PARTICIPATORY COMMUNICATION IN KENYA'S LARGE-SCALE INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS' PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION: A CASE OF LAMU PORT IN HINDI WARD, LAMU WEST SUB-COUNTY, KENYA
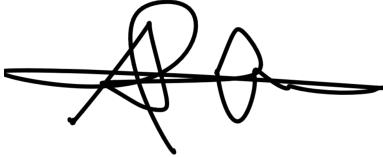
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2021

DECLARATION

This study is my original work and has never been presented for the award of a degree in any other university. No part of this research may be produced without the prior permission of the author.
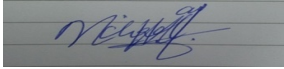
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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to God, my wife and twin daughter and son Jenelle & Jerome.

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I am grateful to every single individual who contributed to this study.

Special thank you note to my supervisor, Dr Michael Mwangi Kamau, who provided scholarly guidance during every step of the study. I am also thankful to the entire School of Journalism and Mass Communication staff at The University of Nairobi, who provided valuable guidance during the study.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

FPIC: Free Prior and Informed Consent

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

IPLCs: Indigenous People and Local Communities

KPA: Kenya Ports Authority

LAPSSET: Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia -Transport Project

NGOs: Non-governmental Organizations

PAPs: Project Affected Persons

USAID: United States Agency for International Development

WIOMSA: Western Indian Ocean Marine & Science Association

ABSTRACT

This study examined how developers of Lamu Port in Hindi Sub-County incorporated participatory communication during the design and implementation of the project. The study interrogated four objectives, including the participatory communication approach deployed in the project planning and implementation, the importance of participatory communication for indigenous people and the role of participatory communication in defining free, prior and informed consent in the Lamu Port project by the residents of Hindi Ward. The study employed a descriptive research design grounded on participatory development theory. Primary data was collected using a mixed-method approach from a sample size of 385 respondents and six key informants. The target population was the 10,039 residents of Hindi Ward living around the Lamu Port area whose livelihood has been directly affected by the Lamu Port project. Data from the study were analyzed using quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques, supported by the ArcGIS data analysis tool. The study revealed that the Lamu Port Project owners did not fully utilize a participatory communication approach in engaging the local community in Hindi Ward during the design and implementation stages of the project. Seven out of ten respondents indicated they did not provide their consent prior to the project commencement. In addition, the study found that the plight of local communities including the fisherfolk was ignored leading to protracted street battles and court cases. The key recommendation of this study is; large-scale infrastructure project owners must prioritize a robust participatory communication process during the design and implementation stages that allows host communities to get a deeper understanding of the vision and scale of their projects to avert opposition; not as a fringe benefit that they grant as and when they wish but as human being's birthright that is undeniable and unpreventable.

CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.0 Overview

This chapter contains the background, statement of the problem, objectives, research questions, justification, significance, scope, limitations and finally the conceptual definitions of the study.

1.1 Background to the Study

A properly designed and executed project communication plan guarantees four critical development results: reduced political risks, improved project design and performance, increased transparency, and enhanced voice and participation (Mefalopulos, 2008). Understanding the systematic adoption of development communication in development policies, projects and practices is inevitable in this information era (Mefalopulos, 2008).

Mefalopulos (2008) posits that when community members within a project area are not involved from the beginning, they tend to be more suspicious of project activities and arguably so, less prone to support them. Conversely, when communication is used to involve them in the definition of an initiative, their motivation and commitment grows stronger. The involvement of stakeholders in defining development priorities has advantages other than just gaining their support. It gives outside experts and managers valuable insights into local reality and knowledge that ultimately lead to more relevant, effective, and sustainable project design. (Mefalopulos, 2008).

Melkote & Steeves (2015) further argued that the relevance and the resultant positive outcomes of any development projects for the people and communities can only be guaranteed if all the stakeholders who experience the greatest inequality, deprivation, and marginalization participate genuinely. This success, the duo further state, can be obtained if the marginalized people adequately perceive their real needs, identify their real problems, and should be included in all directed change programs and activities.

14

Tufte and Mefalopulos (2009) argue that a participatory communication cycle runs simultaneously as the project cycle on condition that they both start at the same time. In its publication, 'Participatory Communication, A Practical Guide, the World Bank Group proposes four phases of the communication program cycle that best defines a genuinely participatory communication approach that fosters a dialogic exchange of information. They are: participatory communication assessment, participatory communication strategy design, implementation of communication activities and finally monitoring and evaluation which runs through the whole communication program aimed at monitoring progress and evaluating the final impact of the intervention (Tufte and Mefalopulos 2009). In studying the Lamu Port Project the researcher explored the extent to which the Lamu Port project managers incorporated the four-phase participatory communication approach in the project implementation.

In his article Whose Priorities? Excerpt from rural development putting the last first, Chambers (1983) exposes the Achilles heel of very many global, regional and local development agencies, whose ambitious programs to 'help' populations in developing countries have failed simply because they come in seeking to change things before they first understand the perspectives of the locals. They come in a typical case he describes as the 'stronger person wanting to change things for a person who is weaker.' The remedy, as simple as it sounds; respect for the poor, is easier said than done as most of these 'strong' people come in with set objectives as explained in his article Objectives for Outsiders (Chambers, 1983).

Hertogh et al (2008) argues that stakeholders ought to be seen as very important by megaproject delivery organizations, not least because of the adverse impact that they can have on the timescales for achieving the project goals. Hertogh et al (2008) further argues that ignorance of stakeholders may lead to deep suspicion and obstruction of the project. Mefalopulos, (2008) avers that the design, implementation, and maintenance of any infrastructural project often affect different stakeholders to varying degrees at varying stages. Effectively, as Jan Servaes and Patchanee Malikhao (2005) argue, participatory communication necessitates listening, and moreover, trust, that ultimately help reduce the social distance between communicators; in this case project

implementers and receivers; in this case stakeholders to ensure smooth exchange of information and feedback and ultimately ensure success of the project.

Mefalopulos, (2008) argues that participatory communication processes for development projects has shifted to building trust, facilitating dialogue among all stakeholders, and assessing social and political risks. This shift seeks to promote more inclusive and informed decision-making on the development and management of large infrastructure projects; that are inherently sensitive and require special attention to the political, social, environmental, and broader development challenges related to their successful planning and implementation. Further, decision makers' are motivated by a variety of factors to conduct public participation; key among them being the desire to consider multiple opinions in order to attain socially more robust decisions and to bring citizens and institutions closer together (Monaghan 2007: 124).

The African Development Bank, a premier financier within the African continent and one of the funders of LAPSSET, in its publication a ''Handbook on stakeholder consultation and participation in ADB operations" states clearly the role of "stakeholder participation" and in no uncertain terms encourage its staff to utilize a "participatory approach" in their day-to-day operations. (ADB, 2001). African countries supported by the World Bank have in the past few decades, witnessed a major shift in the development paradigm, where the increased democratization of the development process is reflected in higher public expectations for participation, transparency, and accountability as they seek to become 'modernized' (Mazzei & Scuppa, 2006).

The United Nations in its report of the committee for development policy after examination of challenges facing development in the continent of Africa, concluded that "sustained growth in Africa will be possible only if the African people become empowered in the process of development." (UN, CDP 2001). The Committee henceforth advocated for a participatory strategy aimed at improved governance, the mobilization of both financial and non- financial resources, and innovative partnerships.

1.2 Problem Statement

All large-scale infrastructure development owners are required by law to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as prescribed by the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) 1999. A key component of the EIA process is a proper and effective public participation during all stages of the project planning. Despite these mandatory legal requirements, Odero et al, (2010) and Newman (2017) separately argued that large scale infrastructure projects in Kenya have failed to adequately implement these key legal requirements.

The Lamu Port Project, was found culpable of failing to integrate public participation in a court case submitted by a Lamu resident against it. (Mohamed Ali Badi v. Attorney General & 11 others, 2018). The three judges in their ruling found that the respondents (Lamu Port Project owners) could not demonstrate that the residents of Hindi Ward were furnished with sufficient and relevant information leading to the conception of the project that would allow them to fully participate in the project before implementation commenced. The respondents were found in violation of the residents' rights to access information on the project. As a result, the court ordered the project proponents to craft a demonstrably effective programme to disseminate information on the project as part of the public participation legal requirements, specifically on the areas that affect residents of Lamu County.

Hertogh et al (2008) argued that lack of effective communication that forms part of stakeholder engagement breeds despondency and creates opposition or near stoppage of projects. The Lamu Port project experienced the predictions of Hertogh (2008) given the street protests that occurred in Lamu Island in opposition to the project as well as the court case (Mohamed Ali Badi v. Attorney General & 11 others, 2018) against the project.

Additionally, Chambers (1983) argues that for there to be meaningful change to a community or society project owners must first understand and respect the perspectives of the locals. This study in line with Chambers (1983) recommendations sought to determine how the local and indigenous communities in Hindi Ward were involved and participated in the Lamu Port project planning. Mazzei & Scuppa (2006) reinforces the above point about the need for project owners to understand their local partners perspectives by arguing that participatory communication facilitates dialogue among all stakeholders, creating a sense of inclusivity and informed decision making. As

such the study sought to explore how the Lamu Port project incorporated participatory communication to facilitate dialogue among all stakeholders.

Accordingly, despite the clarity on the two variables of participatory communication stated above namely; the requirement by law and evidence of broad acceptance of projects whenever it is deployed, the persistent nature of the problem of despondency among host communities is the problem the case study of Lamu Port Project during its planning and implementation phases and how deployment of lack of participatory communication contributed seeks to interrogate.

1.3 Research Objectives

1.3.1 General Objective

The study sought to interrogate effectiveness of participatory communication in the context of large-scale infrastructure projects focusing on the Lamu Port Project in Hindi Ward, Lamu-West Sub-County.

1.3.2 Specific Research Objectives

The following were the specific study objectives:

1. To investigate deployment of participatory communication in the Lamu Port project planning
2. To determine the role of participatory communication in implementation of the Lamu Port project
3. To establish the understanding of participatory communication by indigenous people in Lamu Port Project
4. To interrogate the definition of free, prior and informed consent by the local Hindi Ward residents in the context of participatory communication in the Lamu Port project

1.4 Research Questions

The study was guided by the following questions:

i. What participatory communication approaches were utilized in the formulation, design, and implementation of the Lamu Port project?

ii. To what extent did the incorporation of participatory communication affect the Lamu Port Project design and implementation?

iii. How did indigenous people in Hindi Ward understand participatory communication in the planning, design and implementation stages of the Lamu Port Project?

iv. What is the role of participatory communication in promoting free, prior and informed consent in the Lamu Port Project planning and implementation?

1.5 Justification of the Study

Global and regional bodies such as the USAID, the World Bank and the Africa Development bank that support infrastructure projects in developing countries continue to impose stringent measures

on project managers to ensure genuine public participation. These requirements call for an enhanced body of knowledge on how best to incorporate participatory communication in large-scale infrastructure projects that this study contributes to.

Studies on implementation of infrastructure projects in Kenya have focused on time and cost overruns (Kagiri and Wainaina, 2013) and project management (Musa G.H, 1999). A few have focused on public participation as provided for in the Kenyan Constitution, 2010 (Nyandika & Ngugi, 2014). These studies are skewed towards commercial aspects and legalities of conducting public participation (EMCA, 1999) in whichever form and structure, as long as it is conducted. Relying on precepts of development communication, the study delved into details of what a proper and effective public participation is capturing aspects of how the principle of free, prior and informed consent as well as the rights of indigenous communities were addressed.

Kenya's infrastructure deficit as of 2011 was estimated to require a sustained expenditure of four hundred billion shillings per year; an equivalent of 20 percent of the country's GDP over a period of ten years (Garmendia & Shkaratan, 2011). This therefore means that proper and effective project management must be guaranteed to ensure that citizens get value for money. This study set out to offer propositions on how best to resolve the issues around local community opposition to projects through a participatory communication approach.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This study will be of significant benefit to project planners and communication professionals to effectively design and implement large-scale infrastructure projects. First, the project sought to provide clarity on the practical and conceptual impediments facing the concept of participatory communication as argued by Huesca (2008).

Secondly, this study also sought to address the existing gap between the scholarly discourse and the applied field of participatory communication as per the argument of Ascroft & Masilela, (1994) that the dominant communication proponents are academic researchers and educators some of whom have never had the opportunity for applying the theoretical constructs in practical situations (Ascroft & Masilela, 1994). Additionally, the study may support policy makers to strengthen the

integration of participatory processes in all the national flagship projects under the Kenyan Vision 2030 in order for them to be conducted effectively and hasten attainment of the set goal towards becoming a middle-income economy by year 2030.

1.7 Scope and Limitation

The study was limited to the Lamu Port that forms part of the larger LAPSSET project for the period between 2009 and 2019 during which there was heightened public engagement. The study focused on the role of participatory communication approaches and not other intervening variables among the affected community members. A further study is recommended on the other sections of the LAPSSET Project.

The study's geographical scope was Hindi Ward in Lamu West Sub-County, Lamu County in the Northern Coast of Kenya covering 1,150km2. Hindi Ward hosts the Lamu Port Project and is home to a diverse population mainly composed of fisher folk, pastoralists, business people and subsistence farmer communities whose livelihoods have been directly affected by the development and operations of the Lamu Port Project. In the Lamu Spatial plan adopted in 2016, Hindi area had been proposed to be a key value addition industrial zone for agricultural products. The study's sample size was a total of 385 local residents and 6 key informants.

The study sought to address two questions out of the five under the bigger research by WIOMSA that sought answers on the impact of the LAPSSET project on livelihoods of the affected population, and the status of compliance with environmental and social safeguards that link directly with participatory communication approaches in the context of development projects in order to inform policies on sustainable investments. The study was anchored on participatory development theory.

1.8 Operational Definitions

Indigenous people

The term indigenous is conceptualized in this study as per the United Nations; as a people with strong link to territories and surrounding natural resources with a distinct social, economic or political systems, distinct language, culture and beliefs and usually form non-dominant groups of society.

Livelihood

A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living.

Free, Prior and Informed Consent

This study has adopted the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization definition of the concept of Free Prior Informed Consent which reads as follows:

Free simply means that there is no manipulation or coercion of individuals or community members and that the process is self-directed by those affected by the project.

Prior implies that consent is sought sufficiently in advance of any activities being either commenced or authorized, and time for the consultation process to occur must be guaranteed by the relative agents.

Informed suggests that the relevant community receive satisfactory information on the key points of the project such as the nature, size, pace, reversibility, the scope of the project, the reason for it, and its duration.

Consent is granted or withheld after a process that involves consultation and participation.

Middle Income Country

Middle-income economies are those with Gross National Income per capita of more than $745 but less than $9,206. Lower-middle income and upper-middle income economies are separated at a GNI per capita of $2,975. Kenya is a lower middle-income country.

Participatory Communication Approaches

This study adapted the definition proposed by the World Bank Working Paper on Participatory Communication. The paper defines participatory communication as an approach based on dialogue, which allows the sharing of information, perceptions and opinions among the various stakeholders and thereby facilitates their empowerment, especially for those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Participatory communication is not just the exchange of information and experiences: it is also the exploration and generation of new knowledge aimed at addressing situations that need to be improved.

CHAPTER TWO
LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter highlights the various forms of participation, the legal requirements for community engagement in projects, participatory communication in practice during large scale infrastructure projects as well as the conceptual and theoretical frameworks that underpin participatory communication approaches. It also sheds light on the research gap.

2.1 Overview of Large-Scale Infrastructure Projects in Kenya

The social, economic, and environmental prosperity of a nation lies in its ability to properly plan its infrastructural development, capable of withstanding the test of time and versatile enough to allow for the rapid societal transformations in the 21st century (Deakin, 2001). In the Government of Kenya' Vision 2030 (2008) long-term development blueprint, the country aims to be transformed into a newly industrializing middle-income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens by 2030 in a clean and secure environment. However, an analysis by the World Bank (2014) on the post-world war planning indicates that there have been far more development project failures in comparison to those that succeeded in developing countries, Kenya included.

The Kenyan section of the Lamu Port project that is part of the seven key infrastructural projects that form the Lamu Port - South Sudan - Ethiopia Transport Corridor Project (LAPSSET) estimated to cost a total of 2.5 trillion Kenya shillings, had as of June 2019 missed its initial completion deadline of July 2017 (LAPSSET, 2016). The causes of the delay of the Lamu Port project range from unavailability of adequate funds (Kabukuru, 2016), pulling out of the project by investors and governments (Muchira, 2019), terrorist attacks in Lamu County (Watkins, 2015) legal tussles (Kiganda, 2017) and organized protests by residents on allegations of failure by the implementers to engage fully the community in the project area (Enns, 2017).

This mega project consists of seven key infrastructure projects. It incorporates a new 32 berth port at Lamu Port Project and Interregional Highways. The other elements of the project are the crude oil pipeline, a product oil pipeline, the interregional standard gauge railway line, international

airports, three Resort Cities and the construction of a multipurpose High Grand Falls Dam along the Tana River. (GoK, 2017).

The top three large-scale infrastructure projects in Kenya over the past decade; the standard gauge railway (Wissenbach and Yuan 2017), the modernization of the Mombasa Port (Odero et al, 2010) and now Lamu Port project (Newman, 2017) experienced problems partly because of lack of proper and effective public participation by all stakeholders involved in the projects.

Setbacks to the Lamu Port Project that forms the basis of this study, began when a high court ruling on 30 April 2018, (Mohamed Ali Badi v. Attorney General & 11 others, 2018) presided over by a four-judge bench sitting in Malindi affirmed the local Lamu communities' grievances against the project. The judges in response to the Lamu residents' submissions, stated that the designers and owners of the Lamu Port project failed to conduct proper and effective public participation, by not providing the residents with adequate information as required by law and also castigated them on their refusal to recognize and consider the fisher community's traditional fishing rights and rights to a clean and healthy environment. The judgement was grounded on the Constitution of Kenya (2010) as well as the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirement as prescribed by the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) 1999. Similar reasons were pointed out by a different bench of the members of the National Environmental Tribunal sitting in Nairobi when they quashed the operating license of the proposed coal-fired power plant in Kwa Sasi village, Hindi Ward in Lamu County in July of 2019 (Save Lamu & Others v. NEMA & Amu Power, 2019). The common thread in both these cases is a failure in conducting proper and effective public participation from the project's design stages to implementation.

Appreciating that Kenya is on the path to a newly industrializing middle-income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens by 2030 (Vision 2030, 2008) in addition to the fact that large infrastructural projects are lined up key among them being affordable housing for all citizens under the Big Four Agenda, participatory communication will play a key role to the prosperity of the country.

2.2 Role of Participatory Communication in Accelerating Infrastructure Projects

Development

2.2.1 Participatory Communication

The marriage of the two hard to define concepts, participation and communication according to Mefalopulos (2003) presents an obviously fluid definition. The general approach by many scholars has been to review the major universal characteristics of the concept highlighting widely accepted and common features while recognizing the inherent ambiguities.

A section of scholars have proposed radical comparisons of participation to human rights arguing that the basic need to think, express ones views, freedom of association and the recognition of the value of a person that is appreciated and respected, and have some say in crucial decisions affecting one's life are as important to an individual as food and water (Alamgir, 1988; Diaz- Bordenave, 1989; Sen, 2000). Diaz-Bordenave (1989:) explained succinctly: "Participation is not a fringe benefit that authorities may grant as a concession but every human being's birthright that no authority may deny or prevent."

Beierle and Crayford (2002) described public participation as "any of several 'mechanisms' that are deliberately institutionalized in a bid to involve the lay public or their representatives in administrative decision making.'' The duo argues that over and above town meetings and public hearings that have defined the public-participation paradigms there is need to expand its view to account for context, process and results that are dialogic as opposed to monologic. Cox (2006) provided an alternative perspective on public participation describing it as "the ability of individual citizens and groups to influence decisions through (1) access to relevant information, (2) public comments to the agency that is responsible for a decision, and (3) the right, through the courts to hold public agencies and businesses accountable for their decisions and behaviors." This view by Cox (2006) describes precisely the three rights espoused in a participatory process, namely: the right to knowledge (openness) the right of standing (answerability) and the right to comment (voice). Both descriptions of public participation are steeped in bureaucratic processes that in a way negates the very purpose of participation.

Tuler and Webler (2006) while cognizant of the inherent limitations of conventional public participation proposed a shift to more deliberative engagement that supports a dialogic approach towards public participation. Daniels and Walker, (2005) contend that dialogue promotes learning, learning begets a shared understanding that ultimately supports deliberation. A dialogic public participation that also favors deliberation and learning is pluralistic (Daniels and Walker, 2005). In a pluralistic model, differences that arise on values, perceptions, knowledge and objectives are respected.

2.2.2 Participatory Communication in Infrastructure Projects

Communication, according to Walker (2007) is a concept with many facets which ties meanings to the transmission of messages, the setting, the voice and channels used. In a clear departure from the traditional top-down model of communication that was characterized by a sender, a message and a receiver, Servaes, (1999) alongside other scholars including Wang and Dissanayake (1984), White, Sadanandan and Ascroft (1994) championed for a paradigm shift towards a more horizontal flow of information in order to involve people in the decision-making process.

Balit (1999) described participatory communication as a process whose intention is to achieve a common understanding among all participants, then have them act on the basis of the consensus achieved as opposed to its representation as a static model. This description strengthens the fact that participatory communication is present in all stages of any development project. Melkote (1991) further buttresses this argument by stating that in its own nature, there can never be a predetermined prescription for a common channel, message or models to be followed in a participatory communication but instead a constant search for the most suitable format based on the prevailing circumstances and culture.

Participatory communication in the development field took off to a tumultuous start as per the summary of Ascroft and Masilela (1994). The duo argued that among other reasons, the approach encountered obstacles after the introduction of the division of the Development Support Communication that was viewed in suspicion by development specialists, the reinforcement of the concept of communication as a media driven activity by placing it under the information division

instead of the broader development planning units and finally the absence of specially trained personnel in that field.

Melkote & Steeves (2015) expressed their skepticism with the fact that the structure of 'elite domination' in development projects has persisted especially in the low-income countries like Kenya despite marked progress in the transition from the top-down approach characterized by modern paradigm of development to an enhanced grassroots participation. Diaz-Bordenave (1980) noted that although participation as a process with the aim of empowerment is a politically risky path, is the most progressive and one that large-scale infrastructure project owners ought to adopt given that it ensures "individuals are active in development programs and processes; they contribute ideas, take initiative, articulate their needs and problems, assert their autonomy, and take ownership of the problems and challenges.''

Mefalopulos (2003) argued that if a dialogic approach is adopted, project planners who claim to be participatory would desist from making decisions in offices in cities far off, and instead carry them out in the relevant communities with the people, not on their behalf. In such an ideal case, Mefalopulos (2003) further argued that if communication is incorporated in the entirety of the project cycle, it will be able to create the necessary dialogue that promotes horizontal flow of information that will guarantee any project's success.

2.2.3 Principles & Phases of Participatory Communication

Tufte and Mefalopulos (2009) proposed four fundamental guiding principles that form the foundation of participatory communication, namely; dialogue, voice, liberating pedagogy and the action-reflection-action. The four principles encompass the conceptual definition of participatory communication by Tufte and Mefalopulos (2009) adopted by this study as 'an approach based on dialogue, which allows the sharing of information, perceptions and opinions among the various stakeholders and thereby facilitates their empowerment, especially for those who are most vulnerable and marginalized.' The two scholars further argue that contextual factors such as a flexible project framework, a conducive political environment and enabling attitude by stakeholders are essential for a successful application of participatory communication methods and tools.

The World Bank in its publication, 'Participatory Communication, A Practical Guide, the World Bank Group proposed four phases of the communication program cycle that exemplifies a genuinely participatory communication approach that fosters a dialogic exchange of information. They are: participatory communication assessment, participatory communication strategy design, implementation of communication activities and finally monitoring and evaluation which runs through the whole communication program aimed at monitoring progress and evaluating the final impact of the intervention (Tufte and Mefalopulos 2009).

The most important of the four phases according to Tufte and Mefalopulos (2009) is participatory communication assessment that provides an avenue to jointly identify and define key issues deemed important by stakeholders, assist to jointly establish a common place where all stakeholders feel comfortable to share their views, ask questions and seek clarifications on the project, provide a platform to assess needs, problems, inherent risks, opportunities and solutions, support both project owners and stakeholders to prioritize issues for change and reconcile different perceptions and finally validate findings and define solutions or objectives that will guide the next phase which is communication strategy development.

A participatory communication strategy design based on a robust assessment support helps to avoid challenges of vague intent. A similar outcome is observed during the implementation of the communication strategy with stakeholders at the center of it. On monitoring and evaluation, it is critical that decisions on what and how to assess change be jointly agreed upon by all stakeholders. (Tufte and Mefalopulos, 2009)

Tufte and Mefalopulos (2009) argue that participatory communication unlocks the discovery process for both stakeholders and project owners as it is aptly captured in the Johari Window as per the figure below.

Table 2.1: The Johari Window

Window 1: OPEN KNOWLEDGE	Window 3: THE BLIND SPOT

What we know and they know	What they know and we do not know
Window 2: OUR HIDDEN KNOWLEDGE What we know and they do not know	Window 4: HIDDEN KNOWLEDGE What neither we nor they know

Source: Tufte and Mefalopulos, 2009

The 'open knowledge' pane in the window represents the plans, actions and information that are known to the project owners and the host community. This is information in the public domain and has been made available through various communication channels and exchanges between the project owners and the host community.

The 'blind spot' quadrant describes information, mainly indigenous knowledge that is known to host community but not the project owners. It is critical that project owners seek to understand the local context of the host community in order to avert unnecessary backlash or boycott.

The 'our hidden knowledge' also referred to as 'facade' describes information that is known to the project owners but not known to the host community. Project owners provide this information piecemeal as the project progresses out of necessity.

The hidden knowledge window referred to as simply 'unknown' describes information that are unknown to the project owners and the host community. This window allows for co-creation of solutions between the project owners and the host community.

Chambers, (1983) provided an apt summary of the Johari's Window model:

> "Rural people's knowledge is often superior to that of outsiders. Examples can be found in mixed cropping, knowledge of the environment, abilities to observe and discriminate, and results of rural people's experiments. Rural people's knowledge and modern scientific knowledge are complimentary in their strengths and weaknesses. Combined they may achieve what neither would alone."

2.2.4 Effective Communication Platforms During Large-Scale Infrastructure Projects

Perumal & Bakar (2011) posit that effective communication in any infrastructure project must incorporate a deep sense of collaboration and cooperation between stakeholders who are guided by a common goal. According to Mefalopulos (2008) this alignment under a common vision is

obtained in the first phase of communication needs assessment undertaken during the original project design phase or at the earliest opportunity.

In large-scale infrastructure projects proper project communication management; defined as the processes that enable 'generation, collection, dissemination, storage and disposition' of project-related information (PMBOK, 2013) is critical. The starting point being audience identification and segmentation.

Studies indicate that rural communities including indigenous people prefer to a great extent interpersonal and or personal communication compared to the usual channel of mass media when it comes to seeking for their understand and support of infrastructure development. Over time this has proven effective because the provider of the information is able to calibrate the information being shared based on the prevailing circumstances at any given time. Also, they are able to receive actionable feedback. (Feliciano, 1974). Petts (2000) underscores the importance of sensitivity to the local profile during community participation forums with a view of ensuring all interest groups are identified and consulted and different communication methods integrated to guarantee the attainment of the broad set out outcomes and most importantly the full range of stakeholders – including the silent majority are heard. In addition, Ansari (2014) reiterates the importance of conducting public participation with clarity around proper stakeholder mapping, week laid out objectives, prior distribution of project plans and workshop timetable, proper timing of the sessions in view of cultural and spiritual beliefs of the local communities, providing logistical support so as not disenfranchise a section of a population especially those from remote locations.

Technocrats who include government officials, professional bodies, development agencies and even non-governmental organizations who might have a stake in the environmental and socio-economic aspects of the project ought to be able to access information about the project through documents such as contracts, architectural designs and specifications, technical progress and financial reports, work plans, photography and by providing agenda and minutes of meetings (Knipe, 2002). Standardization of all the listed documents to ensure the information shared at different times is the same is critical (Zairi, 1997). In addition, emerging information and technology tools can be deployed and utilized to disseminate the requisite information.

The traditional communication channels of television, radio, exhibition at public spaces, newspaper advertisements, road shows, poster announcements, telephonic poll, written submissions, focus group meetings and web-based social media ought to be deployed strategically at various stages of the infrastructure development (El-Gohary et al., 2006) Regular reviews and evaluations of the various communication initiatives ought to be carried out to ensure that the views and aspirations of the various stakeholders remain unchanged over time. These sessions also provide continuous linkage between project owners and all stakeholders (Ng et al., 2014).

2.2.5 Challenges of Participatory Communication

Huesca (2008) posits that the future of participatory communication for development is facing a lot of uncertainties due to what he terms as serious practical impediments. On one hand, Huesca (2008) argues that the approach lacks institutional support given its futuristic and time-consuming dimensions that are in contrast with most evaluative criteria of many development bureaucracies (Servaes & Arnst, 1999; Wilkins, 1999). The other practical challenge is the fact that strong participatory projects usually transfer control from project owners to beneficiaries; a recipe for resistance from experts whose power is at risk. Power is inherent in the communication process hence the opposition of participation by governments characterized by authoritarian regimes (Lisk, 1985). These varied conceptions of participatory communication including fuzziness in definition, creates the undesirable outcome of the well-intended framework being directed towards a particular end or simply be open-ended and directive as argued by Mody (1991).

Mefalopulos (2003) argues that the legacy of the old modernization paradigm looms large in the current definition of terms associated with participatory communication. The scholar notes terms such as target groups, message design and audience connote the dominant paradigm and goes further to advocate for changing participatory communication to empowerment communication (Mefalopulos, 2000) which symbolizes a mode of sharing and exchanging meaning.

Participation in its true sense of the word stands in stark contrast to 'projects' as defined by Shepherd (1998) showing that the logic of the 'project' projects the fact that its activities are insulated from society and that project managers or designers are unlikely to provide access and

influence of their activities to be influenced by the public. However, studies by both Shepherd (1998) and the World Bank (1992) indicate a direct correlation between project successes that incorporated participatory approaches. These studies have elevated participation to not only being considered as a basic human right but also an important component that facilitates the success of projects.

Tufte and Mefalopulos (2009) argue that as much as "genuine dialogue" mean the highest possible form of free exchange of information in an open and balanced communication flow among all stakeholders and "genuine participation" implies the form of participation where all parties have an equal opportunity to participate and affect the decision-making process, this ideal situation is rarely achievable in the inflexible structures of infrastructure projects as currently conceptualized with tough requirements on predetermined implementation timelines that were agreed upon in advance.

The ultimate goal of any large-scale infrastructure project is to ensure the prosperity of not just a small section of the population, but an entire nation if possible, following a robust participatory decision-making process Mefalopulos, (2003). Cognizant of the complexities of large-scale infrastructure projects, it is obvious that a genuine four-phase participatory communication is a complex task. This study therefore sought to decipher the role of participatory communication in providing the basis upon which the different knowledge, experiences and perceptions were shared by the stakeholders in various decision-making stages of the Lamu Port Project.

2.3. Indigenous Community Engagement in Large Scale Infrastructure Projects
2.3.1 Public Participation as a Requirement by the Law
The Constitution of Kenya provides a strong foundation for participatory governance. Whereas the Constitution does not explicitly use the term "community engagement," this terminology can be used interchangeably with those in the Constitution, such as public participation. Fundamentally, the Kenyan Constitution establishes public involvement as a critical value and principle in governance.

For purposes of understanding, public participation can be defined as "a deliberative process in which the public is involved in problem-solving or decision-making in policy formulation, legislation, or project implementation" (USAID, p. 15). In other words, Erkul et al. (2016) note that it is a process by which community concerns, needs, and values are incorporated into government and corporate decision-making. As such, public participation can be practiced by actively engaging stakeholders, citizens and communities on matters affecting their lives.

Public participation is now a primary requirement in all policy and statutory functions of Kenya's executive and legislature. Moreover, it is also an inherent requirement in the planning and execution of projects that have an impact on the social or economic life of communities such as LAPSSET (Mwenda et al., 2012). Besides, public participation applies to all projects that impact the environment in one way or another. Accordingly, the objective for engaging communities actively is to involve them in all decisions that influence their lives.

In general, public participation must not be undertaken as a mere formality; but instead, should be attached to its true meaning, value, and significance. The public should be encouraged and provided with the opportunity to present their viewpoints and ideas. Consequently, productive and meaningful public participation is one that entails deliberate measures aimed at ensuring participation of everyone, including women and marginalized groups such as youth, people with disabilities, and indigenous groups. Presently, community engagement, as well as public participation in large-scale infrastructure projects in Kenya such as the Lamu Port project, attracts a wide array of actors as shown in the figure below.

Figure 2.1: Actors in Community Engagement.

ACTORS IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Members

Community & Grassroots Leadership

Civil Society Partners

Developers

County Government & Other Elected Leaders

National Government Partners

Source: (USAID, 2018, p.15)

2.3.2 Indigenous Communities

A community, in the context of this study, can be defined as "a group of people who have common interests and values living in a definable geographic area that would host or be adjacent to, or otherwise impacted by, a proposed development project" (United States Agency for International Development [USAID], 2018). Indigenous communities are a special category who are afforded particular unique rights in light of their traditional links to their lands.

Shelton (2019) argues that indigenous communities have over the centuries managed their surrounding resources so well but this trend is changing rapidly due to heightened infrastructural development. Attempts to alter their surrounding or shift these fragile communities from their well-adapted dwelling areas is always viewed as human rights violation except for few cases where their rights were respected and consensus attained through local participation in decision-making.

In the context of this study where indigenous community has been defined as a people who are not originally from Lamu County but a majority of whom were born and brought up in the area and therefore consider themselves local, faced the existential threat of social exclusion from the real and perceived benefits of infrastructure project, as stated by Njozela (2018).

In all infrastructure projects, consideration of local communities, indigenous or not must be sought extensively in order to integrate their opinions into the decision-making process or final project design. While valuable insights can be obtained from this process, especially in attempting to discover the 'hidden knowledge' as per the Johari's Window above, most project owners undertake community engagement only for purposes of informing the community of the development project, as well as to establish their perceptions of the project (Erkul et al., 2016).

Alamgir (1988) argued that despite efforts towards effective and meaningful participation of the people, especially at the grassroots including indigenous people, there are systemic impediments that persist. The ones observed in large-scale infrastructure projects include inhospitable political climate, authoritarian structure that prevents democratic decision-making, isolation and alienation of the poor and the powerless, unequal access to means of production, lack of support for participation by women, particular ethnic group(s), and the elderly; and inadequate infrastructure for generating true participation Alamgir (1988).

An effective indigenous community engagement guarantees capturing both the extent and comprehensiveness required to involve the local people in such a way that genuinely respects their history, traditional knowledge, cultural norms, relationship with the land on which they live, the natural resources they utilize, and their legal and human rights. Thus, a more evolved understanding of community engagement is required that encompasses public participation or working in partnership with the community as well as participative democracy. A description of this nature would consequently incorporate various aspects such as collaboration, negotiation, and empowerment in order to foster collaborative decision-making and empowered action with community consent, and perhaps even partnership as the essential outcomes.

In general, community engagement should, therefore, be understood to mean "a full suite of communication and direct interaction activities with impacted communities that, ideally, leads to community consent for a project" (USAID, 2018, p. 14). Such an approach covers the dissemination of information, targeted consultation with local leaders and representative groups, collaborative decision-making, thereby leading to great engagement extents that would see a community co-designing the project.

2.4 Participatory Communication in the context of Free Prior and Informed Consent

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a widely accepted mechanism and process that guarantees indigenous people and local communities (IPLCs) the ability to make independent and/or collective decision on all the issues that directly and indirectly affect them (UN-REDD, 2013). In their publication, Guidelines on Free Prior and Informed Consent, the UN-REDD Programme (2013) posit that that the FPIC process promotes collective decision-making especially for programmes and projects that relate to the use of IPLCs land and resources such as the Lamu Port Project that touched on both the rich fishing grounds and the fertile lands of the residents of Lamu.

FPIC should also be applied during the development of plans that will potentially have serious implications on IPLCs health; activities that may affect their territorial integrity, collective identity, cultural integrity, livelihoods, social cohesion and wellbeing, among others. The UN body also goes on to state that this mechanism is important for key policy formulations or adoption of legislative and administrative decisions that directly and indirectly affect IPLCs.

At the heart of FPIC are the key tenets of participatory communication that include provision of accurate and complete information in a manner and format that is understood by the audience in this this case, IPLCs; allowing the audience the freedom to internalize and analyze the issues for a coordinated and collective decision-making; and ultimately the recognition and respect to their agreed upon decision, whether it is favorable to the project owners and not - including conditions they may provide as part of their decision - and the proper and accurate documentation of the decision. If handled properly, FPIC is the epitome of participatory communication that ought to be conducted not just as a procedural process but a substantive mechanism to ensure the respect of IPLCs' collective rights especially in relation to land and territories, resources, as well as self-determination.

2.5 Participatory Communication & Public Information

Adek (2011) notes the critical requirement of involving all stakeholders from the start of a project, in her research on The Determinants of Successful Project Implementation of Infrastructure Projects in Devolved Units of Governance in Kenya. In addition, the provision of adequate and timely information during public participation processes broadens the basis of information on which decisions are made as well as increase the legitimacy of decisions (Bechtold, 2012).

Huesca (2008) specifically pointed out that lack of clarity in conceptual definition of participatory communication is due in part, to development practitioners selectively defining participation communication as mere attempts to improve information transfers and clothe them as communication. Huesca (2008) further argued that despite the very dynamic nature of communication in the context of a large-scale infrastructure project development, many project owners have for a long-time frozen communication action into static components such as message development and the obsolete linear models of sender-channel-message-receiver that were the hallmark of the discarded theory of modernization.

While emphasis for public information has disproportionately leaned towards the mass media, Melkote & Steeves (2015) argued that these worked well under the modernization framework and that they were helpful and often necessary, they are no longer sufficient for the complex and dynamic nature of the modern days' audience. The emphasis the duo posit, ought not to be on 'big media' and popular channels of communication to relay information on large-scale infrastructure project but on appropriate media and communication vehicles that will effectively deliver the intended messages and elicit desired feedback to progress the objectives of the project in a genuine and respectful manner. This process in turn grants legitimate status to the knowledge and experience of people in the periphery through a deliberate strategy that involve them in the planning, design, construction of messages, and important decision making activities (Fee and Krieger, 1993; Melkote and Muppidi, 1999; Mody, 1991)

In its very nature, the four-phase participatory communication process as proposed by Mefalopulos (2008) demands for a dialogic nature of communication as opposed to the long held monologic form of communication that is the hallmark of most large-scale infrastructure project.

2.6 Theoretical Framework

2.6.1 Participatory Development Theory (PDT)

The framework of participatory development theory (PDT) is based on four aspects of participatory development namely: its definition, why it is needed, its approaches, and contestations of the views in its current trends. Participation, in the development context, has been widely defined as "cooperating and incorporating pre-determined development and decision-making activities, and implementing and evaluating both the success and failures of such activities" (Nelson & Wright, 1995, p. 182). Still, other relevant definitions can be considered. For example, according to Desai and Potter (2008), "participation involves power where the most powerful struggle to maintain control of their privileges; and that even development agencies hesitate to give up control or power" (p. 46). However, a United Nations report of 1979 defined participation as "sharing by people in the benefits of development, active contribution by people to development, and involvement of people in decision-making at all levels of society" (Desai & Potter, 2008, p. 115). Hence, it can be clearly observed from the definitions above that participation manifests complexities, thereby posing several challenges, including those related to power dynamics making it necessary to fully conceptualize the power structure and balance involved in participation, particularly in the development perspective.

Three concepts exist within the context in which participation may be used: as a cosmetic label, co-opting practice, and empowering process. The cosmetic label refers to the situation in which "participation" has been used for purposes of satisfying donor requests and making projects appear excellent while in real sense, no participation was applied. Co-opting practice refers to circumstances where "participation" has been used to reduce costs through local labor mobilization. Empowering process, on the other hand, offers the best and true meaning and impact of participation. Specifically, it refers to cases where participation has been used to "empower the local community so that members can take control and own the project" (Mikkelsen, 2005, p. 54).

Participatory development theory outlines why it is vital to factor participation from local communities. In particular, the theory argues, "the emergence of participation in development came from critiques of traditional top-down development practices that usually incorporate biases

of Eurocentrism, positivism, and 'top downism'" (Desai & Potter, 2008, p. 46). The rationale is that these practices were disempowering as they attempted to impose similar developmental methods used by the West to achieve modernity while in the process excluding the locals from development schemes, and instead, treating them as mere objects (Chambers, 1997). Robert Chambers, who has been a champion for participatory development practices, notes, "Putting the last first was necessary for rural development." In general, participation is a critical factor in development projects because it improves both effectiveness and efficiency through the application of local information and utilization of local labor, indigenous knowledge and experiences, which in turn, leads to local ownership of the projects and promotion of self-reliance. Therefore, it is crucial for governments and development agencies to adopt effective participatory approaches in order to increase the level of confidence of the beneficiaries and empower them to be part and parcel of the mutually desired change. Moreover, using local information and indigenous knowledge can clarify problems and needs, enhance solutions, limit the chance of misunderstandings, reach more people, and increase the commitment of the local people to the project, thus increasing the likelihood of sustainability and success of the project.

2.7 Analytical Framework

Table 2.2: Typology of Participation in Development

Participation Level	Nature/Extent of Participation
Level 1	Manipulation (Community Not Understanding Issues Confronting Them)
Level 2	Decoration (Community Used as Needed)
Level 3	Tokenism (Community Used Symbolically to Show Real Apperance of Participation)
Level 4	Community Informed Though Not Understanding the Need to Particite
Level 5	Community is Infromed and Consulted theyby Understanding Project Design & Operation
Level 6	Community Participates in Project Implementation (Contributes Opinions and Has High-Degree of Responsibility)

(Source: Adapted from Mefalopulos, 2008, Typology of Participation in Development)

In level 1, communities are manipulated, as they do not understand issues that confront them. Specifically, they do not get feedback regarding problem analysis and actions taken. In level 2, communities are used as needed (decoration) because their participation is incidental. In other words, external providers to support their cause indirectly use them. In level 3, communities seem to have been given a voice, yet in real sense, they have little choice concerning the subject matter as they are not allowed to formulate and express their opinions and ideas freely. In level 4, communities are provided with complete, accurate information regarding the project and are made to understand why their involvement and participation is required. In level 5, although external agencies do the project design and operation, communities clearly understand the process, with their opinions being considered actively. Finally, since LAPSSET is not a project that is run solely by the community, the participation level would end at level 6. With community projects, initiation and implementation start with the community, thus no need for external interference. However, in this case, level 6 sees communities having high-degree of responsibility and contribute ideas and opinions before implementation despite decisions being initiated externally.

2.8 Summary & Research Gap

The literature covered above stresses the importance of active and meaningful community engagement in projects that affect them. Additionally, the literature painted a picture of the rules to be observed to ensure proper and effective public participation in development projects. The first research gap this study sought to find out was getting to the bottom of the protracted claims by the project owners that they conducted effective participation against the counter-claims by the residents of Hindi ward that they were not involved adequately in the project planning and implementation. This study therefore sought to investigate and analyze participatory communication approaches that were used to implement the mega project and determine whether or not unforeseen breakdown in communication, misinformation, loss in translation and interpretation, or deliberate ploy to withhold information by the development agencies contributed to the stalemate.

Secondly, participatory communication is still largely viewed as a preserve of the communication practitioners in the life of project planning. However, its approaches when applied effectively can be a critical strategic tool to foster timely and efficient project management by project managers in all phases of a development project. This research therefore sought to address the existing gap on how project managers can incorporate participatory communication approaches to smoothen stakeholder engagement for efficient project management.

CHAPTER THREE
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Overview

This chapter details the research methodology used in this study. The methodology includes research design, data collection techniques, sampling and sampling design, the population of the study (unit of analysis), data analysis, validity and reliability, and finally ethical considerations employed by the study.

3.2 Study Design

The study deployed a descriptive research design. The choice is informed by the findings of Lambert and Lambert (2012) since it does not involve manipulation of variables under investigation, but only seeks to establish the status of the phenomena. Accordingly, it is apposite for facts as it incorporates interpretation, comparisons, proper analyses, relationships and identification of trends.

3.2.1 Study Site

The Study was conducted in Hindi Ward, in Lamu West Sub-County, Lamu County. The inhabitants of Hindi Ward comprise mainly of fisher folk communities, subsistence farmers and a small number of pastoralists (Ngala, 2020). Hindi ward is located where the 32 berths Lamu Port are being constructed. Equally, it is the site that witnessed the resettlement of more than 100 families to pave the way for the construction of the port. In addition, Hindi Ward is referred to as the LAPSSET Project 'node', providing an entry point and exit of goods into and out of the East African Region under the national flagship project. Being the epicenter of the LAPSSET Project, its residents have been at the forefront of organizing public protests in opposition of the project due to the direct impact of the project to their livelihoods.

Figure 3.1: Map of Hindi Ward
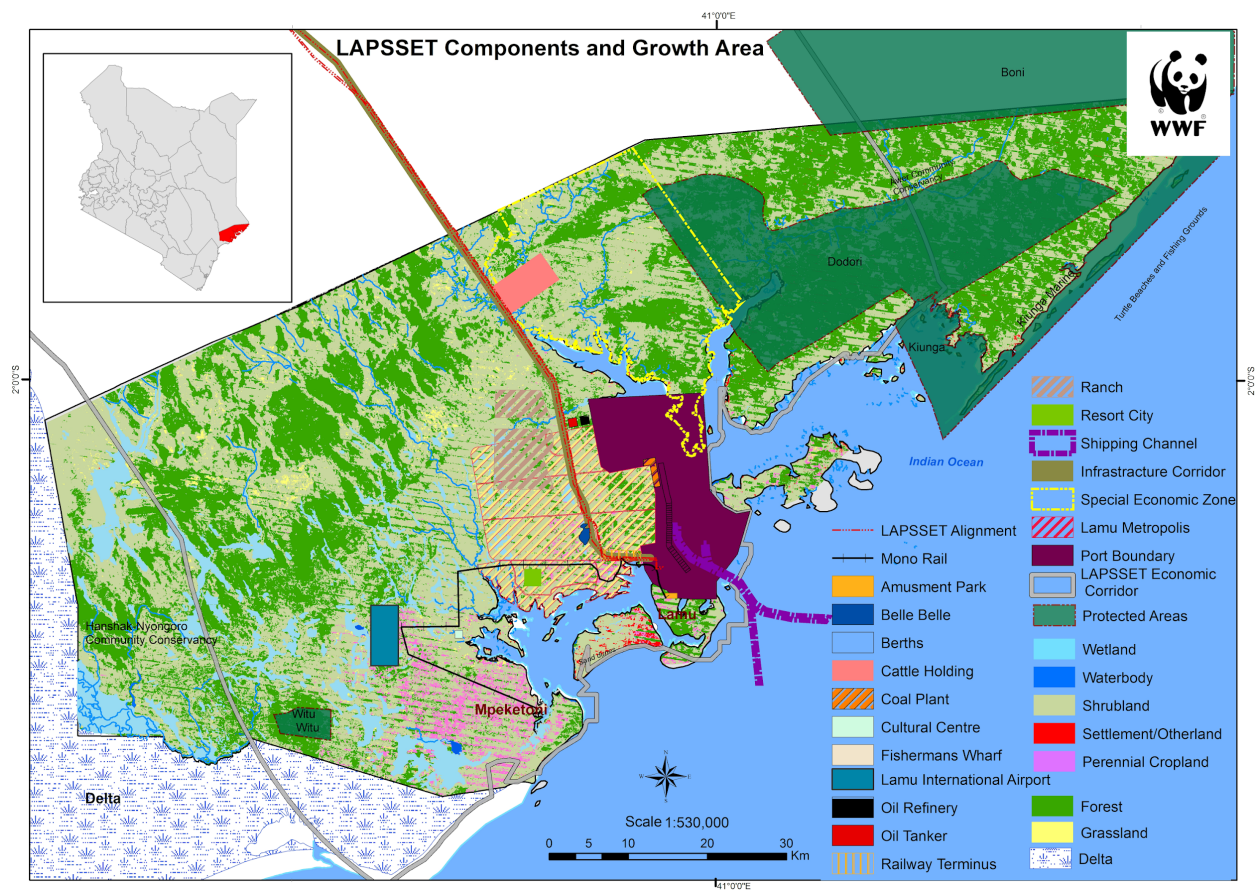
Source: WWF-Kenya

3.2.2 Research Approach

The research used a mixed method approach. The mixed method approach allowed the researcher to obtain complex textual literature from available studies, conduct structured interviews with key informant interviews and finally issue interview questionnaires to carefully selected respondents within the study site.

3.2.3 Research Method

This study incorporated a case study research method. This method is preferred for the reason that it helps the researcher to gain an in-depth understanding of the specific group of residents of Hindi Ward in the context of a fast-paced developing world.

The study incorporated robust scientific methodologies in order to determine the role of participatory communication in the context of large-scale infrastructural project as part of an ongoing research project by the Western Indian Ocean Marine and Science Organization (WIOMSA) on the impacts of large-scale infrastructure developments on coastal biodiversity: a case of LAPSSET infrastructure project in Lamu. In order to effectively address the communication aspects under the larger project, the study interrogated the issues under the Lamu Port Project that is part of the larger LAPSSET Corridor program through the lenses of participatory communication.

3.2.4 Data Needs, Types and Sources

The data for this study was obtained from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data sources were collected from key informant interviews and responses to interview questionnaires from the respondents drawn from Hindi Ward. Secondary data was drawn from published literature on the subject.

3.2.5 Population, Sampling Procedure and Data Collection

3.2.5.1 Study Population

The study target population was the 10,039 residents living in Hindi Ward, Lamu West Sub-county in Lamu County; who live around the Lamu Port area and have been the most affected by the infrastructural project in terms of resettlement and lose of livelihoods for those who were both fishermen and farmers and six key informants drawn from organizations involved in the project implementation. Feeding off the larger research, this study benefited from initial findings of the socio-economic challenges affecting the local populations such as displacement of human populations, loss of livelihoods, jobs and business opportunities as a result of the implementation of the LAPSSET project after using various tools to ascertain the income levels and alternative sources of livelihoods.

3.2.5.2 Sampling Procedure

According to Kothari (2004), sampling can be defined as the process of selecting part of a group to acquire data of the whole population to make inferences from the representation, which can in turn be used to conclude a phenomenon. Similarly, Becker et al. (2012) define sampling as a

systematic process of choosing representative segments of the population under study or investigation. Purposively sampled respondents for the study provided qualitative data. Numerical data from residents in the study area was collected using a quantitative method.

The researcher used simple random sampling and purposive sampling techniques. Purposive sampling was used to identify the most appropriate informants through processes such as physical visits to the concerned state departments and conducting both online search and networking. Bryman (2008) observes, "purposeful sampling is more appropriate when it is essential to research with informants that have first-hand knowledge of the research topic (p. 375). Open-ended questions were administered to collect qualitative data from averting any communication barriers in terms of responses from the six key informant interviews. Simple random sampling, on the other hand, was used to identify respondents in the local community in Hindi Ward.

3.2.5.2.1 Sample Size

The sample size for this study was 391 respondents, made up of 385 adult residents of Hindi Ward and 6 participants purposively sampled from a pool of development experts working in the wide array of large-scale infrastructure development in Kenya.

The researcher used Yamane (1967) formula to determine the study sample size:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where-:

n - The desired sample size (when the population is greater than 10,000).

N=Total population. Total population at Hindi Ward is 10,039, according to Kenya Population and Housing Census (KNBS, 2013).

e = accuracy level required Standard error is 5%

n = 384.67

$$n = 385$$

3.2.5.2.2 Sampling Technique and Procedure

The study deployed multiple sampling techniques (both non-probability and probability). Simple random sampling was conducted to collect data. There were 36 villages in Hindi Ward according to a reconnaissance study of the area by the researcher. Each village hosted homesteads that comprised a family each. Each family was designated as a household by the 2009 Kenya National Census totaling to 1,974. To select the 385 respondents, the researcher visited each of the 65 villages with the support of qualified data collectors. Sampling units in each village was sorted using random numbers generated from Research Randomizer software. A research questionnaire was then administered to adults (above 18 years) in each of the selected households. Appendix III contains the list of villages and the number of respondents. See below an extract from Research Randomizer software showing the selection of respondents that was used in Mokowe Town.

Figure 3.2: Research Randomizer Extract – Mokowe Town.

Mokowe Town

RESULTS   PRINT   DOWNLOAD   CLOSE

1 Set of **12 Unique** Numbers
Range: From **1** to **79** — Sorted from Least to Greatest

Set #1

p1=1, p2=2, p3=23, p4=27, p5=28, p6=32, p7=34, p8=43, p9=54, p10=59, p11=66, p12=71

Please note: By using this service, you agree to abide by the SPN User Policy and to hold Research Randomizer and its staff harmless in the event that you experience a problem with the program or its results. Although every effort has been made to develop a useful means of generating random numbers, Research Randomizer and its staff do not guarantee the quality or randomness of numbers generated. Any use to which these numbers are put remains the sole responsibility of the user who generated them.

Expert purposive sampling was used to collect qualitative data from six key informants based on their specialized knowledge on the subject of study as well as by virtue of their involvement in the LAPSSET Project. They included: (Representative from LAPSSET, Government of Kenya Official working in the Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Public Works, a private contractor who has managed large infrastructural projects in Kenya, a development expert, leader of Save Lamu lobby group and a development communication expert).

3.2.5.3 Data Collection

The researcher adopted both primary and secondary modes of data collection. Document analyses, including published reports, press statements, and milestone reports, constituted the content for extracting secondary data.

Direct interviews concentrated on members of the local community. The interviewees were guided through an interview guide questionnaire. Semi-structured questionnaires containing closed-ended and open-ended questions were used to collect quantitative data from 385 respondents, arrived at using Yamane (1967) formula applied when the population is greater than 10,000. The questionnaires were administered in both English and Swahili to break the language barrier and also to cater for the semi-illiterate respondents by reading them out loud and discussed on a one on one basis with the respondents. Primary research data was gathered through the use of simple random sampling techniques using the research randomizer software. The unit of analysis was the individual who was reached through survey questions.

Self-administered open-ended questionnaires were used to collect qualitative data from 6 key informants who were purposively selected (Expert Sampling) based on their specialized knowledge on the subject of study as well by virtue of their involvement in the Lamu Port Project. The six key informant interviews included (Representative from LAPSSET, Government of Kenya Official working in the Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Public Works, a private contractor who has managed large infrastructural projects in Kenya, a development expert, leader of Save Lamu lobby group and a development communication expert) The six were issued with open-ended questions that allowed for free expression. The self-

administered questionnaires were sent out to the 6 key informant interviewees using email and some during one-on-one sessions.

3.2.6 Data Analysis

Data collected was analyzed using descriptive techniques. Frequency tables, figures, charts and percentages were used in analysis of the quantitative data with the help of ARGIS. The quantitative data in numerical and statistically coded formats were further analyzed based on themes that coincided with the objectives.

The qualitative data was analyzed through deduction of the meanings of concepts gathered from the narrations and explanations obtained from the key informants, which in turn, enabled the researcher to apply own judgment and observation to conclude inductively as noted by Kombo and Tromp (2006). The analysis of qualitative data involved coding and organizing of the collected data into themes in line with the study objectives.

3.2.7 Data Presentation

The quantitative data was presented through descriptive outputs such as frequency distributions, percentages, and averages with the assistance of ARCGIS. The themes coincided with the study objectives. Qualitative data was coded and organized into themes that addressed the research objectives. Qualitative data was presented through descriptive narration and verbatim quotes.

3.3 Validity and Reliability

The researcher employed a defined methodology that was approved by the supervisor and a defense panel to ensure the reliability and validity of the study. The researcher piloted and pretested the data collection instruments among a few selected local communities in the study area during a reconnaissance exercise and adjusted it accordingly to ensure that it is fit for the study. The researcher trained the eight research assistants on the Survey 123 data collection tool and supervised them throughout the study to ensure uniformity and accuracy of the data collected.

Research authorization permit was obtained from The University of Nairobi (UON). The researcher ventured out for data collection after successfully defending the research proposal at a

panel organized by the School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Nairobi and upon issuance of a Certificate of Fieldwork, Certificate of Correction (CoC) and a Certificate of Originality of work presented. The prospective respondents were pre-visited to explain the intentions of the study and cultivate a positive relationship between the researcher and the respondents. Respondents were assured that the information collected from them will be for the sole purpose of the current study. The interviewer captured the respondents' views, as they were without addition or omission. The researcher undertook the study as a student researcher of the University of Nairobi and not an employee of WWF-Kenya that is both the employer and the grantee of the funds that are funding this project via WIOMSA.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Overview

This chapter presents analysis of data and interpretation of findings generated from the study of Participatory Communication in Kenya's Large-Scale Infrastructure Projects' Planning and Implementation: A Case of Lamu Port in Hindi Ward, Lamu West Sub-County, Kenya. Data analysis and interpretation were organized based on the study objectives. The data analysis is presented in the form of texts, graphs and percentages. All 385 questionnaires were returned.

4.2 Demographic information of respondents

The study sought to find out the demographic characteristics of respondents. These included the age, gender and level of education and how these affected their participation in the Lamu Port Project. Findings are elaborated below:

4.2.1 Distribution of respondents by gender

47% of the respondents were female and 53% male. Representation of both genders was satisfactory and in line with the Constitution of Kenya that guarantees equality for both women and men. The six key informants were male. The female's participation in the villages required the consent of their husbands to respond. Despite the target population being largely patriarchal, the representation of women in the study at nearly half of the respondents is impressive and serves to ensure the voice of the women is heard in development projects, especially in the African context when most decisions regarding land for example are a preserve of the men.
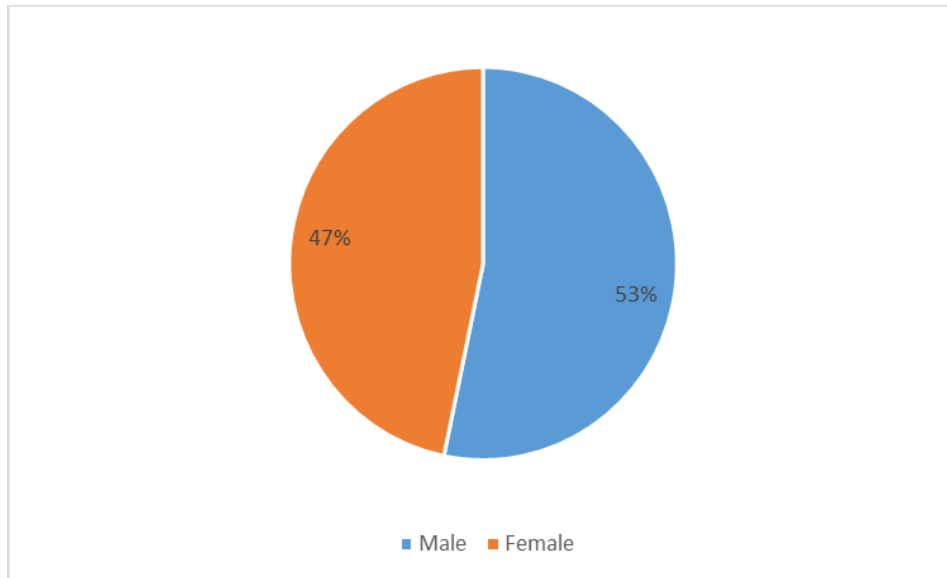
Figure 4.1: Pie chart showing the proportions of female and male respondents in the study

4.2.2 Distribution by level of education

Most of the participants interviewed had attained some level of formal education, 37% of the respondents had attained secondary school education, 35% had primary school education and 21% of respondents had attained tertiary education. Only 6% of the respondents interviewed had informal education. 13% and 8% of the respondents were male and female, respectively who had attained tertiary education. According to the Lamu County Spatial Plan (2016) the county has adequate school facilities corresponding to the settlement pattern. This explains the impressive level of education by the population. This demographic finding is important following the findings by Muigua (2014) that indicate that education is a key enabler of effective participation.
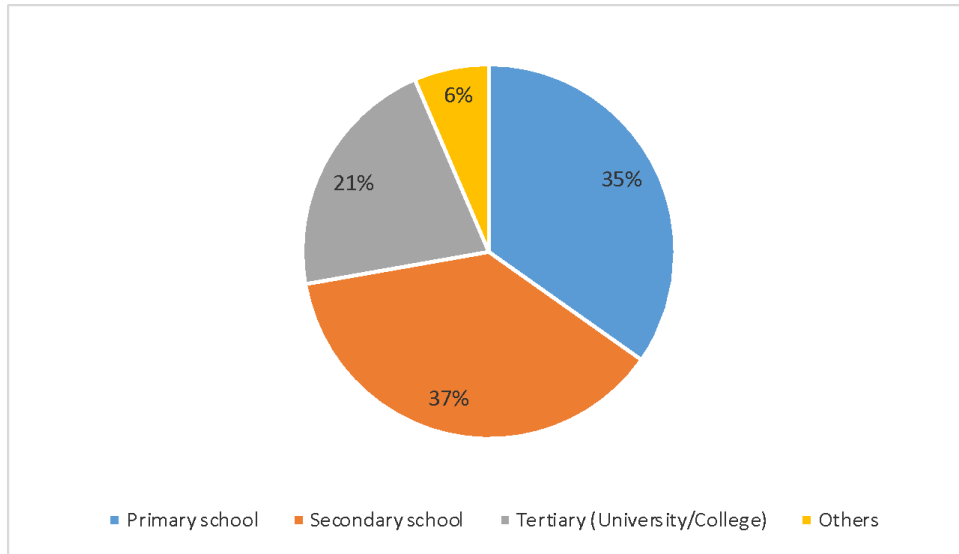
Figure 4.2: Pie chart showing respondents grouped by the level of education they have attained

4.2.3 Distribution of respondents by age

The age categories of 18-30 and 30-45 formed the bulk of the respondents with 33% and 35% respectively. This is in accordance with the Kenyan population age structure, which has a large base. 23% of the respondents were in the category 45-60 years and 10 % of the respondents were above the age of 60 years. Male respondents formed the bulk of the respondents in the 18-45 age group at 35.84 while the female stood at 31.7 %. The age distribution is important due to the nature of issues of compensation because land is owned by the middle-age and elderly members of society and therefore their voice is critical during participatory processes in large-scale infrastructure projects.
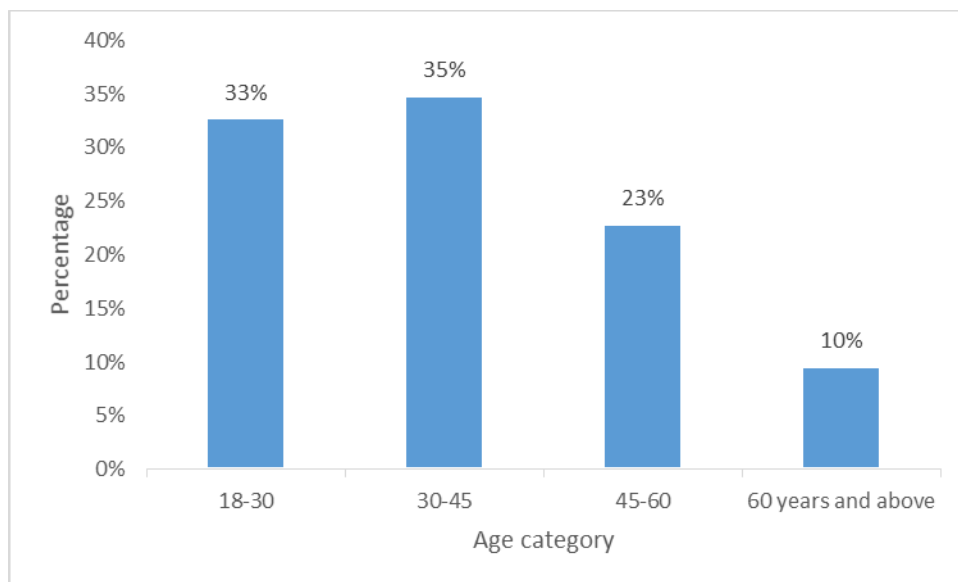
Figure 4.3: A bar graph showing different categories of age of the respondents of the study

4.2.4   Distribution of respondents by occupation

Farmers formed the biggest proportion of respondents at 42%. This aligns to the fact that Hindi falls within the agriculture zone in Lamu County. Other occupations included business owners 22%, employed 19%, fishers 9% and others 10%. While the fishers formed the minority of the respondents they were the most affected by the project that culminated in the court ruling that awarded them compensation for loss of livelihood. Distribution by occupation was important as it provides an important lense to view the level of interest in participation based on economic power the respondents wield as well as the level in which the project affects the different groups.
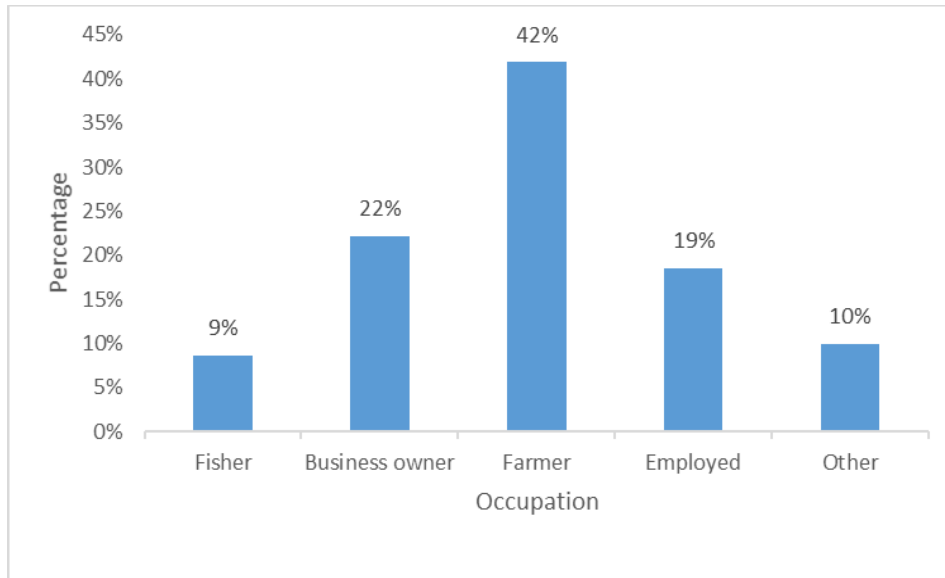
Figure 4.4: A bar graph showing different categories of occupations of respondents of the study

4.3 Effective participatory communication in Lamu Port project design and implementation

The study sought to establish if the four phases of a participatory communication approach were deployed as a tool of project planning in Lamu Port project design and implementation. Respondents gave their opinion on the extent to which they were involved in participatory communication assessment, strategy design, implementation and the monitoring phases. The findings are as follows:

4.3.1 Involvement in participatory communication assessment

There was little involvement of the local community in participatory communications needs assessment given that 36% responded in the affirmative to having been involved while 64% indicated that they were not engaged. This finding is in line with Moemeka (1997) quote that states:

> "The greatest threat to successful development projects these days is not so much the difficulty of getting target social systems to accept and be involved, or for getting the necessary resources, but the unwillingness of development agents and controlling authorities to 'Know their Audiences' before planning advocated development projects. (Moemeka, Closing remarks at the end of UNDP Training Seminar, Turin, Italy, 1996)."
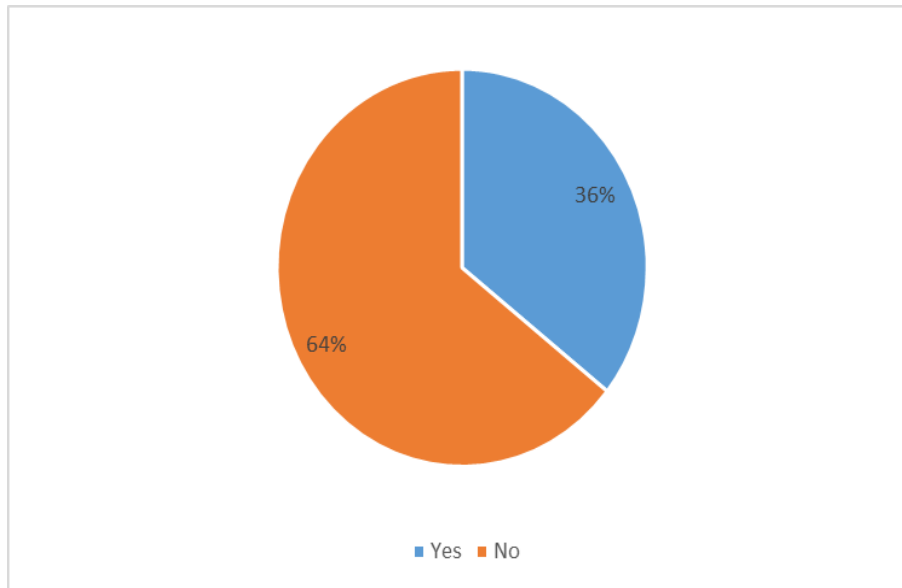
Figure 4.5: **A pie chart showing the percentage of respondents who were involved in participatory communication strategy against the percentage of those who were not involved.**

Participation was defined in a variety of ways by the various respondents, with the overarching theme being the 'personal nature' of communication between the project implementers and the various representatives of the community. In addition, various participation paths that emerged including political acceptance, economic empowerment, socio-cultural, religious and purely cultural paths were also highlighted.

Additionally, the study found prevailing confusion among respondents on the distinction between public information and public participation. While the representative from Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) stated:

> "We hosted numerous public barazas as well as one-on-one sessions with the community members and their representatives. This was in addition to newspaper announcements that got published in the major dailies in Kenya;''

the representative from Save Lamu was of a contrary opinion:

"As much as the right to information is guaranteed in the Constitution of Kenya 2010, most Lamu residents never received adequate information of the Lamu Project in a timely manner. This is exemplified by the fact that the chairmen of the fisherfolk and the local pastoralist communities were not adequately informed of the impending impacts of the Lamu Port project on their livelihoods especially for the fishermen who lost substantial fertile fishing grounds to the development of the port. We needed them to be furnished with all essential plans as well as included in the benchmarking trips that is usually a preserve of politicians."

On the question of adequate participation; and as it has been argued in other similar projects including the Lamu coal power plant where the project owners were also castigated by the Kenyan courts for not conducting proper and effective public participation, a representative of Save Lamu explained the brief history of the start of the project:

"By the time the project began back in 2012 without prior engagement or communication, the community was already disenfranchised given that most did not possess title deeds. The project began forcefully without regard for the resident's consent nor engagement. They just woke up one day to bulldozers on their pieces of land adjacent to the proposed port area. Against this backdrop, Save Lamu – went to court demanding for EIA/ESIA reports that had not been done nor made public. With the support of Katiba Institute the project owners involved the fisherfolk and other aspects of management of natural resources through the formation of a steering committee that was formed to uptake community input.''

This finding goes on to indicate that for project owners, adequate participatory assessment with affected communities is not usually a priority. It only occurs when they are either compelled by courts or there is a lot of public pressure.

This finding effectively addresses the gap on the fact that what the project owners defined as participatory communication – the barazas being one of them fell short of the community expectations. The residents of Hindi Ward needed to be adequately furnished with all the details

of the project including the designs prior to commencement of the project that would then inform them of the extent of how the massive project will affect their livelihood, their environment, cultural and socioeconomic status in order for them to adopt coping and adaptive measures as appropriate.

4.3.2   Involvement of the local community in communication strategy design

The study sought to establish to what extent the local community in Hindi Ward was involved in the design of the communication strategy for the Lamu Port Project. 78% of the respondents indicated that that they were not involved in the communication strategy design compared to 22% who responded in the affirmative.
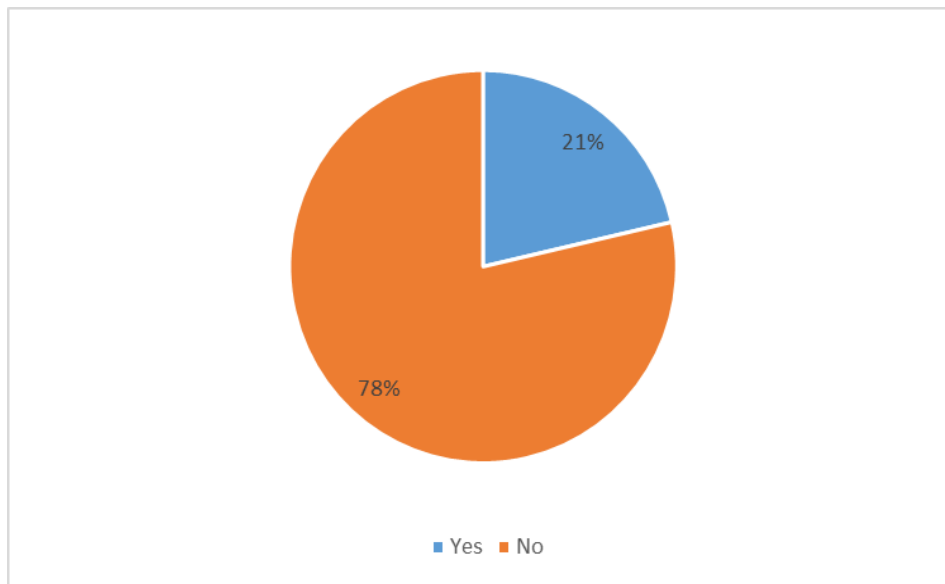
Figure 4.6:   Pie chart showing the proportion of respondents involved in design of the participatory communication strategy against the respondents that were not involved

From the key informants, a number of participatory communication models that were missing in the Lamu Port project design were highlighted for the implementers to adopt and consider in future: The variables included: Education, rural/urban, social involvement, the duration of residency in the region and the gender. For education and social involvement, a representative of KPA posited:

> "The higher the education level, the easier the communication and participation in the project. Additionally, the more involved the community members were with the social

aspects especially through civil society organizations and NGOs the more robust the participation."

This finding goes on to show the critical role of participatory communication strategy co-development between the project owners and the host community in order to avert altercations during the implementation stages.

4.3.3 Involvement of the local community in implementation of communication activities

Less than one fifth of the respondents were involved in implementation of communication activities in the Lamu Port project. This finding is line with Melkote & Steeves (2015) who expressed their skepticism with the fact that the structure of 'elite domination' in development projects has persisted especially in the low-income countries like Kenya despite marked progress in the transition from the top-down approach characterized by modern paradigm of development to an enhanced grassroots participation.
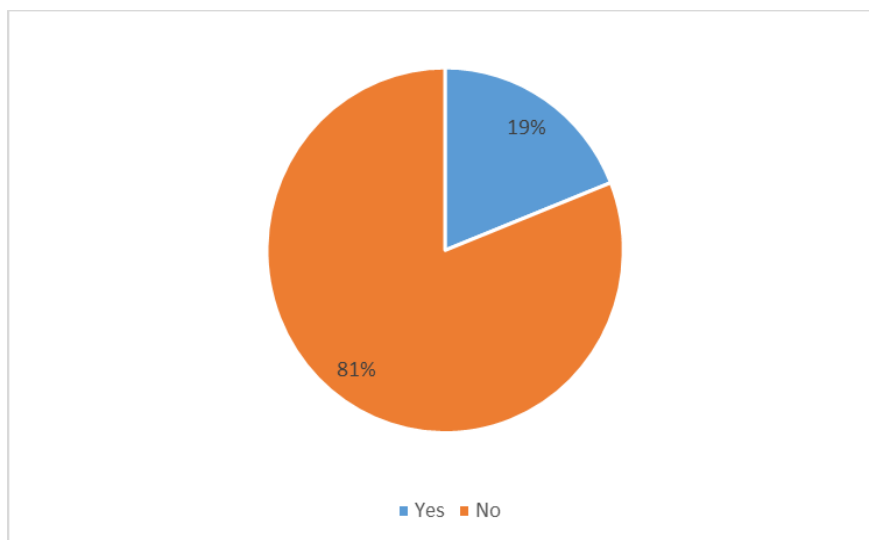
Figure 4.7: Pie chart showing proportions of respondents who were involved in implementation of communication activities, against those who were not involved.

In his submission, a former County Government of Lamu Planning official stated:

"Project owners rarely engage host communities from the design, inception up to completion stages of most large-scale infrastructure projects. In most instances, they are ambushed when their space/ land is acquired compulsorily for implementation of the project resulting in resistance due to lack of information on what the project and how they were going to benefit from it."

This finding responds to one of the research gaps on the fact that participatory communication implementation is mainly domesticated within the communication teams of project owners as opposed to its integration across all the project managers as a critical strategic tool to enhance project implementation. A community liaison of the Lamu Port Project, an employee of the project owners, KPA who is also a local resident of Lamu stated as follows:

"After the protracted battles with the local community during the project implementation, a liaison committee of the project was established to act as a bridge between the project owners and the community. This was aimed at providing a forum for regular engagements to provide updates and address any concerns both parties experienced in the course of the project implementation. Unfortunately, this committee never held meaningful meetings to date.''

The above statement goes on to show one of several missed opportunities to promote dialogic communication between the project owners and the host community. Again, it goes on to show the attitude of 'tokenism' by project owners that only seek to be seen to be doing something, but essentially, they are not committed to open and progressive dialogue during project implementation as captured in the typology of participation by Mefalopulos & Tufte (2008).

4.3.4 Involvement of the local community in monitoring and evaluation process of Lamu Port project communication strategy

26% of the respondents were involved in monitoring and evaluating the Lamu Port project communication strategy while a majority, 74% were not involved.
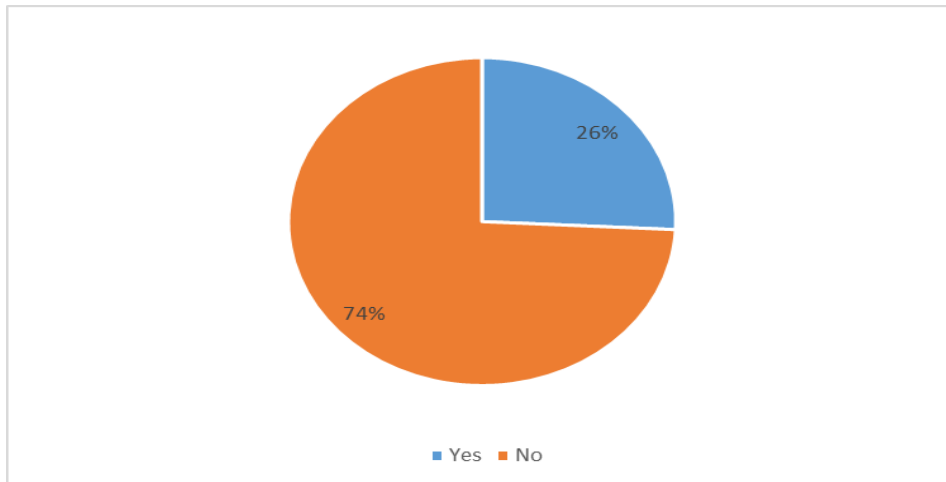
Figure 4.8: Pie chart showing a comparison of percentages of respondents involved in monitoring and evaluating the Lamu Port project communication strategy against those who are not involved

Throughout the four phases of participatory communication, the findings are consistent with the fact that only a third of the respondents were engaged in one form or the other by the project owners. This can be linked to the input by the former county planner who stated:

> "The local communities were involved during the implementation and commissioning phases since the land set aside for port headquarters and link road had claimants / title owners."

It can therefore be deduced that a third of the respondents who claimed to be involved throughout the project implementation could be the landowners that were later compensated, hence their active participation in the project.

4.3.5 Use of participatory communication as a tool for local community engagement by the Lamu Port project

29% of all the respondents of this study agreed that the Lamu Port project used participatory communication as a tool for local community engagement. This finding is in line with Mills (1974) where he argues that in any given community the typology of communication is a third of the

population are apathetic, more than 60% are spectators, transistors and gladiators make up 9% and 1% respectively.
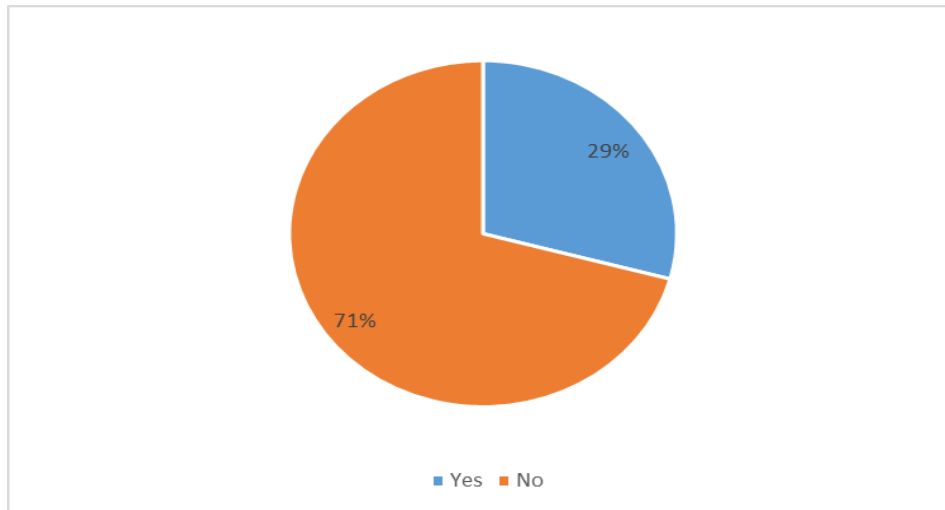
Figure 4.9: Pie chart showing a comparison between respondents who agreed that participatory communication was used in Lamu Port project, against those who did not agree

4.3.6 Adoption and deployment of participatory communication by Lamu Port project

The study sought to determine the extent to which Lamu Port project has adopted and deployed participatory communication. Respondents were asked to rate the extent on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1=No extent, 2=Little extent, 3=Moderate extent, 4=Great extent and 5=Very great extent.

Table 4.1: Adoption and deployment of participatory communication

Level of adoption and deployment of participatory communication	No extent	Little extent	Moderate extent	Great extent	Very great extent.
Local community involvement in Lamu Port project design from initial stages	27%	27%	28%	2%	6%
Local community is currently involved in Lamu Port project implementation on a regular basis	29%	32%	28%	6%	5%

Local community was informed of the impacts on Lamu Port project on their livelihoods	22%	28%	27%	13%	10%
Lamu Port project owners conduct participatory communication whenever there is conflict on project implementation with the local community	27%	32%	24%	11%	5%
Local community's perception of Lamu Port project owners' commitment to their views and proposals	24%	28%	30%	9%	9%
Local community engagement on Lamu Port corporate social responsibility (CSR)	26%	32%	25%	10%	5%
All engagement with Lamu Port project owners was based on free, prior and informed consent	28%	28%	24%	13%	7%
Lamu Port Project owners conducted regular monitoring of communities affected by the project	30%	29%	28%	6%	7%

The results in the table above show that a higher percentage of the respondents felt that the level of adoption and deployment of participatory communication by the Lamu Port project is below par. This is consistent with the response by the socio-economic expert who posited:

"Participatory communication is rarely used by government-led projects as they always tend to co-opt members of the community when all decisions have been concluded due the top-down nature of most if not all government-led infrastructural projects."

In addition, another respondent pointed out how ineffective deployment of participatory communication as a tool of fostering sustainable project planning impacted the Lamu Port Project:

"The community's over reliance on opinion leaders and politicians to represent their interests further derails proper civic education and participation in the implementation of projects."

This deference of participation by a section of community members is problematic especially when there is change of leadership during the life of the project.

4.3.7 The local community's level of participation in the Lamu Port project

Respondents gave their opinion on the level of the local community's participation in the Lamu Port project. 29% of respondents felt the community did not understand issues confronting them nor get feedback regarding problem analysis and actions taken by the project. 25% of the respondents felt that the community is used symbolically to show the real appearance of participation. It can therefore be deduced that while the community had a voice, in reality they were not able to express their opinion neither was their voice except for when they amplified it through the court process.

In general, 84% of the respondents felt that the local community did not understand the Lamu Port project and therefore did not participate effectively in its design and implementation. This is in line with the finding that only 14% of the respondents felt the community was informed and consulted and therefore understood the project design and operation. A paltry 2% indicated that the community contributed adequately and that they bore a high responsibility in the project.
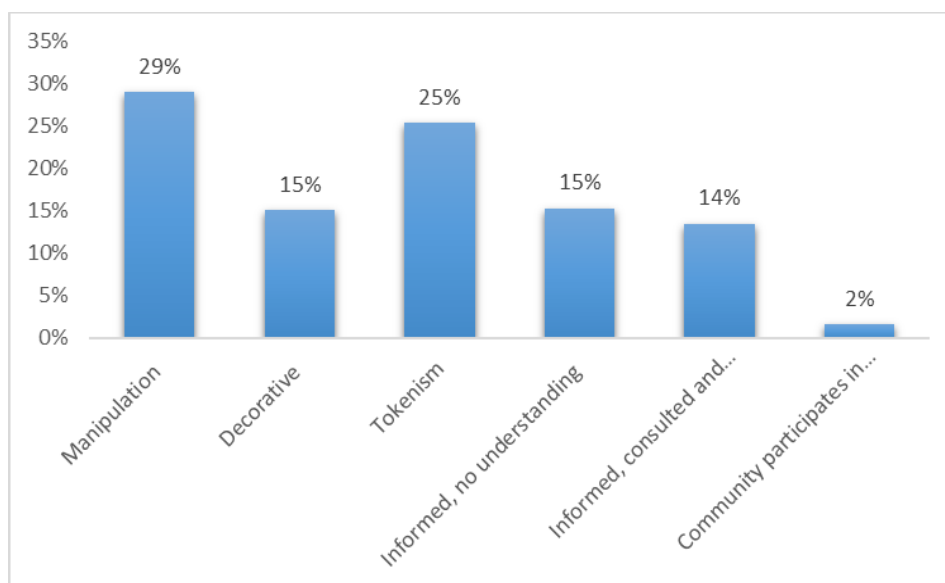
Figure 4.10: A bar graph showing the respondents opinion on the level of community participation in Lamu Port project

A planner with the LAPSSET Project indicated that indeed there were lessons learnt from the Lamu Port that were applied along the corridor in the subsequent years:

"Project acceptance is pegged on proper and participatory communication with project adjacent communities. In Samburu, the project planners rerouted the pipeline's original path following discussions with the local community to avoid sacred areas as well as an 'elephant maternity.' This outcome was a product of effective participation that ensured the community participated in project implementation by contributing opinion and had a high degree of responsibility."

4.4 Factors influencing the local community's participation in the Lamu Port project

Respondents rated on a scale of 1 to 5 how specific factors influenced participation of the local community in the Lamu Port project, where 1=No extent and 5=Very great extent. The specified factors were: Level of education, Channels of communication, Clashing schedules of public participation, Lack of transparency attitudes and perceptions of local community toward government led public participation, Political interference, Government priorities and timelines.

Table 4.2: Factors influencing the local community's participation in the Lamu Port project

Factors influencing the local community's participation in the Lamu Port project	No extent	Little extent	Mode-rate extent	Great extent	Very great extent
Level of education	28%	28%	26%	6%	12%
Channels of communication	19%	29%	23%	17%	12%
Clashing schedules of public participation	20%	27%	28%	13%	12%
Lack of transparency attitudes and perceptions of local community toward government led public participation	16%	22%	25%	16%	21%
Political interference	21%	24%	24%	14%	17%
Government priorities and timelines	17%	26%	26%	12%	18%

Lack of transparency, attitudes and perceptions of the local community toward government led public participation had the greatest influence on the respondents followed by government priorities and timelines, and political interference. These top three factors are corroborated by various key informants who stated as follows:

A representative of Save Lamu:

"We experienced utter arrogance by a large section of the local community who indicated to us that they really did not care about the Lamu Port project and whether it would be completed or not. All that mattered to them was to ensure their families had food on their tables."

Clashing schedules was also highlighted as a key factor that hampered participation as noted by the Save Lamu representative especially for the largely Muslim community in the Lamu Port region:

"A number of the public forums were scheduled for Friday. Participants who ascribed to the Muslim faith were therefore forced to rush through sessions before midday in order to catch the Friday prayers."

4.5 Factors that may hinder participatory communication in Lamu Port project

The study sought to determine factors that hindered participatory communication in the Lamu Port project.

4.5.1   Indigenous community

The study sought to find out if the respondents considered themselves members of an indigenous community and if that identity affected their participation in the Lamu Port project. 82% of the respondents affirmed that they are members of an indigenous community. 18% of the respondents did not identify as members of an indigenous community. This could point to the fact that community dynamics in Lamu changed owing to the Lamu Port project development mainly driven by immigration.
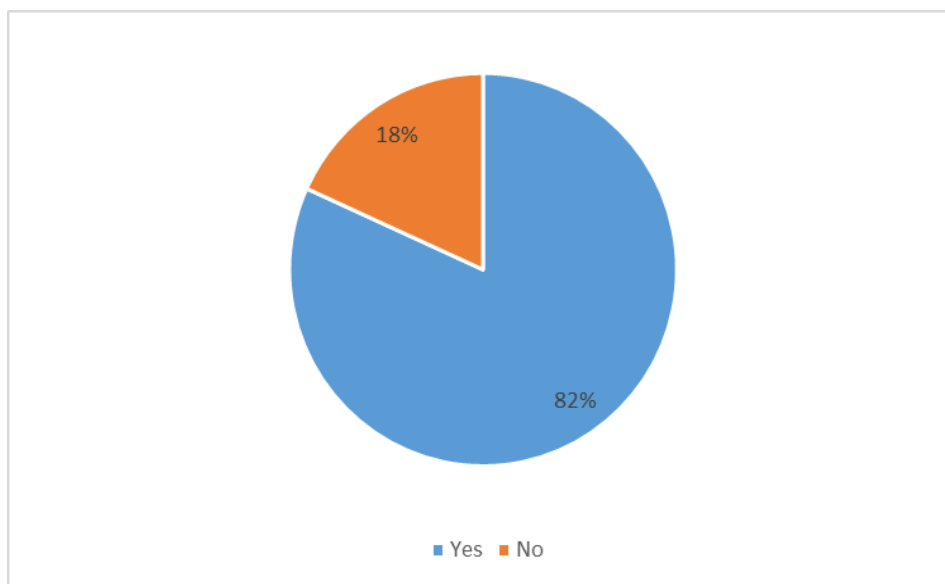
Figure 4.11:   Pie chart showing the percentage of respondents who are members of an indigenous community

When asked if one's identity as a member of an indigenous community affected their participation in the Lamu Port project, 59% said that it did not while 41% said that it did.
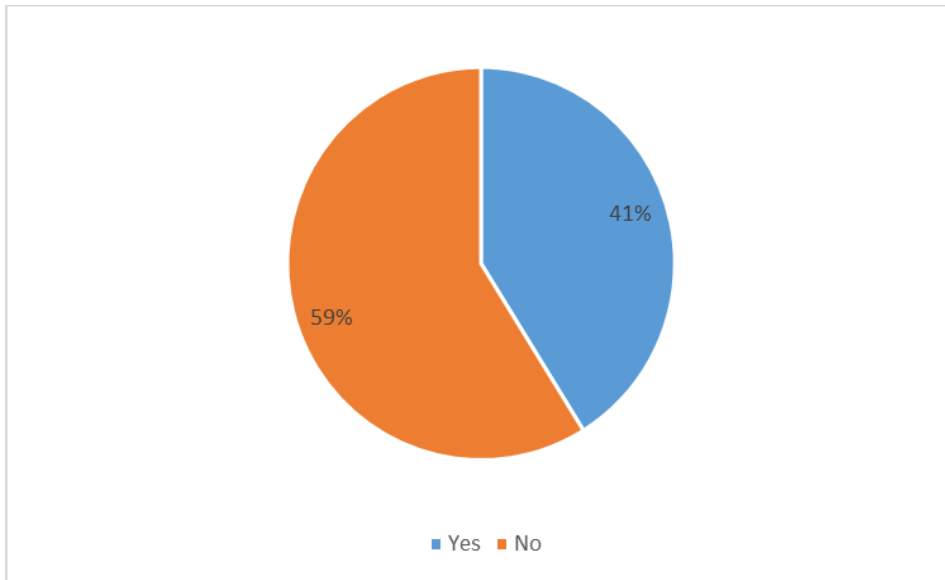
Figure 4.12: Percentage of respondents who felt that identity as indigenous community members affected participation in Lamu Port project

The respondents were required to outline the aspects of their identity, as indigenous community members, that hampered their participation in implementation of the ongoing Lamu Port project. Respondents outlined factors that included remoteness, language barrier, culture and marginalization in decision making. 44% of the respondents felt remoteness was the factor that hampered their participation, while 38% felt language barrier was their hindrance, 28% attributed marginalization in decision making as their hindrance while 24% attributed culture as their hindrance to participation in the Lamu Port project.
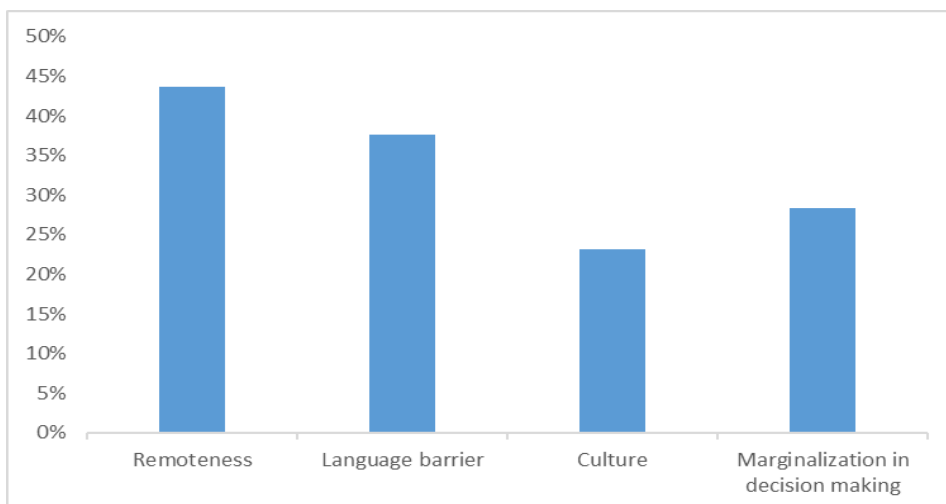
Figure 4.13: Bar graph showing the respondents attribution of factors that hinder indigenous community participation in Lamu Port project

Noteworthy under this finding is the elastic meaning of the term 'indigenous people' that the respondents adopted. In their own words, for a majority of them, an indigenous person is one who was born and brought up within Hindi Sub-county and the greater Lamu County. The definition hinged on the duration of time one spent in Lamu as opposed to the UN sanctioned definition. This explains the considerably high percentage of respondents who identified themselves as members of the indigenous community in Lamu. This is informed by the historical issues of Lamu that hosts immigrant communities from the country's hinterland who have resided in the region for more than four decades, but are still considered to be outsiders. Referring to themselves as an indigenous community is their attempt to claim their right and stake in the affairs of the country given their prolonged stay. The operational definition for this study will therefore be local community in the place of indigenous community.

4.5.2 Communication platforms

The public baraza were the most preferred communication platform. This could be because it gives an opportunity for dialogue.

While the study findings point to public barazas being the most preferred communication platform, one key informant representing the KPA contended about the inherent challenges that made the Lamu Port project owners not to fully deploy it despite its popularity:

"Hosting public barazas was an expensive affair for the simple reason that all participants needed to be reimbursed their transport costs incurred to the venue of the meeting including subsistence costs. Back in 2010 during the design of the project, cheaper options such as social media and even radio were not as popular. Now in Lamu we have more than three radio stations that we use to communicate with community members."
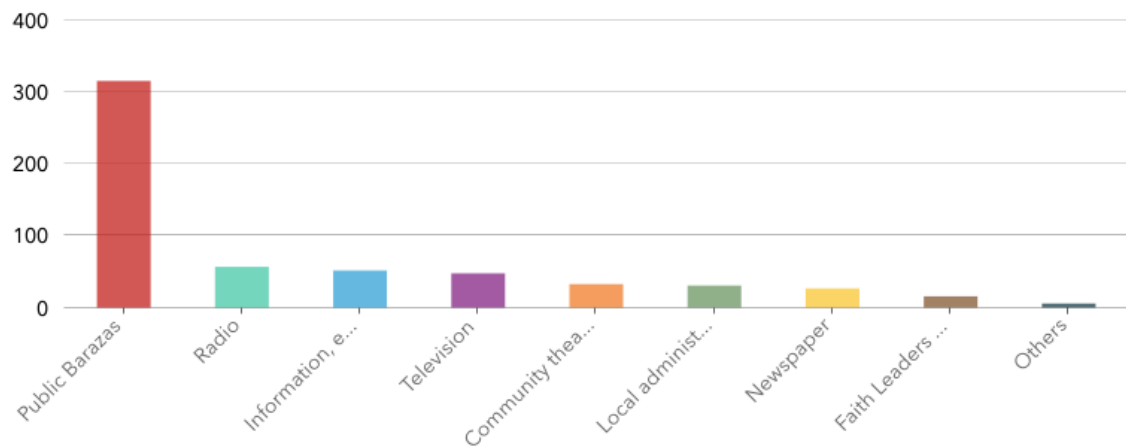
Figure 4.14: Bar graph showing the respondents most preferred communication platform for their effective participation in Lamu Port project

4.5.3 Local community's language preference

Swahili was the most preferred language by 82% of the respondents.
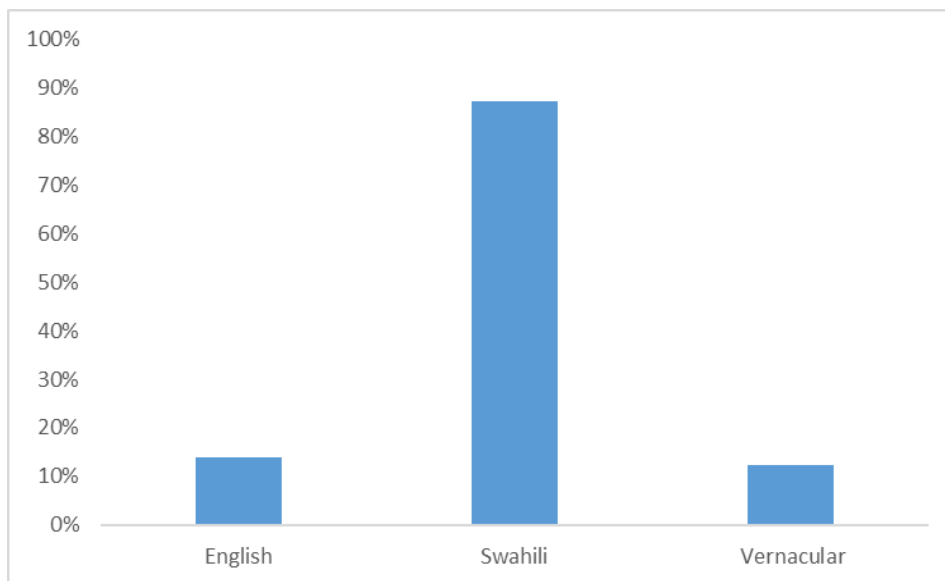
Figure 4.15: Bar graph showing preferred language by respondents of the study

According to a representative of the LAPSSET Project in Lamu the failure by the project implementers to provide information packets in Swahili and/local language greatly affected participation of the community:

> "Most of the community members preferred materials produced in Swahili or the local Bajun due in part to their education levels. This was a failure on our part and we have since improved on this as well as working with the local chiefs and village headmen to disseminate relevant information of the Lamu Port project.''

4.5.4 Influence of community groups in promoting participation in the Lamu Port project implementation discourse

The study sought to determine the level of influence, in promoting participation in Lamu Port project, by specified community groups including village elders, faith leaders, women groups, youth groups, political leaders, national government and local government administration.

Respondents were required to score on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1=No influence 2=Little influence 3=Moderate influence 4=Great influence and 5=Very great influence

Table 4.3: Influence of community groups in promoting participation in the Lamu Port project implementation discourse

Community Groups/leaders	No Influence	Little influence	Moderate influence	Great influence	Very great influence
Village elders	36%	30%	24%	6%	4%
Faith leaders	35%	30%	22%	9%	4%
Women groups	39%	27%	23%	8%	4%
Youth groups	32%	22%	23%	18%	5%
Political leaders	16%	20%	21%	27%	16%
National government	16%	19%	24%	21%	20%
Local government administration	14%	20%	32%	18%	15%

Figure 4.1: Influence of community groups in promoting participation in the Lamu Port project implementation discourse

Respondents attributed more influence to political leaders, the national and local governments and little or no influence to local community-based groups. This is in line with the earlier finding that the local community's opinion is not really a part of this project. In addition, it corroborates an earlier finding that local communities defer their decision making to their political leaders.

4.5.5 Local community's consent and prior knowledge of Lamu Port project implementation

The study sought to find out if the local community consented to the implementation of Lamu Port project. The respondents were also asked if there had been the local community's consent prior to commencement of the project and if there had been sufficient notice. 71% of the respondents did not consent to the Lamu Port project before it commenced

The study also sought to find out if the local community had prior knowledge of the magnitude of Lamu Port project before it commenced. 80% of the respondents did not know of the magnitude of the project.
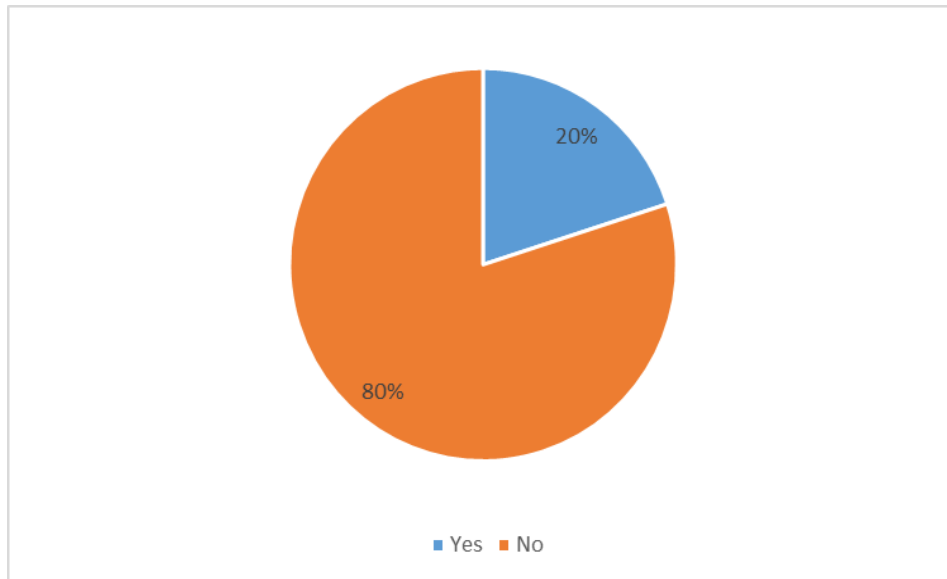
Figure 4.16: Percentage of respondents who had prior knowledge of the magnitude of Lamu Port project

Further, respondents were asked if they had access to primary reports on the economic, environmental and cultural impact of the project, and if the reports were in understandable language. 77% did not have access to primary reports on the economic, environmental and cultural impact of the project.
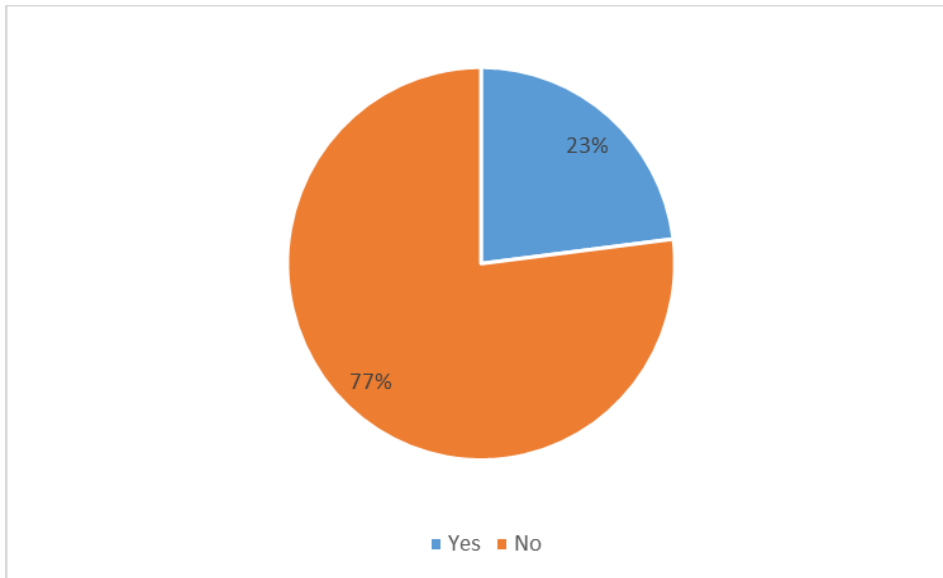
Figure 4.17: Percentage of respondents who had access to primary project documents

While it is widely held that knowledge is power, Lamu Port project owners encountered the doldrums during its implementation after they failed to adhere to factors that could have guaranteed adequate and effective participation of the local communities. A former planner at the county Government enumerated these factors as follows, at the heart of which was provision of adequate and relevant information:

"In order to foster a participatory communication process in a large scale infrastructure project, the owners ought to consider the prevailing political dynamics including the influence local leaders wage, dedicate adequate resources to paint a proper picture of the expected economic benefits and losses to all affected citizens, availability of all relevant data and information in an easily accessible format and ultimately promote civic education supported by the various government agencies and civil society organizations at the local, national, regional and even international level depending on the magnitude of the project."

4.5.6   Consent to the project
Respondents were asked if they consented to the project. Findings show that 78% of the respondents did not consent to the project, while 22% did consent to the project.
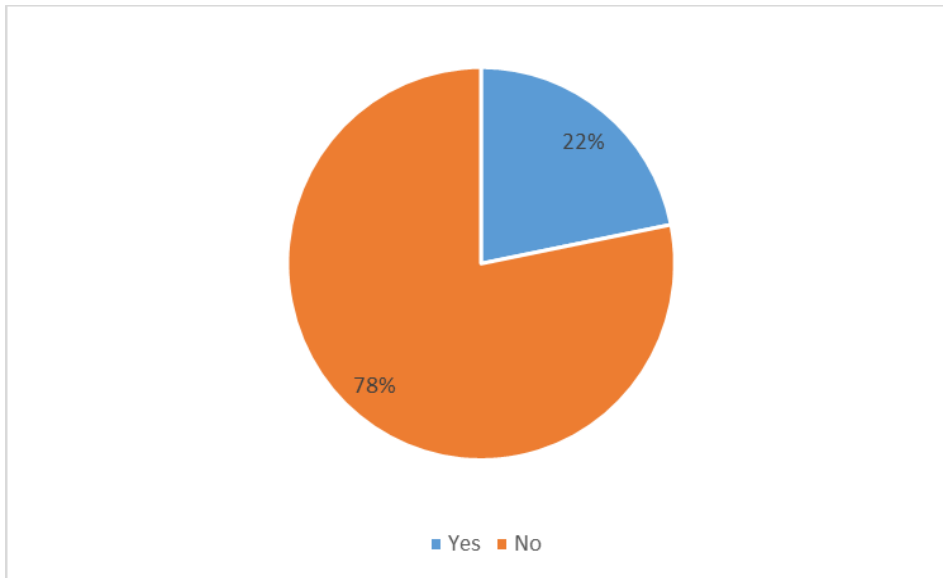
Figure 4.18: Pie chart comparing the percentage of individuals who consented to the Lamu Port project against those who did not

From this finding, the question of why a majority of the local community refused to provide consent to a project that portended very good prospects for a people who had been marginalized for many decades since the country's independence still begs. A representative of the KPA summarized the reasons as follows:

"The community in Lamu resisted the Lamu Port project because of strongly held assumptions against the project born out of the fear of the unknown propagated by the local leaders who were in pursuit of personal political interest. These leaders amplified false information even after numerous meetings and discussions for political survival."

Additionally, a former planner at the County Government of Lamu opined as follows on factors that would promote consent among host communities of large-scale infrastructure projects:

"Participatory communication creates community ownership of projects, enhances alternative dispute resolution and thus prevents court litigations and sustainability of projects; timely decision making, integration of the community needs in project implementation and guarantees livelihoods enhancement and protection."

The respondent went further to describe the barrier that need to be overcome including:

"Lack of information and data, illiteracy, public apathy, political influence and interference, high poverty levels that sometimes hinders movement and active participation, cultural aspects that result in skewed gender participation as well as government policy and procedures that hinders its officials to divulge certain relevant information to the members of the public."

The most notable statement was attributed to the then Minister of transport and infrastructure who while addressing the locals at the historic Mkunguni Square on Lamu Island at the height of tensions between the project owners and the community stated, as quoted by the Save Lamu Representative:

"As a government we have come to the recognition that we did not obtain your consent when we started the Lamu Port Project. Instead of dwelling on that, can we sit around the table and work things out to ensure the success of this important project that has both local and regional impact?''

This finding is aligned with the cogent statement by Diaz-Bordenave (1989:) who stated: "Participation is not a fringe benefit that authorities may grant as a concession but every human being's birthright that no authority may deny or prevent." This standpoint was upheld by the Kenyan courts in the Lamu Port Project with the host community reclaiming their 'birthright' through the ruling that demanded the project owners to ensure proper and adequate public participation.

CHAPTER FIVE
SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Overview

This chapter presents a summary of the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the study. The study examined how developers of Lamu Port in Hindi Sub-County incorporated participatory communication during the design and implementation of the project.

Four objectives were interrogated in this study including participatory communication approaches applied in the project planning and implementation, the importance of participatory communication for indigenous people and the role of participatory communication in defining free, prior and informed consent in Lamu Port project by the local residents of Hindi Ward, Lamu-West Sub-County.

5.2 Summary of Findings

The study sought to determine the role of participatory communication in the context of large-scale infrastructural projects focusing on the Lamu Port Project in Hindi Ward, Lamu-West Sub-County. Findings show that the project failed to adequately incorporate participatory communication at the design and planning stage. A big proportion of the local community did not understand the magnitude of the project, nor did they have access to primary documents about the impact of the project. This resulted in a lot of mistrust of the project and the open opposition to the project.

The owners of the project had an uphill task implementing the project in an environment that was rife with mistrust and opposition. Time and money wasted was in demonstrations and lawsuits against the project would have been saved by a prior involvement of the local community in the project. The project owners would have made faster progress had they sufficiently adopted and deployed participatory communication as a tool to engage the local community.

Indigenous communities are often denied a voice in implementation of projects of such magnitude and Lamu Port project was not an exception. Findings of this study show no satisfactory

demonstration that the project addressed the top three issues that were outlined as hindrances to participation of the indigenous community. These include remoteness, language barrier and marginalization in decision making. Given that a large percentage of the local community in Lamu identify as members of an indigenous community, this was a big gap in implementation of the Lamu Port project.

There was no free, prior and informed consent of the local community in implementation of the Lamu Port project. This is arguably the most important finding of the study.

5.3 Conclusion

The Lamu Port project lacked a properly designed participatory communication process and plan. This implies that what the project owners deployed to allow for the local participation in the project lacked transparency and muffled the voice of the local community and hence did not gain from their participation. The project owners were equally agile enough to quickly pick the important lessons the first phase of the project which was the Lamu Port and tried to do better in the subsequent phases.

5.4 Recommendations

The study recommends the following key actions:
1. Large-scale infrastructure project owners must prioritize a robust participatory communication process during the design and implementation stages; not as a fringe benefit that they grant as and when they wish but as a human being's birthright that is undeniable and unpreventable
2. Participatory communication is a key planning tool for decision making and implementation of large-scale infrastructure projects
3. For adequate and full participation, women should be separated from their male counterparts given the gender hindrance in participation
4. Project implementers should paint a clear picture on the vision of the large infrastructure projects for all to see and buy into, especially the host community. The architectural models ought not to be kept in a few privileged members/representative's offices but distributed in

churches, mosques, jetties and other relevant places where community members congregate including during public barazas

5. Information on projects should be provided in local languages for ease of understanding

6. Public Barazas being the most preferred model of communication should be encouraged as well as advertisement and mass media

7. Projects owners should adequately and transparently describe the benefits to obtain free prior and informed consent

8. Large infrastructure projects ought to respect cultural values as well as eco-sensitive regions in order to gain acceptance and avert opposition

9. Benchmarking trips should be organized not only for politicians as it is the norm but also for local leaders and community members in order for them to understand the grand vision

10. Citizens have an obligation to participate and not defer it to their leaders which often occurs

5.5 Recommendations for further study

The following is the key recommendation for further study:

Conduct an analysis on the convergence and divergence of public information vs public participation in the context of large scale infrastructure projects. This will address the emerging issue from the study where it was noted that despite the two phrases being distinct, they were loosely used interchangeably by both the project owners and the respondents.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

I am Alex Kubasu Khasiebi, a student at the University of Nairobi, School of Journalism and Mass Communication currently pursuing a Master of Arts Degree in Communication (Development Communication). I am conducting a study on *'Participatory Communication in Large Scale Infrastructure Projects in Kenya; Case of Lamu Port Project in Hindi Ward, Lamu-West Sub-County in Kenya.'* The research is purely for academic reasons. Your responses will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Kindly answer the following:

Please tick (√) appropriately among the choices provided.

Do not write your name on the questionnaire.

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

      1. Gender

a) Male   ( )

b) Female   ( )

2. Tick (√) as appropriate

What is your highest level of education?

Level of Education	Tick (√) appropriate
Primary school	
Secondary school	
Tertiary (University/College)	
Others (please specify)	

3.   What is your age bracket?

a) 18-30   ( )

b) 30-45   ( )

c) 45-60   ( )

d) 60 years and above   ( )

4. Occupation

a) Fisherman/woman   ( )

b) Business owner   ( )

c) Farmer   ( )

d) Employed   ( )

d) Other (Please specify)

5. Do you consider yourself part of an indigenous community?

Yes   ( )

No   ( )

SECTION B: PARTICIPATORY COMMUNICATION IN LAMU PORT PROJECT DESIGN
AND IMPLEMENTATION.

6. Were you involved in participatory communication assessment?

Yes   ( )

No   ( )

5. Were you involved in the communication strategy design?

Yes   ( )

No   ( )

6. Were you involved in the implementation of the communication activities?

Yes   ( )

No   ( )

7. Have the project owners sought your opinion on what and when to measure change since
the project began during the monitoring and evaluation process of the project's
communication strategy?

Yes   ( )

No   ( )

8. Do you think that participatory communication was/is being used as a tool to engage the local community on the ongoing Lamu Port Project in Hindi, Lamu Sub-County?

Yes   ( )

No   ( )

11. Rate the extent to which you agree with the following statements regarding the adoption and deployment of participatory communication in the Lamu Port Project implementation in Hindi, Lamu Sub-County? Rate on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1=No Extent, 2=Little Extent, 3=Moderate extent, 4=Great extent and 5=Very Great Extent

DESCRIPTION	1	2	3	4	5
Community members in Hindi ward were involved in the Lamu Port Project design from its initial stages					
Community members in Hindi ward are currently involved in the Lamu Port Project implementation on a regular basis					
Community members in Hindi ward were communicated to the impact of the Lamu Port Project on their livelihoods					
Lamu Port Project owners conducts participatory communication whenever conflict arises on project implementation with the local community					
The perception of the community members of Hindi on the seriousness Lamu Port Project owners considers their views and proposals					
The level of engagement of community members on the Lamu Port Project corporate social responsibility projects					

All the engagement with Lamu Port Project owners were based on Free, Prior and Informed Consent				
Lamu Port Project owners conducted regular monitoring of communities affected by the project				

12. Which level of participation described below best describes the local community participation in the Lamu Port Project in Hindi Ward, Lamu Sub-County?

Level	Description	Tick as appropriate
Level 1	Manipulation (The community does not understand issues confronting them)	
Level 2	Decorative (Community used as needed to portray their embracing and support of the project)	
Level 3	Tokenism (Community used symbolically to show real appearance of participation)	
Level 4	Community informed though do not understand need to participate	
Level 5	Community is informed and consulted thereby understand project design and operation	
Level 7	Community participates in project implementation (Contributes opinion and has high degree of responsibility)	

(Source: Adapted from Mefalopulos, 2008, Typology of Participation in Development)

SECTION C: FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN LAMU PORT PROJECT IN HINDI WARD, LAMU WEST SUB-COUNTY

13. Rate the extent to which the following factors influence participation of community members in the ongoing Lamu Port Project in Hindi, Lamu West Sub-county. Rate on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1=No Extent, 2=Little Extent, 3=Moderate extent, 4=Great extent and 5=Very Great Extent

Factors	1	2	3	4	5
Level of education					
Channels of communication					
Clashing schedules of public participation					
Lack of transparency					
Attitudes and perceptions of the local community towards government led public participation					
Political interference					
Government priorities and timelines					

Others (please specify)

SECTION D: FACTORS THAT HINDER PARTICIPATORY COMMUNICATION.

14. What factors, if any, hinder your participation in the ongoing Lamu Port Project implementation discussion?

SECTION E: COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS

15. What is your most preferred communication platform in accessing information about the Lamu Port Project, either as part of indigenous community or as a local resident of Hindi Ward in LAMU West Sub-County?

Communication Platform	Tick as appropriate
Public Barazas	
Radio	
Television	
Newspaper	
Information, education and communication tools	
Community theatre	
Others (Please specify)	

16. Which language would you prefer to be used in communicating about Lamu Port Project)?

a) English   ( )
b) Swahili   ( )
c) Vernacular   ( )

17. Did the project owners freely without manipulation or coercion sought your consent to implement the Lamu Port project?

Yes   ( )
No   ( )

18. a) Did the project owners seek your consent in advance of any activities being either commenced or authorized?

Yes   ( )
No   ( )

b) Was the notice period to commence the project sufficient/agreeable?

Yes   ( )

No   ( )

19. a) Did you receive satisfactory information on the key points of the project such as the nature, size, pace, reversibility, the scope of the project, the reason for it, and its duration?

Yes   ( )

No   ( )

b) Were you provided with access to the primary reports on the economic, environmental cultural impact that the project will have?

Yes   ( )

No   ( )

c) Was the language used understandable?

Yes   ( )

No   ( )

20. Did you provide consent for the project to progress?

Yes   ( )

No   ( )

SECTION E: THE ROLE OF PARTICIPATORY COMMUNICATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAMU PORT PROJECT IN HINDI WARD, LAMU WEST SUB-COUNTY

22. What is the role of participatory communication in averting opposition to the Lamu Port Project by community members in Hindi Ward, Lamu West Sub County?

Thank you for your participation.

APPENDIX II: KEY INFORMANT: INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Interviewer_____

Interviewee_____

Designation_____

Date of Interview_____

1. How and at what level do you involve/ have you observed being used to involve local communities in large-scale infrastructural projects during the design, implementation and commissioning phases?

2. From your experience in implementing large-scale infrastructural development projects with the potential to transform the socio-economic status of a country, do you think that the local communities are engaged in the co-creation and implementation of development projects?

3. What method do you use/ you have observed to be used to get local community members to provide input during large-scale projects design, implementation and commissioning phases?

4. Which level of participation described below best describes the local community participation in the Lamu Port Project in Hindi Ward, Lamu Sub-County?

Level	Description	Tick as appropriate
Level 1	Manipulation (The community does not understand issues confronting them)	
Level 2	Decorative (Community used as needed)	
Level 3	Tokenism (Community used symbolically to show real appearance of participation)	
Level 4	Community informed though do not understand need to participate	

Level 5	Community is informed and consulted thereby understand project design and operation	
Level 7	Community participates in project implementation (Contributes opinion and has high degree of responsibility)	

(Source: Adapted from Mefalopulos, 2008, Typology of Participation in Development)

5. What are the roles of participatory communication in averting opposition to Large-scale infrastructure projects?

6. What types of platforms are used in communicating large-scale infrastructural projects among local communities?

7. What are the most preferred communication channels among local communities?

8. What are the factors that influence the local communities to engage in public participation on large-scale infrastructural projects within their locality?

9. What are the factors that hinder participatory communication with local communities on issues of large-scale infrastructure projects?

Thank you for your participation.

APPENDIX III: LIST OF VILLAGES IN HINDI WARD

https://gup.ub.gu.se/publication/304889

https://theconversation.com/kenya-launches-lamu-port-but-its-value-remains-an-open-question-161301