.1.2).

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The major physical features include Mt. Elgon, several hills including Chetambe, Sang'alo and Kabuchai hills. It has rivers such as R. Nzoia, R. Kuywa, R. Sosio, R, Kibisi and Sio- Malaba / Malakisi. There are waterfalls such as Nabuyole and Teremi that have remained an attraction to local tourists. Mt. Elgon and Sang'alo hills have attractive caves. The County has only one gazette forest, the Mt. Elgon forest reserve which measures 618.2 km². The slopes of Mt. Elgon regions are endowed with rich loam fertile soil that favour agricultural activities. Other regions are endowed with soils that sustain subsistence crops.

The County experiences two annual rainy seasons, the long rains of March to July and the short rains of August to October. The annual rainfall in the County ranges from 400mm (lowest) to 1800mm (highest). The annual temperature varies between 0⁰ C and 32⁰C due to different levels of altitude, with the highest peak of Mt. Elgon recording slightly less than 0⁰C. The average wind speed is 6.1km/hr. In the last decade, the County experienced variability in rainfall and temperature patterns that have influenced changes in agricultural seasons.

Bungoma County is inhabited by the Luhya Community whose main economic activity is agriculture. Inhabitants engage in cultivation of maize, irish potatoes and vegetables in the slopes of Mt. Elgon. In other parts such as Kabuchai, Webuye and Bumula, cultivation of sugarcane and maize is dominant with other subsistence crops such as cassava, millet and sweet potatoes. Tongaren Sub-County, being a region in the settlement schemes and bordering Trans-Nzoia is known for large-scale farming of maize. Mt. Elgon forest ecosystem supports diverse life systems contributing to immense goods such as fruits, tubers, medicinal herbs, game meat, timber logs, poles, firewood, fodder and charcoal. Other economic activities include bee-keeping, livestock keeping, poultry farming, micro, small and medium scale enterprises, all that support the socio-economic livelihood of the inhabitants. Some agro-based industries located in the County include Nzoia Sugar Company and Webuye Pan Paper Mills. Some notable achievement attained during the colonial period include a robust co-operative movement, which was a role model for the County and the railway stations at Webuye, Sudi, Bungoma and Myanga which revolutionized the transport system in the County. With the Great North Road from Mombasa, through Malaba to Rwanda that crosses Bungoma County, business has improved as people are able to access trade items such as clothes and foodstuffs from the neighbouring country, Uganda.

Historically the County is inhabited by the Bukusu, Tachoni, Batura, Sabaot, Iteso and other Kenyan Communities who reside side by side in peace. The predominant community, the Bukusu, are believed to have originated from a place only remembered today as Esibakala during the first century A.D in Southern Egypt. According to oral traditions, the ancestors of both Bukusu and Bagisu lived in Mbayi, Silikwa. Due to

constant raids from the Kalenjinis and the Maasai, the ancestors then moved into various stages up to their settlement of Bukusu hills where the split between Bukusu and Bagisu was consummated in the 17th and 18th centuries. Various Bukusu clans also split at Bukusu hills with some moving South, but the bulk moving North to the immediate Western foothills of Mt. Masaaba (Mt. Elgon) to a place called Kisakuli. From Bukusu hill, Kisakuli or Southern parts of Tororo (Bwayi), the Bukusu migrated into their present homeland in what is today the Kenyan side of Kenya-Uganda border (Simiyu, 1991).

Figure 1. 1: Bungoma County Administrative Units

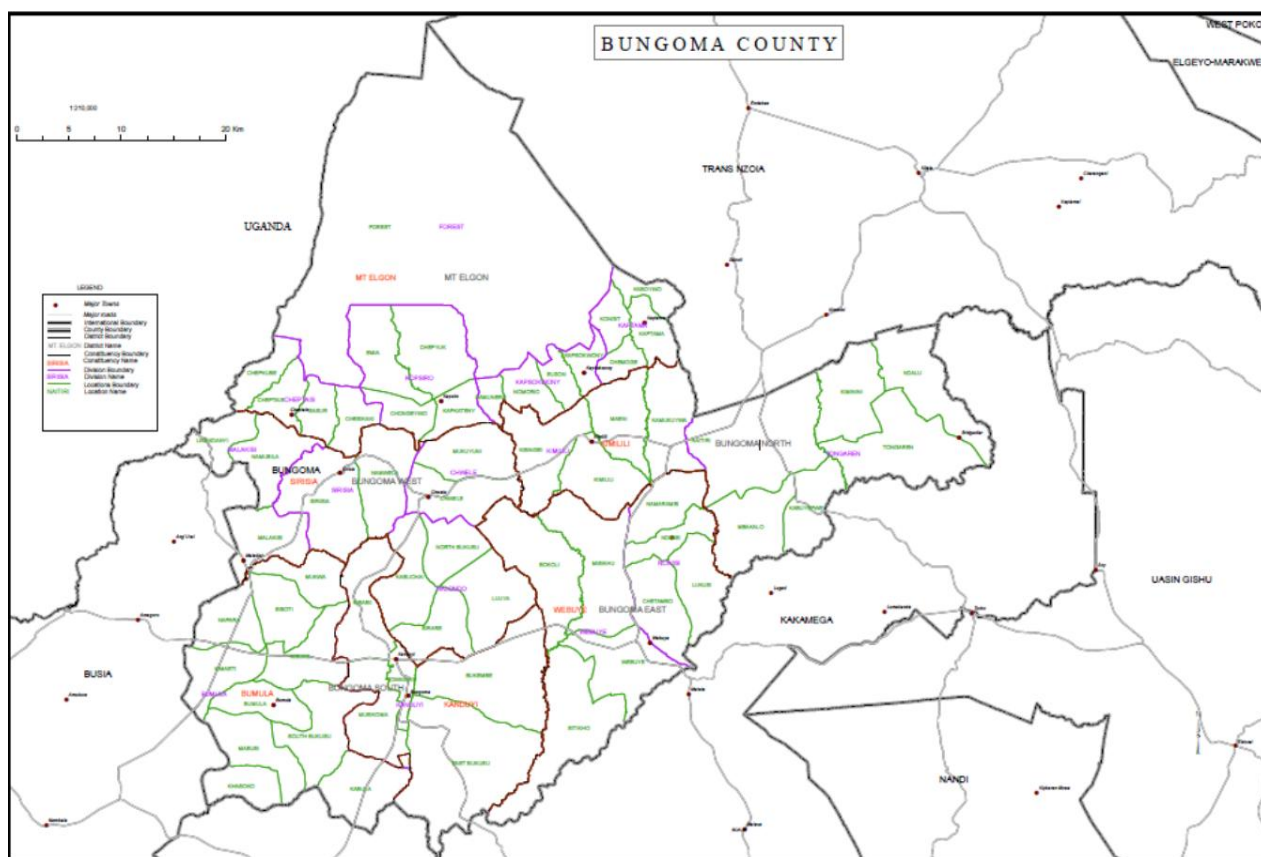


Figure 1. 2: Position of Bungoma County



1.11.3 Target Population of the study

The target population is the specific, conceptually bounded group of potential participants to whom the researcher may have access that represents the nature of the population of interests (Kalleberg, *et al.*, 1990). It is also defined as the group or individuals or participants with the specific attributes of interest and relevance (Bartlett *et al.*, 2001; Craswell, 2003). Guba and Lincoln (1998) assert that target population of the research are the respondents that the researcher will interview and collect data. Bungoma County has a population of 685,122 adults who are eligible to participate in decision making towards socioeconomic development (KNBS Population Analytical Report, 2016). Citizen participation may be through direct participation or through representative participation. The study will narrow down to a Sub-County. Mugenda and Mugenda (2001) suggests that thirty percent of the target population will be sufficient for the study.

1.11.4 Sample Size

A sample is the set of units selected to represent the population of interest (Gravette and Wallnau, 2017). It is a smaller group of a statistical population where properties are studied to gain information about the whole (Webster, 1985). The sample size is the number of participants required to address the research problem which is drawn from the target population (Fusch and Ness, 2015; Banerjee and Chaudhury, 2010). The data provided about the sample will be analyzed and the results transferred to the population of interest. The research study will involve various class groups such as the minister and assistant minister of Public Administration in Bungoma County, Members of the County

Assembly, Ward administrators, Village ward administrators, County program planners, local chiefs, women groups, the youth groups , civil societies and adult citizens.

1.11.5 Sampling Techniques

This study will adopt non-probability sampling techniques. Non-probability is used when the researcher is not interested in selecting a sample that is representative of the population (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2001). Being a qualitative study, it is ideal since it will focus on in-depth information and not making inferences or generalizations.

For the purpose of this study, quota sampling which is similar to stratified random sampling will be employed to select participants from civil societies, women groups, youth groups, persons living with disabilities and adult citizens. Purposive sampling will also be used. It is the intentional selection of a participants because of the characteristics and qualities the individual possesses (Eikan, *et al.*, 2016). This technique will be used to select key informants who will include the Minister of Public Administration of Bungoma County, Members of the County Assembly, Ward administrators, village ward administrators and the local chiefs. Qualitative sample size should be large enough to obtain data to sufficiently describe the phenomena of interest and address the research questions. Snowball sampling will also be employed to obtain information on historical trends and development on citizen participation in Bungoma District.

Table 1. 2 Sample Population and Sampling Techniques

Target Population	Sample Size	Sampling Technique
County Minister	1	Purposive
Members of County Assembly	15	Purposive
Ward Administrators	15	Purposive
Village administrators	70	Stratified
County Program Planners	9	Purposive
Women Groups	5	Random Sampling
Chiefs	53	Purposive
Civil Societies	3	Purposive
Youth Groups	5	Random Sampling
Adults Citizens	150	Stratified

Source : Researcher, 2020

1.11.6 Data Collection Instruments

The data will be collected through a questionnaire, qualitative interview schedule and focus group discussions. It must be noted that historians greatly rely on the qualitative method to collect and analyze data. Qualitative data provides insight into how people view and are affected by an issue and frequently provides new ideas about resolving it (Denzin and Lincoln, 2005, Have 2004; Burns and Grove, 2009). This study will rely on qualitative design as it is interpretivist in nature and seeks to understand the social world through other people's interpretation thus their experiences, thoughts and perspectives. In this case, the researcher intends to understand the attitudes, perspectives and experiences of

citizens' involvement in decision making to the effect of socio-economic development in Bungoma County. Qualitative method will be ideal as researchers are constructionists who seek to understand the social life to be an outcome of the interactions and negotiations between individuals rather than a fixed structure to which individuals must conform and adopt (Bryman, *et al.*, 2011). Interactions between citizens to improve on their socio-economic life brings out desirable outcomes. The study will also employ content analysis which involves analyzing the contents of documentary materials such as books, journals, newspapers, magazines, publications and the contents of all other verbal materials which can either be spoken or printed (Kothari, 2004:110).

1.11.6.1 Questionnaires

A questionnaire is essentially a structured interview without an interviewer (Bryman *et al.*, 2011). Unstructured questionnaires will be used to probe into the attitudes, roles and challenges of citizen participation in decision-making towards socio-economic development in Bungoma County. Open-ended questions will be prepared and administered by the researcher and research assistants to adult citizens and key informants. The questionnaire is structured to capture qualitative information especially verbatims. Questionnaires will also be prepared and administered to selected county program planners to probe the nature and mechanisms of citizen participation in the County. Data collection through questionnaires will complement data collected through content analysis of documents, focus group discussions and archival sources.

1.11.7 Interview Schedule

Interviews will be conducted with various groups. Qualitative interviewing with key informants from the Sub-County administrators, ward administrators and local chiefs will be undertaken. The key informants will comprise the Minister of Public Administration, nine Sub-County administrators, fifteen ward administrators, fifty local chiefs and seventy-three village administrators. Purposive sampling will be employed to select key informants from the target population for qualitative interviewing to allow for in-depth information gathering. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), thirty percent of the target population is a sufficient representation of the study.

Open-ended questions will be developed and carefully directed to key informants to probe into the organizational structure of citizen participation in decision making towards socio-economic development. This will enable the researcher to obtain relevant information to ascertain and understand the nature of citizen participation in decision -making. The researcher will also understand the response of citizens towards such programmes. Key informants' interviews target respondents who are knowledgeable and can give credible and relevant information. Unstructured questions will be used as they give respondents complete freedom of response. Such questions are preferred since they permit a greater depth of response, gives an insight into feelings, background, hidden motivation, interests and decisions of respondents (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). The key informants interview schedule will seek to understand their views, thoughts, perceptions and experiences of the role played by citizens in promoting socio-economic development in Bungoma County. The researcher will also understand how the organizational structure

has shaped the attitudes and behavior of citizens in decision-making towards socio-economic development.

The interview schedule will also be employed to adult citizens who are eligible to participate in decision making. This will be used to the illiterate cadre of citizens who are unable to read and write. An interview guide will be prepared which is much shorter and less detailed. The actual questioning will be flexible allowing the interview to pursue leads offered by research participants as they open up and reveal their views on citizen participation towards decision making on socio-economic development. The researcher will also probe into the challenges experienced by the participants in their involvement in decision-making. To obtain objectivity and reliability of the information from this instrument of data collection, training of the researcher and researcher assistant will be undertaken to familiarize them with the interview conditions, logistics, controls, safeguards and variables being studied (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003: 89).

The overall length for the interviews will take forty minutes (Serem, *et al.*, 2013). This approach will give rich data. Tape recorders are essential for this type of interview and therefore a tape recorder will be used to capture the whole conversations thus increasing the accuracy of the interview during coding. Tape recording makes it possible to re-analyze the data in order to test objectives or hypotheses which may not have been originally there (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003).

1.11.6.3 Focus Group Discussions

It is a group interview in which the participants can speak and interact with one another. Focus group discussions offers an opportunity to study how individuals collectively make

sense of a phenomena and construct meanings out of it (Bryman, *et al.*, 2011). Focus groups reflect the process through which meaning is constructed in everyday life which allows them to be more naturalistic than interview schedules (Wilkinson, 1998). This study will employ focus group discussions to try to understand from a wider perspective the attitude of participants towards citizen participation in decision making. It will enable the researcher to understand the participants view about citizen participation and their behavioral patterns. Kitzinger (1993) suggested that argumentative interaction in focus groups can be equally revealing. In such cases the moderations can play an important role in identifying differences of opinion and exploring with participants the factors that lie behind them. This research instrument will explore challenges that citizens experience in relation to participation in decision making towards socio-economic development.

Women and youth groups will be engaged in focus group discussions. More so, adult citizens in various village levels will be engaged in discussions. Morgan (1998) suggest six to ten people to be sufficient for a discussion. He recommended small groups when the participants are likely to have a lot to say. The researcher will undertake fifteen FGDs of six to eight people and each discussion will last forty- five minutes.

However, this research instrument is not without limitations. The researcher may have less control over the proceedings than an individual interview. It all depends on what extent the researcher should allow the participants to ‘take over’ the discussion (Bryman, *et al.*, 2011). This will be controlled when the moderator’s involvement is limited and also deciding on how much a set of prompts or questions should be allowed to influence the conversation. Engaging in complementary interaction that allows collective

interpretations and understandings to develop with each participant building on the preceding remarks will minimize interruptions (Kitzinger, 1998a)

1.11.6.4 Secondary Data

Secondary data means data that is already available. It refers to the data which has already been collected and analyzed by someone else (Kothari, 2004). When the researcher utilizes secondary data, then he has to look into various sources from where he can obtain them. It may either be published or unpublished data.

For the purpose of this study, secondary data will be collected from the Public Administration offices at the County and Sub-County levels in Bungoma scrutinizing reports and publications of various activities on citizen engagement. Historical documents and other published information will be sought. Other sources of secondary data will include journals, reports and publications from international organizations such as USAID and research foundations such as KIPPRA. More information will be collected from newspapers, books from libraries, published and unpublished theses from higher institutions of learning thus Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Kibabii University and University of Nairobi. National Libraries in Bungoma and Nairobi, and the internet sources will be consulted for information gathering.

However, caution will be taken when using secondary data. Scrutiny will be made to ensure the suitability and adequacy of the information in the context of the problem which the researcher will be studying. Dr. A.L Browley observes that it is never safe to take published statistics at their face value without knowing their meaning and limitations and it is always necessary to criticize arguments that can be based on them. Therefore, the

researcher will use secondary data only when it is reliable, suitable and adequate but also not blindly discard the use of such data if they are readily available from authentic sources (Kothari, 2004).

1.11.6.5 Archival Sources

The researcher will acquire important and relevant information from the Kenya National Archives and Bungoma County Archives. The archives will be of great provision of reports concerning the history and trends of citizen participation in decision making towards socio economic development in Bungoma County. The information acquired will complement data gathered using other research instruments.

1.11. 8 Data Analysis

The researcher will employ the SPSS platform for analysis as well as use content analysis. The researcher will derive all the information gathered using the research instruments that responds to the research questions through content analysis. The researcher will then create categories, themes and patterns of the data then establish relationship amongst these categories. Generating these themes and categories will be done using the SPSS Text Editor. Coding will enable the researcher to locate and retrieve specific information in the text in relation to the objectives of the study (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). Once the themes, categories and patterns have been identified, the researcher will then evaluate and analyze the data to determine its adequacy, credibility, usefulness and validity in

answering the research questions. This information will determine the trends and nature of citizen participation, challenges and opportunities, the role of citizens in decision making towards socio-economic development and the impact of citizen participation on socio-economic development in Bungoma District.

1.11. 9 Reliability

Validity is the degree to which results obtained from the analysis of data actually represents the phenomenon under study (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). Validity, therefore, has to do with how accurately the data obtained in the study represents the variables of the study and is largely determined by the presence or absence of systematic error in data. Validity represents the truthfulness of the findings (Altheide and Johnson, 1994). The researcher instruments will be validated in terms of content and face validity. Content validity will measure the degree to which data collected using research instruments represents the content of the concept under study. Research instruments will be given to the supervisor to cross-check the contents and ascertain quality proficiency and credibility. Content validity involves assessing whether or not there is a logical link between the two variables that form the concept under investigation (Serem, *et al.*, 2013). The researcher will also employ triangulation where the research will be done from multiple perspectives. This will involve using several moderators, different locations and multiple individuals analyzing the same data.

1.11. 10 Ethical Considerations

This refers to the measures taken to maintain human dignity while gaining knowledge from research. Ethics have their origin in values, attitudes and beliefs, which form the basis of every society concerned with what people believe ought to happen (Serem *et al.*, 2013). According to Denzin (1989:332), “It is impossible not to take ethical and value stances in the process of researcher” since almost everything the researcher does involves making value laden decisions. Spradley (1980) argues that researchers have a responsibility to safeguard the rights, interests and sensitivities of their research subjects. In the process of this research study, the researcher and research assistants will adhere to ethical standards with discipline and wisdom regarding to respect for participants, consent to participate and not coercion and uphold high levels of integrity. Respect for persons is arguably the most fundamental of all the principles of ethics (Bryman, *et al.*, 2013). Research ethics are important since they promote research aims such as expanding knowledge (Pillow, 2003; Rooney, 2005) and also support the values required for collaborative work. Ethical issues are also fundamental as they uphold social moral values such as respect for the subjects, free and informed consent, the principle of not harming others, confidentiality of identification and so on (Bryman, *et al.*, 2013). General ethical considerations of the study and ethical issues relating to the researcher will be highlighted for the sake of this research work.

1.11.9 Validity

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1.11. 10. 1 General Ethical Considerations

During this study, the researcher will confirm the principle of voluntary or informed consent where the respondents will willingly participate in the research. Human (1991:73) observes that the starting point for respect for persons in research is the stipulation that subjects must give free, informed and ongoing consent to participate in the study. Subjects should not only be asked for permission before they are placed in the study, but should also be informed of all the risks and benefits to which they would be exposed. The researcher will seek the participants' consent and inform them about the purpose and significance of the research on citizen participation in decision making towards socio-economic development in Bungoma County.

Respondents will be assured of the confidentiality of the information collected. However, in some cases the respondents may not be concerned about confidentiality but their consent will be sought before revealing any information (Bryman *et al.*,2013). Identities and records of subjects will remain confidential to prevent any embarrassment or harm, especially harm to the reputations or personal relationships (Zegward, Campbell and Pretti, 2017). However, for the purpose of this historical research, the respondents will be informed about the quoted verbatims or in paraphrased form in the research work, their names, place and date of interview that are very fundamental aspects for any authentic historical reconstruction.ssFor the purpose of interviewing, audiotaping and conducting focus group discussions, an information sheet will be used as well as have the respondents sign the consent from which will be kept as an indication of informed consent by the respondent, should any question arise.

Permission will be sought from relevant authorities before the research study begins. The University's Directorate of Postgraduate studies (DPS) will offer a letter after approval of the proposal which will be used to acquire permission from or the research permit from NACOSTI authorizing to carry out a study on the nexus between citizen participation and socio-economic development in Bungoma District since 1960. The research permit will enable the researcher to acquire a permission from the County Director of Education and the County Commissioner of Bungoma County. Permission will also be sought from the office of the Governor of Bungoma County for research to be undertaken under this administrative organ.

1.11. 10. 2 Ethical Issues Related to the Researcher

Ethics as a branch of philosophy which deals with one's conduct and serves as a guide to one's behavior has been used by most professionals to govern their profession (Kovacs,1987). In this study, the researcher is not unaware of plagerism ,where another person's work is referred to without acknowledging the author and also stealing ideas from another scholar (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). The researcher will adhere to scholarly ethics and all the information sourced and written will acknowledge the authors. Cases of academic fraud will also be avoided where a researcher fakes data that has not been collected which also includes false presentation of research methodology (Serem, *et al.*, 2013).

The researcher is also cognizant of the unethical conduct of deception. Deception can be a controversial issue in qualitative research as well. Punch (1994:91) observed that 'some dissimulation is intrinsic to social life and, therefore, to fieldwork'. He quoted Gans, (1962:44) in support; if the researcher is completely honest with people about his activities, they will try to hide actions and attitudes they consider undesirable, and so will be dishonest. Although use of deception can be controversial, it can only be used as a last resort and sparingly as possible. For the case of this study and to illuminate the ethics of deception, the researcher will make the respondents to understand the significance of undertaking the study.

Furthermore, it is unethical to conceal research findings after completion of the research (Norris, 1993; Newman, 2003). A researcher may fail to reveal findings if they are contrary to their expectations or their sponsor's expectations or if they are likely to affect

certain policies or institutions negatively. The researcher will divulge the findings to the higher learning institution as the study is undertaken purely for academic purposes. Academic freedom is important as the researcher will be free to discuss and publish findings without fear of intimidation or victimization (Newman,1994).

1.12 Proposed Chapterization

This research work will comprise seven chapters. Chapter one includes the introduction section and all the research proposal aspects of the study. These include the background to the study, the statement of the problem, the study objectives and the significance of the study. It will further give a policy, academic and philosophical justification of the study, reviews the literature and draws a theoretical framework. It will finally highlight the research methodology. Chapter two will trace the historical trend and development of citizen participation in Bungoma District. Chapter three will address the nature and mechanisms of citizen participation in decision making. Chapter four will highlight the role of citizen participation in socioeconomic development. Chapter five will discuss the challenges and opportunities of citizen participation on socio-economic development. Chapter six will address the impact of citizen participation on socio-economic development in Bungoma County. Finally, chapter seven will provide the summary of the findings, conclusion and recommendations.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

Dear respondents,

My name is Jane Nesuwu Birachi, a student at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy in History. I am expected to carry out research on **“NEXUS BETWEEN CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN BUNGOMA DISTRICT SINCE 1960”**.

Your cooperation and assistance in the contribution of knowledge will enable me to accomplish this exercise. This information will be strictly used for the intended academic purpose and treated with utmost confidentiality.

Thank you in advance

Yours faithfully;

Jane Nesuwu Birachi

APPENDIX II: KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE

Name of the County/Sub-County/Ward:

Designation of interviewee:

Date of interview.

1. What do you understand by citizen participation?
2. In your own view, when did citizen participation in decision making begin in Bungoma District?
3. What institutionalized mechanisms have been put in place for citizen participation
4. Does the County Government have adequate mechanisms of information sharing with regard to socioeconomic development projects?
5. A part from the institutionalized mechanisms, how else to do you reach the people at the grassroot level to ensure their participation in decision making towards socioeconomic development projects.
6. What is the level of citizen participation in making decisions towards socioeconomic development projects
7. What role do these citizens play in decision making towards socioeconomic development projects?
8. What is the level of awareness of the citizens about their responsibility to participate.
9. What challenges do you encounter when trying to promote citizen participation in decision making towards socioeconomic development?
 - i. Emanating from the organizational structures
 - ii. Emanating from the citizens
10. What is the response or attitude of citizens, in relation to decision making in socioeconomic development projects.
11. In your own view, what are the opportunities available for effective citizen participation. How do you plan to improve on citizen participation?
12. What socioeconomic development projects have been implemented as a result of citizen participation.
13. How has citizen participation in decision making towards socioeconomic development impacted on their lives.

APPENDIX III: INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR KEY INFORMANTS

Name of Sub-County /ward

Name of the respondent

Designation of respondent

Date of interview

1. In your own opinion when did citizen participation began in your county.
2. What mechanisms have been put in place by the county government for citizen participation.
3. Which are some of the most effective participatory mechanisms in your county.
4. How often do the citizens participate in decision making towards socioeconomic development projects?
5. What role do the citizens play in decision making towards socioeconomic development?
6. How does the county government ensure active involvement of the citizens?
7. What socioeconomic development projects attract active citizen participation.
8. What challenges do you face in implementing citizen participation programs
 - a) Organizational structure
 - b) Emanating from the public
9. What are the benefits of citizen participation in decision making towards socioeconomic development.
10. How has citizen participation impacted on socio-economic development projects?
11. In what ways has the lives of citizens improved as a result of their participation in decision making towards socioeconomic-development projects?

APPENDIX IV: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH GROUPS

1. What do you know about citizen participation in Bungoma County?
2. In which areas do citizens participate?
3. How do citizens participate in decision making?
4. Through which methods are citizens reached in order to give their views about socio- economic development projects.
5. What mechanisms do you understand that have been put in place for citizen participation?
6. Are the citizens' views considered when the county government is planning for socio-economic development projects?
7. What role do the citizens play in decision making towards socio-economic development?
8. Are there any challenges you encounter? Mention them.
9. What hinders you and the other citizens from participating in decision making?
10. What socio- economic development projects have you ever participated in your county?
11. How have these socio-economic development projects impacted on your community?

APPENDIX V: RESEARCH WORK PLAN

PERIOD	ACTIVITY
May –June 2022	Proposal development
July 2022	Proposal draft submission (assignment)
August 2022	Proposal concepts note defense at department and school level
Sept 2022	Proposal defense at the department and school level SSE and SASS
Oct – 2022 – March 2023	Data collection and analysis
June 2023	Presentation of findings
September 2023	Internal and external examination of the thesis
December 2023	Oral defense after external examination
January 2024	Correction and submission
December 2024	Graduation

APPENDIX VI: RESEACH BUDGET

ITEM	COST CASH
Equipment	100,000
Transport	40,000
Accommodation	70,000
Internet Services	20,000
Stationary	80,000
Printing	75,000
Facilitation	50,000
Research assistants (3)	45,000
PHD Fees	540,000