

**ANTECEDENTS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND BUDGETARY
ALLOCATION IN THE NORTH RIFT ECONOMIC BLOC COUNTIES,
KENYA**

EDWIN CHERUIYOT CHEROP

**A Thesis Submitted to the Institute of Postgraduate Studies in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of Doctor of Philosophy in
Business Administration (Finance)**

KABARAK UNIVERSITY

NOVEMBER, 2022

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to my family for their unwavering support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my gratitude to the Almighty God for providing me with life and energy throughout my studies and for guiding me through the study period. Second, I would like to take this occasion to express my gratitude to Kabarak University for providing me with the opportunity to study at this prominent African and international institution. My supervisors, Dr. John Gathii and Prof. Lawrence K. Kibet particularly deserve special thanks for their patience, consultations, criticism, intellectual input, and support throughout my dissertation. Dr. John Gathii has my greatest gratitude. Not only was he my principal supervisor, he was also my mentor, and he had complete faith in my ability to successfully complete the studies throughout the process. Prof. Lawrence K. Kibet deserves special recognition for his support, flexibility, and authenticity in evaluating my work, which has boosted my confidence. I also wish to acknowledge various scholarly contributions; my sincere gratitude goes to my fellow doctoral students for their tremendous support and encouragement and in the sharing of some of their resources and conceptual thoughts that were insightful in the completion of this thesis.

ABSTRACT

Budgetary allocation is used by most governments and public institutions as an instrument for proper management of public funds. Achieving this presupposes that the citizenry, from whose taxation governments pull funds for budgeting, participate in the allocation process. This research thus endeavored to appreciate aspects that influence participation by members of the public for sound budgetary allocation. The constitution stipulates pertinent prerequisites at both the national and county government levels for the legislative arm of government to establish public participation guidelines in the process of governance and decision making on public policy. The general objective of the study was to establish the effects of antecedents of public participation on budgetary allocation in the north rift economic block counties. To address this overall objective, the study set out to determine how citizen awareness, economic factors, demographic characteristics and behavioral factors influence budgetary allocation; and whether the influence is moderated by public participation. The research was anchored on Agency theory, Stakeholders theory and Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation theory. The study took on the explanatory study design and targeted 10,690 individuals including elected leaders, county budgetary and planning staff, sub location development committee and county ward administrators. The study utilized a sample size of 320. Multistage sampling technique was used to select the respondent. A questionnaire was used to collect data. Both descriptive and inferential statistical analyses were carried out on the quantitative data. Under inferential analysis, regression analysis was used to predict the effect of antecedents of public participation on budgetary allocation in the north rift economic counties. The study found that citizen awareness ($\beta = .884$, $p = .000 < .05$) had a significant effect while out of the three demographic factors, only education level of participants has a significant effect on budgetary allocation ($\beta = .139$, $p = .000 < .05$), while participant age ($\beta = .003$, $p = .943 > .05$) and gender ($\beta = .021$, $p = .773 > .05$) did not significantly influence budgetary allocation. Behavioral factors ($\beta = 1.064$, $p = .000 < .05$) and economic factors ($\beta = .903$, $p = .000 < .05$) were also found to have a positive and significant effect on budgetary allocation. Public participation was also found to significantly mediate the association between citizen awareness ($\beta = .4075$, $LL = .3530$, $UL = .4651$), demographic characteristics ($\beta = .6582$, $LL = .5689$, $UL = .7330$), behavioural factors ($\beta = .2552$, $LL = .1957$, $UL = .3164$), economic factors ($\beta = .2706$, $LL = .2257$, $UL = .3171$) and budgetary allocation. Based on the findings it is concluded that the community involvement is crucial for a successful and sustainable public development project especially during budgeting process. Through public discussion, deliberation, and negotiation on budget issues, participatory budgeting increases the range of citizen participation and enhances the citizens' awareness of the whole budget process. It is thus recommended that citizens and the community at large need to be sensitized on the importance of taking part in public participation so as to enhance budgetary allocation effectiveness.

Key Words: Citizen Awareness, Demographic Characteristics, Behavioural Factors, Public Participation, Budgetary Allocation

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ABBREVIATIONS

ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
CADP	County Annual Development Plan
C-BROP	County Budget Review and Outlook Paper
CECM	County Executive Committee Member
CECM-F	County Executive Member for Finance
CFSP	County Fiscal Strategy Paper
CGA	County Government Act
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CoK	Constitution of Kenya
D.V	Dependent Variable
DPLG	Department of Provincial and County Government
EFQM	European Foundation for Quality Management
GoK	Government of Kenya
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
I.V	Independent Variable
IAP2	International Association for Public Participation
ISR	Institute for Social Research
KMO	Kaiser- Mayorr- Oklin
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
NOREB	North Rift Economic Block
OCoB	Office of the Controller of Budget
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PB	Participatory Budgeting
PFMA	Public Finance and Management Act
PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships
SMS	Short Message Service
TISA	The Institute of Social Accountability
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

Antecedents: A thing that existed before or logically precedes another (Griesse & Deroose, 2017). In this study, antecedents are operationalized as including citizen awareness, demographic characteristics and behavioural factors.

Behavioral Factors: These refer to an individual's fundamental psychological processes and overt actions which influence their decision making (Aiginger, K., Cramme, O., Ederer, S., Liddle, R., & Thillaye, R. (2019)). In the study individual perceived behavior was hypothesized as influencing participation by the public in processes of budget formulation. Behavioral factors include attitude and trust.

Budget: A document prepared by an institution/organization presenting its anticipated tax revenues and proposed spending/expenditure for the coming financial year (Griesse & Deroose, 2017). In this study, a budget is operationalized as a document prepared by the county governments in the North Rift Economic bloc, presenting its anticipated tax revenues and proposed spending/expenditure for the coming financial year.

Budgetary Allocation: - Budgetary allocation is the tail end process of the formulation process which includes project identification, budget prioritization and budget estimates approval (Boetti, L., Piacenza, M., & Turati, G. (2018)). The study considered allocation and budgeting of limited resources by the county governments for the purpose of development.

Citizen Awareness: - State of citizens of being aware of their civic obligations in their counties' budgetary allocation process (Bovaird & Loffler, 2019). In this study, citizen awareness is operationalized as the initial knowledge that the public have in relation to budgetary allocation and public participation especially concerning county projects in their respective areas.

Demographic Factors: - According to Dalimunthe, Fadli and Muda (2016). demographic profile is defined generally by various categories: Ethnicity, Race, Age, Income, Gender, Education, Employment, Marital Status, Home Ownership, Religion and Geographical location. The study considered age, gender, education and income level as elements of demographic characteristics.

Economic Bloc: A set of countries which engage in trade together and usually associated with another through a trade agreement (Ledingham & O'Connor, 2017). In this study, economic bloc is operationalized as a set of counties in the North Rift region of Kenya, including Baringo, Uasin-gishu, Elgeyo Marakwet, Nandi, Westpoko, Turkana, TransNzoia and Samburu

Economic Factors: - Economic factors are individual social welfare that affects the way they perceive certain activities within their environments (Aref & Redzuan, 2019). The economic factors utilized on the study (wealth and employment level).

Public Participation in Budgeting: - This is a democratic policy making process whereby government requests members of the public to give their inputs in the course of preparing the budgeting and takes in their effect in apportioning budgets for public spending (Yahya *et al.*, 2017). In this study, public participation was used to mean: The processes which organization involve interested parties or affected individuals, organizations and government entities are required to involve the citizen in the planning and use of the national resources for development purposes. The study thus sampled citizen's representatives in various groups involved in the budgetary allocation process across the 8 counties.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

In the present chapter, the study provides a background of the research, in which the study objectives are outlined, followed by the corresponding research hypotheses. The importance of the research to policy, practice and the body of knowledge is then presented, as well as the scope and assumptions of the study.

1.2 Background of the Study

The growing complexity of the public administration environment marked by numerous reforms occasioned by the New Public Management (NPM) wave and the continuous necessity to align societal needs with limited resources presuppose that governments avail funds for a particular purpose and allocate the same to that purpose (Ahmad & Ahmad, 2019). The purpose of allocating budgets in the public sector is for the management of inadequate financial resources in order to guarantee resource efficiency in delivery of services. An adequate budgetary allocation enables the government to optimize its available resources and infrastructure to improve the standards of living and quality of life for its citizenry (Samadi, Keshtkaran, Kavosi & Vahnedi, 2018). This results in resource efficient governments raising revenue and managing expenditure in a manner that maximizes the impact of resources at the government's disposal in the long run (Kis-Katos & Sjahrir, 2016).

Whereas a consensus exists among practitioners and scholars on generic budget cycle stages, an extensive assessment of empirical literature pertinent to financial management in the public sector reveals no collectively affirmed definition of the concept of budget allocation (Scheers, Sterck & Bouckaert, 2015). Griesse and Deroose (2017) define the concept of budget allocation as the downstream practices of budget control, execution, reporting, monitoring, evaluation and accounting. Alternatively, budget allocation is defined by Dener and Young (2018) as the management of debt, spending and taxing by government, which affects income distribution and resource allocation.

A properly executed and well-prepared budget has the capability to promote a people's socio-economic wellbeing, support public service administration and finance development projects, which in turn translates to delivery of services by citizens and governments getting such critical services as clean water, healthcare and education (Andrews, 2016). This cannot be achieved without a strong budgetary allocation process, characterized by accountability, efficiency, adequacy and transparency (Aminatu, 2015). Achieving the foregoing thus necessitate that the citizenry, from whose taxation governments pull funds for budgeting, participate in the allocation process. Budgetary allocation conducted with the involvement of the general public is more feasible as members of the general public assist in taking on the key challenges that communities face, which will result in limited resource misuse, enhanced transparency and accountability (Kiilu & Ngugi, 2014).

Across empirical literature globally, regionally and in the Kenyan body of knowledge, effective budgetary allocation has been associated with a plethora of determinants, either at national or county government levels. These include economic factors such as citizen income level and employment status (Lismawati, 2013); citizen awareness levels including civic education and media campaigns (Andrade & Rhodes, 2012); political factors including the leadership manifesto and prioritization (Esonu & Kavanamur, 2011); demographic considerations including age, gender and education (Ihemeje. 2018; Odary, 2020); behavioral factors including attitude and trust (Lubis, Torong & Muda, 2016); and government policy and sectoral plans (Kis-Katos & Sjahrir, 2016).

Other factors influencing budgetary allocation in governments include the amount of funds available for budgeting based on legislation, for instance, the minimum 15% allocation to county governments from all revenue collected by the national government according to the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 (Odary, 2020); national and international events such as the Bamako Initiative requiring governments to allocate at least 15% of their respective annual budgets to healthcare (Mkasiwa, 2018); level of citizen awareness, participation and demands (Kis-Katos & Sjahrir, 2016; Mkasiwa, 2018); as well as citizen behavioural factors including level of trust and attitude towards government processes and leadership (Hendricks, 2018; McCommon, 2019).

Most common of the aforementioned factors particularly in developing economy contexts include demographic factors particularly gender equality and inclusion of the youth in the allocation process as well as citizens' education levels (Ihemeje. 2018; Odary, 2020); citizen awareness of their voice in the budgetary allocation process and initiatives to create awareness through civic education and media campaigns (Kis-Katos & Sjahrir, 2016; Mkasiwa, 2018); citizen attitude and trust in the budgetary allocation process (Hendricks, 2018; McCommon, 2019); and economic factors including citizens' income level and employment status (Lismawati, 2013; Lubis et al., 2016).

With regard to gender equality and inclusion of the youth, Odary (2020) in Kenya argues that while the increase in resources at the county level will improve service delivery and other developments, it will not necessarily address the felt gender needs and plight at the County level and neither will it be youth responsive. While the introduction of ward development fund is vital, the lack of an explicit provision requiring the involvement of women and youth in the budgetary allocation process is glaring. This will not advance gender equality measures and disregards the gender principles of access control of resources and runs the risk of leaving out the youth in the process, further perpetuating status quo whereby the patrons have been largely male legislators and absence of youth (Uwazi Consortium, 2020).

In relation to citizen awareness of their voice in the budgetary allocation process and initiatives to create awareness through civic education and media campaigns, it has been established that among the main causes of poor budgetary allocation highlighted by underfunding of important sectors and budget deficits is lack of awareness of budget users about their role in the allocation process (Katos & Sjahrir, 2016). To create citizen awareness on their role in the budgetary allocation process, there is need to carry out civic education for citizens to understand processes, operations and opportunities available for them to play their part in the budgetary allocation process both at the national and the county levels (Mkasiwa, 2018). Among the most effective avenues to this end include media campaigns and grassroots forums (McCommon, 2019).

With regard to citizen attitude and trust in the budgetary allocation process, studies show that a majority of citizens are either indifferent to the budgetary allocation process or poorly get involved in the same owing to lack of trust in both the process and the leadership (Hendricks, 2018). To earn citizen trust in the budget making process, it is eminent that governments promote budget accountability and transparency at both national and county levels. This will enable effective oversight and citizen participation which will by extension address massive wastage of public funds (McCommon, 2019).

Effective budgetary allocation has also been associated with economic factors including citizens' income level and employment status (Lismawati, 2013). If a government seeks to prepare and allocate a budget successfully, it ought to take into account among other economic factors, the previous structural deficit level, and the recurring economic conditions with regard to income distribution and employment in the country (Lubis et al., 2016). In most magnanimous welfare systems, the budgetary allocation process is significantly influenced by the country's unemployment rates. When the rate of unemployment is growing and citizen income is dwindling, there is subsequent surge in the number of public resources channeled towards unemployment benefits and government support, which makes it more problematic to present a budgetary adjustment based on cuts in spending (Ihemeje. 2018).

Whereas the forgoing factors have been established as antecedents of budgetary allocation (Lubis et al., 2016; Ihemeje. 2018; Mkasiwa, 2018; McCommon, 2019; Odary, 2020), their influence on the same is hinged on citizen participation, in the budgetary allocation process (Abelson & Eyles, 2018; Aiginger et al., 2019). Public participation has been defined (Parham, 2018) as the direct or indirect involvement of members of the public in decision making about policies or programs by government in which they have an interest. In the NPM dispensation, public financial management, of which budgetary allocation is a significant part, is optimally expected to become responsive to societal needs, to deliver public value and functionalize citizen participation (Elhiraika, 2017.). Governments use various forms of public involvement, including citizen relationship management systems, public gatherings, neighborhood councils, surveys, social media, focus groups, among others, as decision inputs about policies, plans or programs (Aiginger et al., 2019).

Citizen participation in the budgetary allocation process in Kenya is anticipated in Article 1 of Kenya constitution 2010 which considers that the Kenyan people enjoy sovereign power which shall be effected as anticipated in the constitution. In addition, article 10 of the Kenya Constitution emphasizes the need to enhance inclusivity and participation of the people. Article 201 states the principles of public finance and notifies the public participation as one of the principles. Article 196 of the Kenyan constitution in regards to the county governments and county assemblies, seeks to observe public participation in all their affairs; Article 232 –Public Participation among the principles and values of public service. However, Article 35–covers on right to information which is essential in providing rights to public participation and access to information. In addition, the provisions of the constitution are part of the other legal provisions in the Public Finance Management Act 2012, the legislation that established the devolved governments, that is County government act 2012 and urban areas and Cities Act 2013 have emphasized on the subject matter. The general principles and objects of public participation as stated by the County government Act 2012 is to ensure inclusivity, ownership, equity, respect, self-governance and solidarity.

Against this backdrop, the present study sought to establish how the antecedents influence budgetary allocation and the mediating effect of public participation in the North Rift economic bloc counties in Kenya.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Sound budgetary allocation allows for collective financial discipline, operational efficiency in use of resources, strategic prioritization and fiscal transparency in configuration of spending with budgeting as the main tool in the execution of policies by the government (Mkasiwa, 2018). It gives comparisons of budget plan against actual results, and deviations from this may then be inspected and the explanations for the discrepancies divided into non-controllable and controllable causes, which is critical in decreasing poor budget practices and inefficiencies resulting in effectual distribution of limited resources (Boetti *et al.*, 2018). Budgetary allocation is thus used by most governments and public institutions as an instrument for proper resources management and operational activity management (Aminatu, 2015).

As aforementioned, a number of factors have been identified in empirical literature, as antecedents of sound budgetary allocation either at national or county government levels. These include citizens' demographic factors (Ihemeje, 2018; Odary, 2020); citizen awareness (Kis-Katos & Sjahrir, 2016; Mkasiwa, 2018); citizen behavioural factors (Hendricks, 2018; McCommon, 2019); as well as citizens' economic factors (Lismawati, 2013; Lubis, Torong & Muda, 2016). It has also been suggested that whereas these factors have been established as antecedents of budgetary allocation, their influence on the same is hinged on effective citizen participation in the budgetary allocation process (Abelson & Eyles, 2018; Aiginger *et al.*, 2019).

The foregoing assertion suggests that public participation plays a mediating role, providing the avenue through which the antecedents influence budgetary allocation. This is however largely implicit, as published empirical literature to this effect remains scanty. Extant studies have focused either on the direct determinants of budgetary allocation or the direct influence of public participation on budgetary allocation. For instance, Friyani and Hernando (2019) studied the determinants of the effectiveness of performance based-budgeting in county governments in Indonesia while in Ethiopia, Sado (2019) explored factors affecting allocation of budgets in Wollega administrative Zone. In Kenya, Orina *et al.* (2019) studied the factors determining the allocation of budgets in county governments in Kenya. To the best knowledge of the researcher none of the published studies explores the indirect effect of the antecedents (citizen awareness, demographic characteristics, behavioural factors and economic factors) on budgetary allocation through public participation with reference to county governments in Kenya. It is against this backdrop, that the present study was conducted with reference to the North rift Economic bloc.

1.4 General Objective

To examine the antecedents of public participation and their effects on budgetary allocation in the North Rift Economic Bloc Counties, Kenya.

1.4.1 Specific Objective

- i. To examine whether citizen awareness influences budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties.
- ii. To assess demographic characteristics influencing budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties.
 - a) To assess the effect of gender equality on budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties
 - b) To assess age characteristics influencing budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties
 - c) To assess educational characteristics influencing budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties
- iii. To assess whether behavioral factors influence budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties.
- iv. To determine the effect of economic factors on budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties.
- v. To determine the mediating effect of public participation on the relationship between the antecedents and budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties
 - a) To determine the mediating effect of public participation on the relationship between citizen awareness and budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties
 - b) To determine the mediating effect of public participation on the relationship between demographic characteristics and budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties
 - c) To determine the mediating effect of public participation on the relationship between citizen behavioral factors and budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties

- d) To determine the mediating effect of public participation on the relationship between economic factors and budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties

1.5 Research Hypothesis

H₀₁: Citizen awareness has no significant effect on budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties.

H₀₂: Demographic characteristic has no significant effect on budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties.

H_{02a}: Gender equality has no significant effect on budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties.

H_{02b}: Age characteristics have no significant effect on budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties

H_{02c}: Educational characteristics have no significant effect on budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties

H₀₃: Citizen behavioral factors have no significant effect on budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties.

H₀₄: Economic factors have no significant effect on budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties.

H₀₅: Public participation does not have a significant mediating effect on the association between the antecedents and budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties.

H_{05a}: Public participation does not have a statistically significant mediating effect on the association between citizen awareness and budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties

H_{05b}: Public participation does not have a statistically significant mediating effect on the association between demographic characteristics and budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties

H_{05c}: Public participation does not have a statistically significant mediating effect

on the association between citizen behavioral factors and budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties

Ho_{5d}: Public participation does not have a statistically significant mediating effect on the association between economic factors and budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties

1.6 Significance of the Study

The results obtained inform future planning and organization of public participation, this in turn leads to increased citizen's ownerships of public projects and programmes as it will be tailored to meet their identified needs, therefore ensuring sustainability of public projects. The research findings are instrumental in informing implementation of county public participation on budget making process in the devolved units in Kenya, as it will be used to rectify and solve problems that are normally experienced during the implementation of various projects as well as laying down blue prints on how well and what not to be implement in similar projects in future by the government entities.

Further, the results obtained will also be crucial as its recommendation will enhance accountability and transparency in utilization of public funds as public participation will be centrally placed in the identification and allocation of public resources hence reduced cases of misuse of public resources by public officers and contractors. The findings will be important as it will lead to increased public participation as more citizens will be willing to comply with their citizenry rights of taking part in budgetary process for, they will be assured of effective management of public resources. What of prioritization of projects by their popularity, serving people's needs, reducing wastage by rejecting self-serving projects etc.

The administration of public finances at the county level will benefit from the results obtained through a number of avenues by which budgetary allocation can be augmented to guarantee that the counties control expenditure, raise more cash and better their investments. Those in academia will also benefit from the research findings as the findings will provide insights to scholars willing to understand the topic under study and also those interested in furthering the research topic. The Key

stakeholders and development partners may also benefit from such research findings thus aiding in strategy development that are development oriented in a bid to build stakeholders confidence. This study aimed at adding substantial knowledge in the concept of citizen participation in governance and implementation of public policies.

In addition, academicians, researches and students will use the results obtained and recommendations as a resourceful reference material for future studies in related fields. The study will greatly benefit members of the public and the citizens by enabling them appreciate the need to be involved in the process of budget making with particular regard to resource allocation. From the study, a valuable insight that will be drawn that will hold politicians and bureaucrats into account for the policies formulated and incorporated in the county budgets.

The study also provides facts for efficient and effective delivery of public services based on community driven projects through involvement of the public. This is an essential tool for politicians and policy makers who will use such information to incorporate the citizens in the budget making and implementation. In addition, public participation will ensure that only projects prioritized by the county residents are incorporated in the county budgets and as such the citizens own the projects and in turn, they will offer political support.

1.7 Scope of the Study

The research was conducted in the eight North Rift Economic Bloc counties (Baringo County, Nandi County, West Pokot County, Elgeyo-Marakwet County, Turkana County, Transzoia County, Uasin-Gishu County and Samburu County) between the months of May to August 2019. The study attempted to ascertain the factors influencing public participation and its effect on budgetary allocation in the economic bloc. The study was guided by the specific objectives in a bid to achieve the main objective. The target population in this research was 10,690, who comprised 13 elected leaders, 8 County budgetary and planning staff, 357 Sub location development committee members and 8ward administrators drawn from 8 counties forming the North Rift Economic Block. The study utilized a sample size of 320 achieved after using Yamane (1967) formula to calculate sample sizes. The North Rift Economic Block was chosen because of its setup in regards to its socio-economic representation

of the entire country. While some counties are highly agriculturally productive (Uasin-gishu, Elgeyo Marakwet, Nandi and TransNzoia) representing the highland regions of Kenya; others (Baringo, Westpokot, Turkana, and Samburu) are predominantly dry, representing the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) of Kenya. The study focused on four hypothesized antecedents of public participation, including demographic characteristics, citizen awareness, behavioral factors and economic factors. The choice of citizen awareness, demographic characteristics, behavioral factors and economic factors as antecedents of budgetary allocation was justified by their identification in previous related studies (Lubis *et al.*, 2016; Ihemeje. 2018; Mkasiwa, 2018; McCommon, 2019; Odary, 2020), albeit in developing economy contexts other than Kenya.

1.8 Limitations of the Study

The research area was restricted to the eight selected Counties (Baringo County, Nandi County, West Pokot County, Elgeyo-Marakwet County, Turkana County, Tranzoia County, Uasin-Gishu County and Samburu County) in the North Rift block (NOREB), Kenya only since all the counties are within the same economic block with a common economic goal. Some of respondents may withhold information since they consider it private and fear of victimization. The researcher however, guaranteed them confidentiality. The unwillingness of some respondent to answer or to return the questionnaires after they were requested to do so by the researcher and the research assistant because of no direct benefit. To address this, the researcher explained to the respondents, the anticipated benefits to the respective county citizens, particularly the benefits of participating in the budgetary allocation process.

1.9 Assumption of the Study

The research was carried out with assuming:

- i. That the questions contained in the questionnaire were fully understood by the respondents
- ii. That participants of the study offered factual responses to the best of their knowledge
- iii. That the survey questionnaire would give reliable responses as designed

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the study covers the theoretical anchoring of the study, empirical literature pertinent to the research and conceptual framework guiding the study.

2.2 Theories of Public Participation

Various theories have been formulated on citizen participation process. They include Agency theory; Stewardship theory, Stakeholders theory, the Political Budget Cycles (PBC) theory, Arnstein (1969), Ladder of Citizen Participation theory and Systems theory. As hereby discussed, all the theories underpin how the citizenry are involved in the budgetary allocation process through public participation, as well how the principals' awareness, demographic, behavioural and economic factors influence their participation in the budgetary allocation process.

2.2.1 Agency Theory

In both public and private organizations, the concept and practice of corporate governance is anchored on Agency theory. Proposed by Berle and Means (1932) and developed by Jensen and Meckling (1976), Agency theory elucidates an agency association which is a situation in which one party, known as the principal, hires a second party, referred to as an agent to carry out defined services for the benefit of the principal and allocates the authority to make decisions to them. The theory's under-lying foundation is that the agents tasked with representing others ought to eventually commit the organizational resources to value optimization for their principals.

It is anticipated that the agents will observe care and due diligence in ensuring that the principal's interests are safeguarded and corporate decisions are made. In instances where a conflict of interest is apparent between the principals and the agents, an agency problem occurs. The main theory under consideration is agency theory by Jensen & Meckling (1986) and elucidates the association between agent and the principle. Accordingly, proponents of agency theory have emphasized on the

problems of managerial incentives which occur due to the parting of managerial decision-making and the company ownership. In the company context, a key problem is the asymmetry information between shareholders and managers.

In the agency association, managers (insiders) have information benefit, implying that firm owner is faced with dilemmas of a moral nature as they are not able to correctly determine and evaluate the value of pronouncements that the management makes. Whereas the internal administration possesses all the knowledge concerning working capital features of the company, the stockholders depend on this knowledge mostly from the financial reports put out either annually or semi-annually. This irregularity of information results in agency problems in which the management possesses key knowledge concerning the firm's management of working capital while the outside investors lack. This information may be taken advantage of by the management who may engage in management of earnings.

The conflict becomes apparent when decisions are made by the agent and forms policies fashioned for the self-benefit of the agent without regarding how the principal's interests will be impacted by such decisions and/or policies. In addition, moral hazard can take place when the actions taken by agents to serve their own best interests are to the principal, detrimental and unobservable. Further, a problem exists when information available is asymmetric, whereby one party, usually the agent withholds information from the principal. This theory clearly identifies the agency costs that arise as a result of the separation of control and ownership as both the agent and the principal are obliging to exploiting their own efficacies. Proponents of the agency theory provide their remedies to the agency problem.

The United nation (2007), as cited by Kaufman and Kraay (2008), argues that in order to safeguard its citizens value, the government ought to demonstrate discipline, efficiency, effectiveness, accountability and transparency as the main attribute of a good process of budgeting. Lasswell (1936) avers that it is not possible to have proper budgeting absent proper governance, since proper governance is the basis for realizing proper budgeting. Proponents of this theory suggest their remedies to the agency problem. Among others Scholars like Fama and Jensen (1969) suggest remedies to curb failures of corporate governance. Even though Gugler (2003)

intimates that the corporate control market does serve as a device for disciplining underperforming organizations.

However, Bagaka (2008) observes that for accountability one has to account for one's inaction or action, and based on the answer, to be aware of probable approvals, both negative and positive. According to Ahmad and Ahmad (2019), for answerability, it is a prerequisite that public officials ought to answer for the utilization of the confidence to their representatives or citizens. The author offers that, accountability to the public indicates the public's superiority over interests to the private sector.

Agency theory is of relevance in the present study, as it underpins how the county leadership as the agents involve the citizenry as the principals, in the budgetary allocation process through public participation, as well how the principals' awareness, demographic, behavioural and economic factors influence their participation in the budgetary allocation process. As per the Agency theory, agents ought to be seen to represent the wishes of their principal, who, in this case is the electorate, that is the public. As such, Agency theory underpins the mediating effect of public participation in the relationship between the antecedents and budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties.

Therefore, the Agency theory whose under-lying foundation is that the agents tasked with representing others ought to eventually commit the organizational resources to value optimization for their principals. It is anticipated that the agents will observe care and due diligence in ensuring that the principal's interests are safeguarded and corporate decisions are made. Attendance is in fact essential for persons to address their difficulties. If persons will not or cannot take the initiative to aid the county's administration and its localities, the likelihood that the devolved government will address serious challenges the communities face. Conversely, if the managers and planners of affairs of the county and claiming the realization of their strategies to manage them with the social setting and with people's involvement owing to their rich understanding of the social environment, wishes and needs is conceivable (Fitzgerald & Storbeck, 2003).

That the citizens and the voters are the principal makes the politicians, bureaucrats

and the policy makers the agents and are anticipated to formulate policies and make decisions meant to increase the efficiency of citizen's services for the improvement of their standards of living. The second theory on which this study was anchored in was the Stewardship theory that perceives the manager as driven to manage the firm in service and with good intentions. The fundamental characteristic of this theory is the agent/principal association's re-positioning to personal authority from coercive authority. Elected officials, politicians and policy makers are according to the theory, satisfied only when the entire county or the departments they oversee realizes success.

Only when the county residents are happy with the services delivered by such policy makers do the stewards feel satisfied and motivated in their work. The third theory is the Stakeholder theory that regards the voters as the main stakeholders who expect service delivery and representation from development partners, the contractors and leaders who expect openness in utilization of funds and award of tenders, the contractors who expect payments in a timely manner, of delivered goods, the government at the national who assert judicious utilization of shared revenue to the devolved governments and the civil society representing the sidelined in the society.

2.2.2 Stakeholder's Theory

Proposed by Freeman (1984), the stakeholder theory encompasses accountability to a wide scope of stakeholders and describes a stakeholder as an individual or a group of people or organizations who is affected or can affect the attainment of the objectives or goals of an organization. Agbude and Yartey (2012) echoed that each organization should identify their stakeholders' prospects and strive to accomplish the goals. The stakeholders are the "final judge" of organizational performance (Donaldson & Preston, 1995). It also offers a comprehensive way of measuring performance and resolving issue of differentiating between outcomes and antecedents of performance. The stakeholder theory requires firms to work in a nexus with all the stakeholders to ensure equity and utility driven (Fitzgerald & Storbeck, 2003; Carneiro, Silva, Rocha, & Dib, 2007).

The theory further postulates that institutions have shareholders who are either harmed by or benefited from, and whose rights are either respected or violated by

organizational activities. According to Fontaine, Haarman, and Schmid (2006), a stakeholder is traditionally, any individual or group who is affected or can affect the accomplishment of an organization's goals and/or objectives. The organization may be considered as a collection of shareholders and the goal of the organization ought to be managing their viewpoints, needs and interests. The management of stakeholder is supposed to be satisfied by the organization's managers. Fontaine, Haarman, and Schmid (2006) argue that a popular way of distinguishing the dissimilar types of shareholders is to contemplate collections of people who possess distinctive relations with the institution. The main stakeholder groups are: employees, customers, members of the local community, shareholders distributors and suppliers (Friedman & Miles, 2006).

According to Fontaine et al. (2006), the theory's central tenet is that the result may not be dependent on one person's choices, but also on the approaches chosen by other stakeholders. Donaldson and Preston's (1995), analysis of the theory has deduced that on the grounds of its normative validity, descriptive accuracy and instrumental power, the theory is correct in the literature on management. The theory's instrumental power is grounded on the basis that it creates a guideline for assessing the linkages, between the management of stakeholders and the accomplishment of several goals on corporate performance. The descriptive accuracy of the theory is premised on the presentation of a model elucidating what the organization is; an assemblage of competitive and cooperative interests holding intrinsic worth. Additionally, the theory's normative validity is grounded on the theory's acceptance of the notion that stakeholders are groups or persons with genuine interests in substantive and/or procedural facets of corporate practices without regard to whether the organization has any consistent practical interest. The theory is also grounded on the notion that all stakeholders' interests are of intrinsic worth. It is on the foregoing grounds that stakeholder's theory was pertinent to budget allocation.

According to McShane and Von Glinow (2003) organization ought to employ the appropriate instruments to guarantee stakeholders' satisfaction. When proper ways and instructions to enhance the process of participation, one ought to be creative to develop motivations for stakeholders to keep on taking part. Information exchange

with stakeholders is imperative for a good association to be established with the organization. With a view to acquire the involvement of stakeholders consistently, the process ought to address a number of issues including: social background, transparency, accountability, health relationships, people centeredness, open stakeholder communication, equal gender representation, relevant social background knowledge whereby the county government operates, and awareness of power struggles.

The stakeholder theory is relevant in the present study as it underpins how the citizenry as the stakeholders are involved in the budgetary allocation process through public participation, as well how the citizens' awareness, demographic, behavioural and economic factors influence their participation in the budgetary allocation process. In this research, the public is held as core stakeholders in the process of governance and ought to always be ethically treated by guaranteeing that in the course of budgeting, their perspectives are sufficiently represented. The importance of involving the public in the budget making process, and any other legislative process is not supported just by the empirical studies reviewed but also a solid theoretical framework formulated on citizen participation and budget allocation process.

The politicians and county leaders have a network of associations to deliver services to, where every stakeholder has an entitlement. In the context of county budgeting, the main stakeholders include electorates who claim service delivery and representation from development partners, contractors and leaders, who assert transparency in the use of funds and awarding of tenders and, the civil society who represent the disenfranchised, the suppliers who demand payments in a timely manner, for goods delivered, and the national government who demand judicious use of income distributed to the counties. This regard is deemed as the most essential problem to the principal-agent theory as it stresses that the objective of the firm ought to be demystified wider than the mere shareholder welfare maximization. As such, corporate governance ought to imply the institutions' design for managers to address the welfare of all stakeholders. The other stakeholders who have claims in the organization's long-term success, ought to also be accounted for.

The public will be considered as stakeholders who can affect or is affected by the decisions made by those in the management position and elected position. In Kenya, at the enactment of the Public Financial Management Act 2012, and before that the 2010 constitution, it is required by law that the public takes part in the process of preparing budgets. To this end, the process is publicized and published in the Kenyan dailies with a nation-wide rotation whether by the County or National government. Kaufman and Kraay, A. (2008) aver that government ought to have capacity to gather information on electorates' preferences, the lack of which it would not be possible to efficiently allocate resources. Non-governmental, international and government agencies have increasingly discovered that the major reason for failed developmental projects has long been the absence of lasting, effective and active participation of the planned beneficiaries.

2.2.3 Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation Theory

According to Arnstein's (1969) classic on the ladder of citizen participation, educational pamphlets, attitude surveys, and public hearings do not constitute public participation. The argument behind this assertion is that attitude surveys, education pamphlets, and hearings do not provide direct citizen control over the participation process of budgetary planning, formulation and implementation but also influenced by other environmental factors. Arnstein (1969) research on taxonomy of self-governance concluded that public participation can only be executed through direct representation or delegated representation on boards, and other types or arrangements of shared decision-making. Public participation must give citizens more direct decision-making control over those in authority, with a structural system that is fair to enhance public participation (Andrade & Rhodes, 2012).

According to Andrade and Rhodes (2012), equally contend that measuring high levels of participation in budgetary formulation from a psychological standpoint, does not necessarily translate into actual participation since the reliability of human motivation in public participation must be measured at different levels. Therefore, the study adopts the Arnstein's (1969) community participation ladder as shown in Table 2.1 below:

Table 1:

Arnstein's (1969) Community Participation Ladder

Levels of Participation		
Citizen Control	}	Citizens Power
Delegated power		
Partnership	}	Tokenism
Placation		
Consulting	}	Non-Participation
Informing		
Therapy		
Manipulating		

Source: Arnstein's (1969)

According to DeCaro and Stokes (2008), level 1 and 2 of participation by members of the public is made up of non-participation with therapy and manipulation levels; Level 3, 4, and 5 are referred to as tokenism, and constitutes informing, consulting and placation. However, DeCaro and Stokes (2008), argue that tokenism levels lack to ensure actual participation of the public, in as much as they enhance the ability of the public to hear and be heard. Stringer, *et al.*, (2006), Andrade and Rhodes (2012) and DeCaro and Stokes (2008) argues that there exists a notable correlation between the degree of participation by members of the public and levels of public participation.

The theory is relevant in the present study as it was used to underpin the different levels of public participation among citizens at the county level, and how the same mediates the association between citizen awareness, demographic factors, behavioral factors and economic factors and budgetary allocation.

2.2.4 Systems Theory

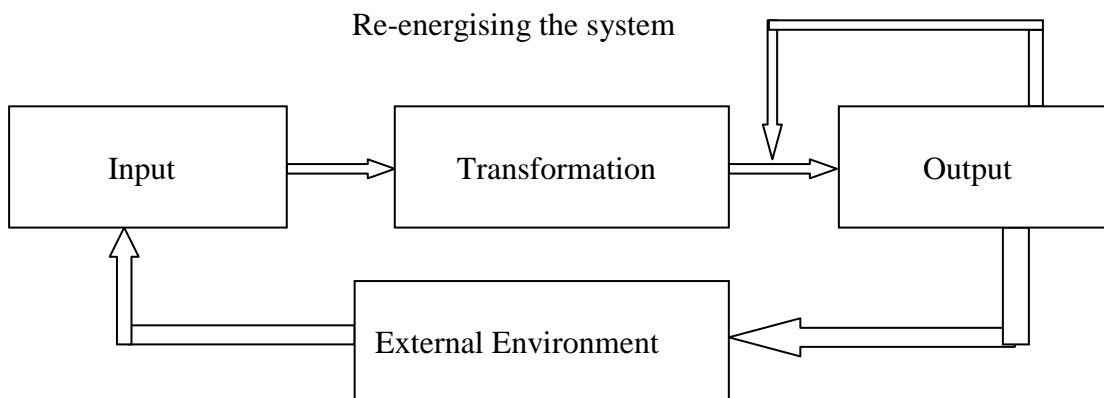
Open systems theory denotes the fact that firms are influenced greatly by their contextual settings. The context comprises of other companies which apply different pressures of a social, political, or economic nature. The setting environment further offers major capitals that support the firm and results to survival and change. The theory was coined in reaction to earlier administrative theories of Henri Fayol which largely perceived the organization as a self-contained entity; and organizational theories after World War II, including human relations viewpoint of Elton Mayo. The open systems viewpoint underpins almost all modern organization theories. As a

result, open systems theories come in many flavors. Organizations are perceived by institutional theorists as a channel for the societal beliefs and values that are expressed in organizational change and entrenched in the structure of the organization. The organization is perceived by resource dependency theorists as acclimatizing with the context as directed by its providers of resource. Whereas a great diversity in standpoints offered by open systems theories exist, they are in agreement of the view that the survival of an organization relies on its association with the context.

Systems of managing organizations entail several subsystems internally which require to be aligned continually together. According to McShane and Von Glinow (2003). As organizations continue to grow, they form more and more complicated subsystems which ought to coordinate with each other in the course of converting inputs into outputs. These interrelations can easily transform into complex intricacies which a minor activity in one subsystem could amplify into considerable unintentional effects in other areas of the organization. According to Weihrich *et al.* (2008), every established organization depends on its exterior setting, that is a section of such a greater, more complex system as the sector where it belongs, and the society economic system. The organization takes in inputs, converts them and disseminates the outputs to the environment. This is depicted in the basic model of input-output as shown below (Weihrich *et al.*, 2008).

Figure 1

Input – output model



Source: Weihrich, *et al* (2008)

The succeeding sub headings are a system's basic apparatuses. First and foremost, the input that is a combination of inputs from the outer setting could include technical knowledge of skills, capital, people and managerial skills. It further entails the several individuals or groups of individuals placing demands on the organization, including sub-national governments, consumers, employees, suppliers, state federal, and stockholders. In relation to factors influencing public participation will have citizen awareness. While in an organizational system's process of transformation, inputs are converted in an efficient and effective fashion into an organization's outputs.

This may be perceived in various ways. Emphasis may be on such functions of management as marketing, production, finance and personnel. Exterior variable as a systems' model component, the outside environment has a crucial role to play in the conversion to outputs from inputs. Companies have no power or little if any to alter the exterior environment; they lack a choice but to react to it. Inputs are further utilized and secured by conversion via functions of the management – with the required consideration for outside factors into outputs. Different kinds of outputs change depending on the organization. They normally entail most of; services, products, satisfaction, integration of various claimants' goals to the organization as well as profits. Reactivating the system requires that to know that in the systems management process model, some inputs again become outputs and vice versa. Ostensibly, employees' skills, new knowledge and satisfaction become significant inputs. Profits are similarly reinvested in capital goods such as equipment, machinery, inventory and buildings as well as cash. The systems theory has been equated by a lot of experts in management to the organizational activity three-part process of production (Mullin, 2005).

Open systems theory is relevant in the present study as it underpins how county governments as open systems involve the general public in the budgetary allocation process through public participation. In a holistic fashion, systems theory perceives an organization (county governments) as a societal system made up of sub-systems which interrelate with each other. Perceived with regard to outcomes, throughputs, and inputs, the system necessitates information on the requirements of the community and basic resources which the sub-national authority is offering,

including housing, electricity, water, land, infrastructure and sanitation). It also necessitates the contribution of various community-based organizations working through elected leaders, and therefore it is by nature, political. Furthermore, organizations do not function in emptiness, but occurs in a setting in which different groups of stakeholders are involved: the media, citizens, central government, businesses, health authorities, policing authorities, pressure groups, non-governmental organizations and employees.

Systems theory is relevant in the present study as it underpins how county governments as open systems provide a platform on which citizens take part in the budgetary allocation. It also grounds the understanding of how the various antecedents as factors (that is citizen awareness, demographic characteristics, behavioral factors, economic factors) inherent in the external environment to county government budgetary allocation process determine citizens' participation in the same.

2.2.5 Political Budget Cycles (PBC) Theory

Political Budget Cycles (PBC) theory is a theory in the macroeconomic cycles induced by the political cycles of the day. The theory was postulated by Nordhaus (1975) proposing a model in which the officeholders would manipulate the macroeconomic policy to gain electoral mileage before the elections, by assuming that electorate votes retrospectively, so the incumbents will attempt to offer economic environments that are most necessary prior to elections by engaging in expansionary of fiscal policies to stimulate the economy and generate "favorable" conditions to gain him/her electoral advantages over the rest. According to Persson and Tabellini (2003) and as cited by Shi and Svensson (2006) they stated that voters always have a rational expectation, however they suffer from asymmetric information regarding the incumbent's competence level in terms of service delivery.

Therefore, signaling is the driving force behind the political budget cycles. Incumbents always more than often use government spending to increase macroeconomic performance in pre-election periods with an effort to signal competence level in service provision. Previous research has supported political budget cycles, even though their opinions still differ as to whether political budget sequences are likely happened in less developed economies compared to developing

ones as evidence by (Shi & Svensson, 2006; Brender & Drazen, 2005; Persson & Tabellini, 2002). Furthermore, Alt and Lassen (2014) provided and evidence that political budget cycles have existed in Europe nation. The various studies examining political budget cycles on local election have generated mixed results (Klomp & De Haan, 2013b). Even though Brender (2003) dint find robust result using data for Israel. The underline assumption on the theoretical framework of political budget cycle is that an incumbent's reelection chances can be increased by expansionary fiscal policy in election years (Brender & Drazen, 2008).

Rogoff (1990) stated that the expansionary of fiscal policy in an election year leads to electorates to vote for incumbents since it signals high competence. Theoretical model that was developed by Rogoff and Sibert (1988) showed the existences of political budget cycles with the rational electorates who were affected by asymmetry of information regarding the elected officials' competencies. Therefore, the incumbents are supposed to engage in electoral cycles by ensuring that they manipulate the economic policy including government expenditures and taxes, to result in a particular level of public services with fewer revenue amounts as a way to signal competence to electorates so as to assure him/her reelection. According to Vergne (2009) every election-year public spending has been shifting toward more visible and current spending, specifically subsidies and wages. In line with that, studies focusing on the analysis of local units (Akhmedov & Zhuravskaya, 2004; Galli & Rossi, 2002) identify increases in total expenditures such as health care, educational, and road construction in election years.

The Political Budget Cycles theory is relevant in the present study as it relates to how public participation varies from time to time depending with the time of the year and the election year, and how the same influences budgetary allocation. PBC proposes a model whereby the incumbents would manipulate the macroeconomic policy to gain electoral mileage before the elections, by assuming that electorate votes retrospectively, so the incumbents will attempt to offer economic environments that are most desirable prior to elections by engaging in expansionary of fiscal policies to stimulate the economy and generate "favorable" conditions to gain him/her electoral advantages over the rest. Therefore, signaling is the driving force behind the political budget cycles. Incumbents always more than often use government spending to

increase macroeconomic performance in pre-election periods with an effort to signal competence level in service provision.

The Political Budget Cycles theory is relevant in the present study as it anchors how the antecedents including citizen awareness, demographic characteristics, behavioral factors and economic factors influence citizen participation and how the later mediates in the association between the antecedents and budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties.

2.3 Empirical Review

2.3.1 Citizen Awareness, Public Participation and Budgetary Allocation

Abelson and Eyles (2018) studied the association between citizen governance and public participation in the Canadian health system and reckon that the concept of citizen awareness and its influence on public participation has become important basis for successful budgetary processes. Consequently, the study argues that focus ought to shift from imported practical professional solutions to community-based awareness and empowerment, recognizing skills of poor people and local knowledge and making effort to engage community in budgetary public participatory programmes.

In their study on the effect of community participation on project success with reference to rural water supply project in South Africa, Thwala (2010) observes that citizen awareness is necessary in fostering public participation in the management of public funds owing to inadequacies of the top-down strategies governance which were used to deal with such societal issues as environmental degradation and high levels of poverty. The study argues that citizens' awareness is the ability to know their responsibilities, roles and rights is an essential component for productive participation by members of the public.

In research on community management of sanitation and rural water supply services in the United States, McCommon (2019) argued that citizen awareness has the ability to enable stakeholders participate and earn control and influence over initiatives on development, and in processes through which resources and decisions affecting their livelihoods and lives. In Scotland, Ledingham and O'Connor (2017) explored government-community relationships with particular reference to public attitudes to

local/government and found that citizen awareness is valuable in improving community participation in important decision-making activities such as self-initiatives to extend government control, training citizens in local administration and welfare. In their desktop review on the viewpoints of community leaders on level of community capacity building in the development of tourism and tourism impacts, Aref and Redzuan (2019) found that participation by members of the public bears a myriad of benefits to communities with regard to capacity building, empowerment, improving efficiency and effectiveness of projects; enhancing ownership and project cost sharing.

2.3.2 Demographic Factors, Public Participation and Budgetary Allocation

2.3.2.1 Age, Public Participation and Budgetary Allocation

Age may be broadly categorized into two classes, including non-youth and youth. In any program of development, the youth have a critical role to play. As such, to any nation, the youth are indeed resources that are irreplaceable as their innovativeness, capabilities and fresh motivation can help in speeding up the realization of goals of excellence. Availing the occasion for the youth to take part in processes of political decision-making and engage in processes of governance is principally dependent on the cultural, socio-economic as well as political settings in which most sections of the world, social norms bear numerous kinds of prejudice towards youthful populations (UNDP & IPU, 2012).

According to UNDP (2012), compelling evidence indicates that the youth's participation in political, institutional, or formal processes or forums where public policies are formulated, is in comparison to older citizens globally, relatively low. This results in the disenfranchisement of the youth and puts to test, political system representativeness. When the youth's political participation is enhanced in a country during the electoral cycle, this will increase budget implementation efficiency and effectiveness and inclusiveness. Participatory budget has become an administrative assimilation instrument, narrowing contestation and expanding participation involving the youth in the budgeting process bring in their views also on board. In a study by UNIANYD (2012) across 186 nations, it was found that the major challenge the youth face were inadequate occasions for active involvement in processes of decision making.

2.3.2.2 Gender, Public Participation and Budgetary Allocation

In their study on the necessity of participation by women in subnational governance, Ihemeje (2018) argues that the concepts of participation and gender in fiscal discourse have featured greatly in practices and calls to liberate women in Nigeria in the recent past. Research on political, philosophical, historical events with a bearing on women and their participation in democratic and political processes demonstrates that the female gender has for long been sidelined from participation in public policy discourse. As a majority of the philosophers and political thinkers including Aristotle, Plato, Rousseau, Hegel, Hobbes and JohnLock assert, women are only fit to perform their domestic chores in the private sphere and women had no place in politics owing to their suitability as wives and mothers in caring roles.

However, the low women's benefaction in public policy decision-making and politics is not peculiar to the developing economies, but a worldwide phenomenon. Men have throughout history, dominated and monopolized positions of strategic decision-making as compared to their women counterparts. In spite of the universal suffrage accomplishment, increased incomes for women and education, and efforts to raise women's participation in public life, their level of public forum participation still remains significantly low.

Various studies have been conducted in Africa by Ihemeje (2018), Njeru (2016), Njenga et al. (2014) and Thwala (2010) argues that the involvement of women in Africa's governance and fiscal discourse and face a number of challenges, which include cultural and religious beliefs, low economic capacity, absence of an adequate means of executing confirmatory action, men political authority dominance, comparatively low heights of education among women and numerous roles of womenfolk in the arrangement of a family.

According to Elhiraika (2017), it is critical to revise and review existing political, constitutional, regulatory and legislative guidelines, including systems of electoral involvement, to do away with provisions hindering the equal participation of women in the processes of decision- making with a view to liberate women and guarantee that they fully take part through public participation. Further, Ihemeje (2018) attributed women's disenfranchisement in subnational political processes to an

extension of the dominance by men in practically all the society's/community's political affairs.

As Guthrie et al. (2019) observes, it is vital for women to be involved in democratic decentralization not only owing to their constant exclusion from public policy decision-making nationally, but also owing to the county government's proximity to their lives. Therefore, when the occasion to take part in county government budgeting process is afforded women, the conditions of their involvement will determine their representation's sustainability.

2.3.2.3 Education, Public Participation and Budgetary Allocation

Edwards (2005) and Pharr and Putnam (2000) argue in their study that calls for more public participation in government's financial and economic policy making affairs is influenced generally by a more demanding, more articulate and an educated citizenry, a majority of whom express a deteriorating trust level in the country's political institutions and their elected politicians. The opinions, expressed usually in calls for more involvement of members of the public with expressive interaction with government over and above the democratic traditional processes of four- or five-year electoral calendars.

According to John (2009), the level of education of the members of the public significantly and negatively correlates with the degree of involvement of the members of the public. For instance, Mohammadi, Norazizan and Ahmad (2010) found in their study that the awareness of citizens on how to involve the system of governance and the programs of governance is often enhanced by education. Mwenda (2010) further associates education level to the ability of the public. According to Oyugi and Kibua (2008), all citizens who sit on planning and development boards for county county governments on bases of volunteering are educated. In their study, Joshi and Houtzager (2012) demonstrate a significant correlation between public participation, information, and education, in processes of budget making. Additionally, the capacity to articulate policy issues coherently in the context of forums for budgetary planning favors participants with higher education levels.

Pasek, Feldman, Romer and Jamieson (2008) further found in their study that the height of education enhances citizen's stability to take part in forums of public decision making. They contend that the reason as to why members of the public do not significantly participate in such forums as budget allocation, is that they do not consider themselves adequately educated or informed to add any value. Finkel, Horowitz, and Rojo-Mendoza, (2012) in their study carried in South Africa and Dominican Republic, conclude that levels of education raise the members of public's awareness and stakes on why they ought to be involved in initiatives on public policy decision making.

According to KHRC (2010), higher education levels are crucial in imbedding principles of democracy in the involvement of the public in governance. However, the lower education heights in decentralized units is correlated negatively with participation by members of the public in public governance. A report by KHRC (2010) on the involvement of the public in policy decisions points out education's reality in political processes which informs the participation of the public. According to the KHRC (2010) report, uneducated members of the public do not always have the capacity to take in information and can therefore barely develop interests in such civic obligations as participating in the formulation of budget.

According to Mwenda (2010), participation is not merely constituted by educated members of the public sitting in budgetary forums. In their study, Oyugi and Kibua (2008) established that education raises versatile opportunities, and understanding to be involved in the formulation of budgets. In the course of involvement by members of the public in the formulation of budgets, a constituency's citizenry normally engages individuals with engaging and educational skills to articulate their views adequately. Michels (2012) found in their study that a majority of persons go for public fora on budgeting for county development is mainly educated with interest that is self-aggrandizing, as opposed to that of the general public.

A study by Mboga (2009) drawing the association on the degree of influence of education on public participation in Kenya, found that education increases the public's capability to appropriate interests, desires and elevate their voice in organized, and logically brief processes of decision-making on public matters.

Democratization and devolution are required to augment self-governance by members of the public actually participating in making decisions regarding how governance ought to be carried out (Michels, 2012).

Furthermore, Oyugi and Kibua (2008) argued that participation by the public improves the formulation of budgets, and as such, every decentralized unit ought to consider building the capacity of citizens through not just public forums or civic education, but also suitable education. According to studies by Mwenda (2010) and Joshi and Houtzager (2012), a positive and significant correlation exists between participation by members of the public in public policy decision-making and their education levels. Pasek *et al* (2008) argues that height of education enhances citizen's capacity to take part in forums of public decision making that necessitates a level of ability and technical skills and that height of education enhances citizen's stability to take part in forums of public decision making. They contend that the reason as to why members of the public do not significantly participate in such forums as budget allocation, is that they do not consider themselves adequately educated or informed to add any value.

2.3.3 Behavioural Factors, Public Participation and Budgetary Allocation

2.3.3.1 Attitude Factors, Public Participation and Budgetary Allocation

A cross-section of researchers agrees in their findings that citizen participation in formulation of budgets is positively affected by attitude toward the county government (Suzanne, Piotrowski & Gregy, 2007). As county governments grow increasingly important and significant in daily lives of citizens, the enquiry of attitude of the public toward county governments gets critical for future county government reforms' and programs' success. Participation is considered by Kosecik and Sagbas (2004) as a societal attribute, while Rishi (2003) considers attitude a vital component in social behavior indicating that to make change of behavior, attitude is important. According to Rishi (2003) people's attitudes towards a given event shapes their personal program or social actions. It was further argued by Rishi that if members of the public have a positive attitude towards an event or an action, it is highly likely, that their behavior would be diverted in additional meaningful manners (Rishi, 2003).

Ledingham (2001) argues in their study that members of the public are likely to be involved in public decision-making practices in county government, if they distinguish that the county government is offering members of the public some benefits or acting in the members of the public's best interest, and/ or channeling finances among other resources to facilitate important matters to the members of the public in the mutual association between county government and the people. Ledingham (2001) further observes that members of the public's mutually relate with county government and they pursue an equilibrium between the incurred costs of relations with their county government. In their study, Mohammadi, Norazizan and Ahmad (2010) established that, effective relationships between government and the public need to be perceived as beneficial mutually, grounded on mutual interests of the parties in question. Citizen attitudes influence public participation in the decision-making activities of government. The study also established a positive and notable association between public attitude and public participation in public policy decision making.

The results obtained by Kosecik and Sagbas (2004) revealed that two level of ladder participation in public policy decision-making (Citizen-power and Tokenism) have significant negative significant association with attitude while level of non-participation ladder has positive association with attitude. This may also have had an influence on the results of the study. In a different study, Ledingham (2001) argued that there is a linear association between citizen attitude toward county government and their participation in the decision-making affairs of government. However, studies carried out in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the World Bank (2009) suggest that there are instances where people still participate in county government decision-making affairs despite their low trust and negative attitude towards the county government and when they know that they have a lower likelihood of influencing the government decisions.

Ledingham (2001) found in their research that members of the public with a favorable attitude concerning their county government have a higher likelihood of participating in decision-making programs and affairs in their county government. Aspden and Brich (2005) further observe in their study that numerous issues and factors exist, influencing the attitudes of members of the public towards taking part in county government decision-making and affairs. These include members of the public's

fulfilment for their participation, preceding voluntary participation experience, citizen understanding and interest in county government, as well as members of the public's trust in the county government and its members (Aspden & Brich, 2005). Aspden and Brich (2005) claim that numerous issues and factors exist, influencing the attitudes of members of the public towards taking part in county government decision-making and affairs. Hickey and Seligson (2003) present an argument in their study, that county council or government's performance influence the public's attitude towards the decision-making affairs of the government. It is thus not likely that the citizen attitude would be affected by county government's performance but not their participation level in public policy decision making.

On their part, Lowndes *et al.* (2001) articulated that in order to better appreciate and understand the attitude of members of the public, it is essential that elected leaders and administrators to correct and address the actual challenges of citizens' indifference which hinder participation by the public in decision-making affairs of the governments, if the full benefit, effectiveness impact and impact of public participation is to be reaped. In another study, Mohammadi, Sharifan and Ahmad (2010) investigated the impact of the attitude of citizens on their participation in public policy decision-making in Torbat, Iran. The study established a linear association between citizen attitude and participation level in governments' affairs of decision-making. Mohammadi *et al.* (2010) further reports that it is imperative for the government to put emphasis on actions that are found to influence positively, the attitude of the members of the public concerning county governments' decision-making activities. These assertions are consistent with a myriad of scholars such as Kosecik and Sagbas (2004) and Stevenson (2007).

2.3.3.2 Trust Factors, Public Participation and Budgetary Allocation

Political scientist and sociologist Putnam (1995) asserts that there is need for institutions and organizations to encourage their members to socialize by teaching them cooperation, solidarity and trust among members of the public so as to enhance trust. Putnam (1995) further put forth that trust typifies members of the public's willingness to fulfill and accept some or all of the state- made decisions. In Putman's (1995) argument, a person's participation in processes that are political in nature

depends largely on the incentive to participate and the assurance that their action will bear benefit, use or resourcefulness. A majority of researchers has acknowledged the necessity for both non-governmental and governmental organizations to instill trust towards county governance or to rise above the lack of it with a view to encourage and influence participation of the public in making public policy decisions (Fordham, Ardron, Batty, Clark, Cook, Fuller, Meegan, Pearson, & Tumer, 2009; Hibbitt, Jonnes, & Meegan, 2001). In general terms, the weakening public trust towards governments has in the last decade been identified as a problem, which has sparked the focus of social researchers and public administration globally. The need to gain trust from members of the public is as such, for many countries, a crucial question (Hibbitt, Jonnes, & Meegan, 2001).

Inglehart (1999) argues in their study that authorities' legitimacy is ensured through trust. Putnam (1995) on his part further found that a person's readiness and willingness to be involved in, adopt and realize decisions made by state authorities is established by trust. Putnam (1995) maintained that political activity and participation relied on the obligations and roles a person assumes, by being involved in an organization that is political. The study further argued that motivation determines whether a person is involved in any activity or processes that re politics-related depends. Other social and political researchers examining the association between public trust and participation are not overly optimistic. In addition, Xiao Hu.

However, Yang (2005) reveals 'a missing link' in both the theoretical and empirical works in his elucidation that the growth of trust by the public in governments are insufficient and inadequate, as they ignore the requirement that trust should in nature be reciprocal and mutual. Gilson (2003) observes that public trust is an interpersonal concept which characteristically exists between organizations and people as well as between events and people. The study additionally argues that it is imperative for politicians and public administrators to instill trust in both the government and state agencies with view to encourage participation by the public and create state action legitimacy. Citizen satisfaction with county authority's work and programs is therefore a crucial indicator of the members of the public's attitude concerning the authority. According to Yang (2005), at county authorities' level, participation by citizens in decision making on public policy bears the very association with the level of trust, as

members of the public are most fulfilled with the county authority work, when there are high levels of trust. Hibbitt, Jonnes and Meegan (2001) however observe that at the national level, knowledge of attitude against the state authority, (for example parliament or national government) the impact of this component was not complete.

In their study, Tsang (2009) intimates that in order to realize adequate policy implementation and formulation, trust by the public ought to be earned by the government. Citing his study on environmental governance, public participation and trust in Hong Kong, the study summarized three significant components to the three foundations of trust, including behavioral, relational, cognitive as well as how a strategy of deliberation can assist in rebuilding trust. Uslaner and Brown (2003) studied the notion of trust from the perspective of societal inequality. The study argued that the two channels to community participation in public policy decision making include higher trust levels and greater equality. The study elaborated that citizen participation may be suppressed by inequality, either indirectly or directly, by its influence on trust. More particularly, Uslaner and Brown (2003) observed that faith in other persons lies on a basis of economic parity. When there is inequitable resource distribution in a community, both those at the bottom and those at the bottom may perceive each other as experiencing a shared destiny. When the inequality is further higher, it is likely that the poor will feel powerless, as they may consider their priorities and views are not embodied in the civic processes and may as a result opt out of participation.

2.3.4 Economic Factors, Public Participation and Budgetary Allocation

2.3.4.1 Income Levels, Public Participation and Budgetary Allocation

A person's level of income is in a traditional society regarded as an imperative principle for assessing the person's capacity. Likewise, to examine the degree of involvement of members of the public in projects of development, the participants' income level shows the people's participation. Simons (1938) defines an individual's income as the accumulation of the market price of exercised rights in consuming and the variation in the property rights store comparing the end and beginning.

Since 1973, the increasing income inequality is studied together with variations in citizens' wealth possessions. The Earning Pointer presents a thoughtful and provocative way of examining the performance of an economy in elevating the standards of living during the 1990s' economic boom. In their study, Nazleen (2004) revealed that governments' participation by the marginalized and poor in making decision in rural development has yet to significantly increased. On the contrary, some intermediaries and touts have experienced more access to the projects and benefited from the same. A general assumption exists, that the disadvantaged and poor's interest cannot be guaranteed in the social structure that is exploitative, unless the legislation protects it. According to Brady (2003), because civic and political process also constitute a kind of participation similar to economic involvement that occurs in the place of market, it appears that models that are known economic involvement may offer information into the linkages between income inequality, income, civic and involvement in policy making decisions by the government.

According to Brady (2003), for market place and labor force participation, a variation in income influences the level at which the public participates in public policy decision-making endeavors. With a view to offer a positive association between political activity and income, intrinsic pleasure may also be provided by participation, similar to a hobby. Verba *et al.* (1995) and Bartels, (2003) opine that that the well to do sections of the society together with the more educated contribute more in their participation in decision-making activities by the government. This owes to the greater risks in government affairs as they better appreciate and understand social and political life. The scholars further aver that the wealthier sections of the society have a higher likelihood of being engaged and interested in civic and political engagement practices. Verba *et al.* (1995) and Bartels (2003) further argue that the wealthier in the society normally show interest in how to be more vocal and whom to contact. Weber (2000) is in agreement and adds that participation by members of the public in policy making decision forums and committees are normally jam-packed with highest socio-economic group members while in a developing economy context, there is lack of low-income members of the society.

2.3.4.2 Employment Status, Public Participation and Budgetary Allocation

In a study on the effect of human resources, ceiling budget, and the quality of regulation changes in county government provincial budget, Lismawati (2013) observes that effective budgetary allocation has been associated with economic factors including citizens' employment status. The study observes that if a government seeks to prepare and allocate a budget successfully, it ought to take into account among other economic factors, the previous structural deficit level, and the recurring economic conditions with regard to income distribution and employment in the country.

Similarly, Lubis *et al.* (2016) argue in their study on the urgency of implementing balanced scorecard system on county government in North Sumatra – Indonesia, that in most magnanimous welfare systems, the budgetary allocation process is significantly influenced by the country's unemployment rates. This is consistent with Ithemeje (2018) who offers that when the rate of unemployment is growing and citizen income is dwindling, there is subsequent surge in the number of public resources channeled towards unemployment benefits and government support, which makes it more problematic to present a budgetary adjustment based on cuts in spending.

2.3.5 Public Participation and Budgetary Allocation

It is imperative that citizens are involved in public participation because the law also requires them to pay duties for delivery of services. This not only means that they are consumers of government services but also the financiers of the same government services. In administrative decision making, citizen participation is about an inclusive setting of goals, determining policies and strategies and monitoring of government services and use of resources. The activities that are entailed in public participation relate to the techniques and mechanisms used to arrive at these includes, but not limited to, public sittings and hearings, citizens' advisory councils and panels, neighborhood or resident meetings and public surveys. The most practicable and functional areas of citizen involvement include economic development, environmental protection, education, public health, public safety and policing amongst others carried out during public participation forums (Yang & Callahan, 2005). Mechanisms of citizen participation are broadly categorized into voice and vote. Vote being the channel through which citizens elect their representatives at all

levels of government.

Even though devolution has facilitated this by ensuring that there are structures in place that enable the citizens to exercise their right to vote with little or no interference or hindrance from the national government especially when it involves utilization of resources allocated to their areas. While voting is essential it is sometimes seen to be limiting as participation, in this case is interpreted as only happening during elections, which in most states happens after three to five years. Voice, on the other hand, looks at participation as a platform where citizens are given an opportunity to effect on decision making, implementation and, monitoring and evaluation of projects and programs that affects their socio-economic and political wellbeing. It also allows the citizens to demand accountability from the people they put in power (Yang & Callahan, 2005). Most theories posit that the benefits of public participation can only be optimized when both voice and vote mechanisms are operationalized in a devolved system of governance (Ledingham, 2001).

According to Weber (2000), supporters of a devolved system of governance both from the economic and political fields attribute increased transfer of power from the central government towards the lower county government levels to the incapability of the central system to effectively and efficiently deliver services to the public. Further, devolution has been known to enhance transparency and accountability thus increasing the motivation behind the predisposition towards a devolved system of governance in numerous developing countries which involve engaging those groups and individuals who are supposed to benefit from such public services. The transfer of service delivery and financial resources and to county governments in essential departments like water, health, and agriculture, and other sectors as outlined in Schedule Four of the Kenyan Constitution 2010, allows the governments at the counties an opportunity to enhance public services delivery at the county level. This is made possible by devolution which improves the resource efficiency in allocation which is assumed and/or expected which local public officials at the county government levels, entailing both bureaucrats and politicians, understand local preferences, needs and challenges better, and can thus better distinguish the local communities' needs and offer public services and goods in a manner this is more cost-effective.

Public participation may be viewed as a political process and therefore for any democratic system of government, it is essential that there is inclusivity of the public in budget making and implementation process. According to He (2011), participation in China, includes deliberations that lasts one or more days, and as an incentive, financial grants may be applied. Wu and Wang (2011) conducted a case study of Wuxi, China, with a focus on participatory budgeting and established that such motivating factors as assistance in research foundation, support for party leadership, fiscal strength, and a culture of engagement with several civil society institutions and mass media aid in educating and encouraging participants with respect to the process of budgetary formulation, while neighborhood recommendations and surveys are conducted before voting of the budgets.

Participatory budgeting in China has promoted an extent of fairness and transparency, which has availed opportunities for citizens and deputies to monitor, discuss and examine budgets and advance the information exchange between citizens and government. According to Collins and Chan (2009), when participatory budget was presented in China, the core ideas of the Chinese government was reshaped by presenting participatory budget as an initiative to enhance state capacity, improve administrative efficiency and curb corruption. Participatory budget has become an instrument of narrowing contestation, expanding involvement and administrative incorporation. This has led to it being an attractive tool in such other apparatuses that are state-dominated as Law of Complaints in Vietnam and the Feedback Unit in Singapore (Roberts, 2014). In Portugal, the youth participatory budgets have brought to the political space, members of the public that are not in a position to participate in elections owing to age and demonstrate that with the appropriate means and communication, the youth participate in creative and fruitful ways, contrary to the constant assumption that the youth have no or little interest for the communal good. It is considerably more radical in the Philippines, as human rights activists are the advocates participation by the public.

The process is however, less development oriented and more political, as these protestors are usually linked with political parties in the opposition. In several other countries globally, human rights groups have also advocated for participation by members of the public in public policy decision making. Examples include the Labor

Rights Movement in Russia, the Civil Rights Movements of USA, the freedom movement in South Africa and India and the Tribal and Dalits Rights movement in India. The activists invoke constitutional rights to expression and information as provided in the International Code of Human Rights as the grounds for importance on the requirement for participation by members of the public in the process of budgeting. In Africa, the signing of “The African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation” by African countries forms the basis upon which was adopted at the. The Charter was originated by African Governments, grass-roots organizations and NGOs.

The phenomenon of public participation traces its origin in Brazil in the late 1980s as a redistribution mechanism aimed at mainstreaming the poor. The concept of public budgeting has continued to evolve as more and more countries embrace it and modify it. For the United States participatory budgeting (PB) is highly decentralized as it is aimed at improving the role of participation by the general public in the process of budgeting. In China, the process is so important that it could take days of meetings and deliberation, and, if need be, financial grants are used as incentives, if only to bring more people on board. This seriousness has, undoubtedly, borne the country fruits as empirical studies indicate an increase in transparency and fairness as a result of public participation in the budgeting process. Other studies done on The Youth Participatory Budgets in Portugal, the advocating of public participation by human rights activists in the Philippines and many other countries over the world bring out a fundamental argument to the debate of public participation: Participation in the budget making process is every person’s right and it should be embraced.

This is a fact even the young democracies, like our country, and counties, cannot ignore, thus the implementation of the Charter. Gachithi (2010) argues that making public officials responsible will presuppose that there ought to be norms and values which public officials will be supposed to observe. In present day, this is adequately stipulated in the Constitution on Integrity and Leadership, particularly in Chapter Six as well as the Civil Service Code of Regulations of 2006, the Public Officer Ethics Act 2003 and the Leadership and Integrity Act 2012. Kiilu and Ngugi (2014) further argues that, making public officials responsible will also presuppose lucidity on the type of reprisal which may be employed when the prearranged norms and values not

experiential. Claiming accountability on public officials and a county government ensures that the leaders to whom public resources, public offices, and leadership positions, are entrusted observe publicly agreed goals, standards and norms. IEA-Kenya assessed the status of participation by members of the public and existing information dissemination guidelines in four counties, including Turkana, Kisumu, Isiolo and Makueni.

The study investigated the legislative and constitutional provisions on participation by members of the public by civil society and participation by citizens in information dissemination and county governance frameworks instituted by the county governments. The study in particular assessed the provisions in the existing legislation and constitutional provisions on public participation. Frameworks were identified in the study, including platforms and processes established by the county governments in order to facilitate participation by the public in processes of governance. Citizen engagement and participation in governance were further assessed in the study. It was finally identified in the study, the frameworks of information dissemination that are available in the counties in question.

According to Devas and Grant (2003), issue 135 of the ADILI newsletter reports that participation by members of the public establishes an equilibrium between governing by the people and for the people. The notion stresses the necessity to augment meaningful participation and further inclusion of members of the public in decision-making processes in the context of structures of governance. Properly harnessed, participation by members of the public holds the prospective of having a significant role to play, improving the process of governance, and influencing greatly decision-making. The drafters of the constitution noted that participation by members of the public leads to sustainable and productive change by stressing on concepts that emphasize on togetherness.

Indeed, as Njenga et al. (2014) observes, it is ‘people centered’ or ‘people first’ techniques of administration that evades making decisions in a centralized hierarchical manner. In their research on participation by members of the public, Kairu and Maneno note observe that participation by members of the public seeks to bridge the empirical gap among the general public, civil society, state actors and

private sector. The study intimated that a community with civic culture that is heavy takes part more in public policy decision-making endeavors. Presently, it is required that stakeholders be consulted and services and development plans made more receptive to the needs of members of the public. For the average Kenyan, the accountability has now been two-fold increased.

The rallying tagline has shifted to '*haki yetu wajibu wangu*', from just '*haki yetu*'. Kenyans are now presented an occasion to enhance service delivery and development while accountability and governance are entrenched (Devas & Grant, 2003). Therefore, public participation is enshrined in almost every statutory instrument in Kenya right from the most supreme law of the land: The Constitution, to the County Government Act and a myriad of other Acts, has attracted the interest of several researchers in the country. The World Bank elucidates participation as a process whereby stakeholders share and influence control over resources, decisions and the development initiatives that affect them. Issue 135 of the ADILI newsletter reports that participation by members of the public establishes an equilibrium between governing by the people and for the people. In their research on participation by members of the public, Kairu and Maneno note observe that participation by members of the public seeks to bridge the empirical gap among the general public, civil society, state actors and private sector.

A study conducted by Njeru (2016) indicated that, ensuring that public officers are held accountable requires that there are norms and values that elected leaders are expected to follow to by the public. All the local researches on public participation agree on these two things: that public participation is a human right and that we are a long way from fully utilizing it to enhance transparency and accountability in Kenya. Public participation is part of a democratic process that has been advocated by the Kenya constitution making it now a guaranteed process in Kenya before any project has been undertaken. The constitution has various chapters and clauses require the public to undertake involvement at all government levels before public officials and body makes official decisions in regards to development projects. It is however imperative to point out that participation by the public is fundamentally a new process in Kenya today that has not gotten attention of scholars in terms of its effectiveness and efficiency considering its complexity and not in terms of process.

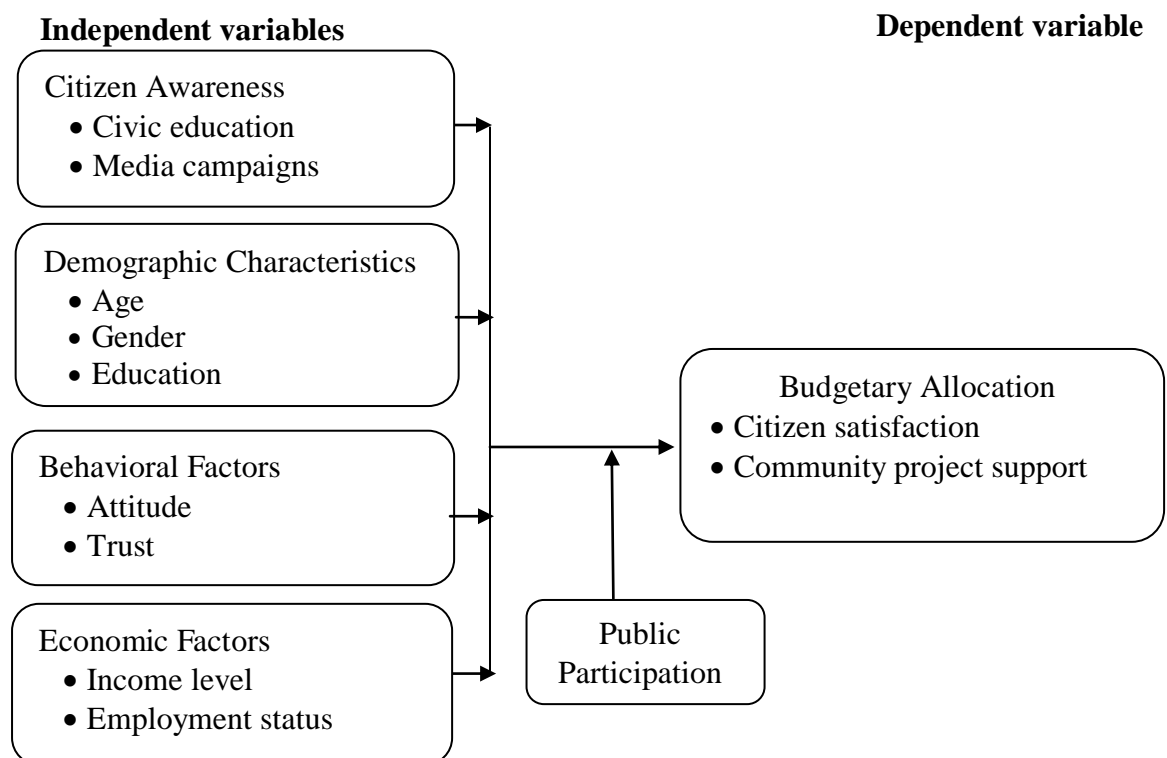
2.4 Conceptual Framework

A combination of the independent variables as displayed in the conceptual framework helped to examine how antecedent of public participation influence budget allocation process. The section details an organizational account elucidation of the association between the factors propelling the research on participation by the public. The framework in this research is an indication of likely fundamental factors influencing participation by the public.

Graphically the conceptualized association between the independent and dependent variables is illustrated below; citizen awareness, age, education level, gender, behavioral factors and economic factors are antecedents of public participation. While public participation outcome is the mediating variable and will be analyzed in relation to how they influence budget allocation. Further, the study introduces public participation as a function of budget allocation.

Figure 2

Conceptual Framework



Source: (Researcher, 2019)

Figure 2.2 presents a diagrammatic illustration of the hypothesized association among the study variables. As conceptualized, the study hypothesizes that the predictor variables, demographic characteristics, citizen awareness, behavioral factors and economic factors have significant direct effects on budgetary allocation, which forms the dependent variable. Budgetary allocation is on the other hand hypothesized as having a substantial moderating effect on the relationships between the antecedents and budgetary allocation. Each of the variables is conceptualized below.

The choice of citizen awareness, demographic characteristics, behavioral factors and economic factors as antecedents of budgetary allocation was justified by their identification in previous related studies (Lubis *et al.*, 2016; Ihemeje. 2018; Mkasiwa, 2018; McCommon, 2019; Odary, 2020), albeit in developing economy contexts other than Kenya. The choice of public participation as a mediator in the budgetary allocation process was also justified by its identification in previous related studies (Abelson & Eyles, 2018; Aiginger *et al.*, 2019).

Further, the choice of civic education and media campaigns as indicators of citizen awareness was justified by their identification in previous related studies (Kis-Katos & Sjahrir, 2016; Mkasiwa, 2018) as indicators of citizen awareness in the budgetary allocation process albeit in developing economy contexts other than Kenya. The choice of age, gender and education as indicators of demographic characteristics was also justified by their identification in previous related studies (Ihemeje. 2018; Odary, 2020) as indicators of demographic characteristics in the budgetary allocation process albeit in developing economy contexts other than Kenya. The choice of attitude and trust as indicators of behavioral factors was justified by their identification in previous related studies (Hendricks, 2018; McCommon, 2019) as indicators of behavioral factors in the budgetary allocation process albeit in developing economy contexts other than Kenya. Lastly, the choice of Income level and employment status as indicators of economic factors was justified by their identification in previous related studies (Lismawati, 2013; Lubis *et al.*, 2016) as indicators of economic factors in the budgetary allocation process albeit in developing economy contexts other than Kenya.

2.4.1 Budgetary Allocation

A budget has been defined by Mitchell (2005) as a summarization of the anticipated expenditure over a given time period, along with a proposition on how the anticipated expenditure will be financed. It quantitatively expressed plan for a particular time period. It includes planned approximations of expenditure and revenue over a given period of time. A budget is a financial plan used to estimate revenues and expenditures for a specific period of time. It is a management and planning tool, not just an accounting document. It assists in the allocation of resources. A budget allocation is the amount of funding designated to each expenditure line. It designates the maximum amount of funding an organization is willing to spend on a given item or program, and it is a limit that is not to be exceeded by the employee authorized to charge expenses to a particular budget line. According to Mohammadi et al. (2010) owing to resource scarcity, a financial budget is an imperative instrument for planning for financial resources and an essential instrument for implementation adequate planning that results in operative ways of managing scarce resources the as well as the economy. Budgetary allocations offer such production factors as land, labour, capital as well as every other resource. The government, regularly budgets for the stimulation of the growth of the economy.

Therefore, growth in allocated budgetary particularly at the grass root level is a significant strategy of accomplishing economic growth and minimizing poverty since the promulgation of the new constitution in Kenya in 2010. The planned corporation holds the promise of fostering enhanced technology and research comparable to availing of sufficient resources required in growing production. As such, necessary guidelines ought to be established therefore promoting compliance, viability, adequate implementation and monitoring by diverse economic sectors for successful budgeting. Conversely, allocations from national governments to the economic sector ought to be appropriately checked in promoting sectoral development and growth. Further improvement of wherewithal in growth in resource allocation was channeled to the agricultural sector. Such increases are required to fast-track sectoral growth.

Grounded on empirical and theoretical literatures, it is apparent that allocations of the budget to various sectors impact the respective sectors in various ways. The reviewed literature provided sufficient evidence that expenditures of the government on health

care, education and physical infrastructure enhance growth (Aspden & Brich, 2005; Hickey & Seligson, 2003; Ledingham, 2001). The budget making process in Kenya is guided by the Public Finance and Management Act (PFMA) 2012, section 125 which details it as follows: The county budgeting process commences with issuance, by the County Executive Member for Finance (CECM-F), of initial instruction (budget circular) to guide the budget process. CECM-F then, and in accordance with section 104 of the county government's act 2012 as read together with article 220 of the Kenya constitution 2010 which require that for any public funds to be appropriated, there must be a development plan County integrated development plan (CIDP).

Subsequently, the county treasury develops a County Budget Review and Outlook Paper (C-BROP), which it submits, for approval, to the executive committee, which is a review of budget implementation and assessment of its success as well as the projections into the subsequent year(s). After approval of the C-BROP the county treasury prepares a County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) which indicates an estimate of the available financial resources. The CFSP contains broad priorities and policy goals as well as an outlook on expenditure, revenue and borrowing for the medium term. During the preparation of the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP), the county treasury subjects the estimates to public participation where it seeks the views of the public and interested groups. Preparation of CFSP is followed by the consolidation and ratification of the budget by the county treasury before the County Executive Member for Finance (CECM-F) submits it to the county assembly for approval.

The County Assembly, again, subjects these estimates to citizen participation and later reviews the estimates of the budget. Amendments may be made, but only in conformity with the CFSP. Any rise in expenditure ought to be well-adjusted by a decrease elsewhere, and the estimates are then incorporated in the County Appropriation Bill awaiting approval by the county assembly and later assented to by the county governor (County Government Act, 2012). Once the budget is approved by the county assembly, the law requires that it is implemented to the letter and every stakeholder's focus now shifts to the monitoring of its implementation. More often than not, and quite unfortunately, budgets are incorrectly implemented by the executive. This, according to Aspden and Brich (2005), is due to either massive

corruption or plain misappropriation of resources.

Consequently, it is the Constitution's requirement that the county coordinator of budget must, every three months, send a report on the implementation of the budget to the County Assembly. These reports are instrumental as they enable the County Assembly members to play their supervisory role in the employment of the budget and, since the reports are made even as the budget is being implemented, challenges in the spending are easily identifiable and corrected before the end of the financial year. These reports should be availed to the public so that they are given an opportunity to raise any concerns regarding budget implementation process. According to The Institute of Social Accountability, Members of the County Assembly ought not only inspect the entire budget, as well as the budgetary allocations of particular programs, ensuring that public resources are utilized prudently and efficiently in accordance with how the resources were allocated.

The citizens are similarly expected to play a role in overseeing through scrutinizing budget implementation reports of the auditor general, or discussing the reports of the findings of the members of County Assembly. On the other hand, the controller of budget's office was established by the constitution of Kenya 2010 and was required to approve spending by government at the county and national level. In instances when the county government attempts to embezzle the funds of the public, the Budget Controller reserves the power to freeze the accounts of the county government. The Budget Controller is also obligated to report on budget execution on a quarterly basis and review spending.

Such reports hold importance in guaranteeing that members of the public as well as other stakeholders are capable of monitoring the process of budget implementation throughout the year (Aspden & Brich, 2005). Further, there is established, in the constitution, a national institution called the Auditor General's office mandated to ensure that the government spends its money prudently and keeps good records of its spending. At the close of every financial year, the Auditor General subjects the accounts of every county to a rigorous audit and the findings availed to the public for perusal, and forwarded to the County Assembly for review. The Assembly then makes recommendations to resolve any problem recognized in the audit reports of

the auditor General. Effective execution of a budget is reliant on numerous aspects including; adequacy and availability of financial resources, human resource competence, and involvement by all stakeholders and staff in the sound planning, budgeting process, evaluation, budget process control, staff motivation and monitoring (Finkel et al., 2012).

According to John (2009), an organization that hopes to attain effective implementation must set aside sufficient financial resources and adequate other non-financial structures. Fiscal economists are concerned about how a budget seeks to meet deficit targets and if any potential adjustments on either the expenditure and revenue sides agreed upon at the initial preparation stage are implemented as agreed. Fiscal economists are concerned with understanding every weakness in the budget execution process of a county. Further, they seek to forecast, based on these findings, where problems are most likely to arise, and how could be avoided or even overcome (Elhiraika, 2017).

2.4.2 Public Participation

Public participation is considered as a course in which non-governmental groups, governmental groups as well as members of the public interact for purposes of executing a common civic obligation. The decisions are usually in policy, legislations as well as service delivery to the individuals and non-governmental groups. The public/citizens also influence decisions of oversight and development. The public is important in issues that affect their lives directly (Thwala, 2010). There are theories that have attempted to explain how Alexander the Great ascended to power. One of the theories asserts that he was successful in severing the Gordian knot which many people and men of stature had tried to break without success. Using the analogy of Alexander the Great, we attribute public participation as the proverbial sword that can be used to fight corruption and poor leadership that has plagued modern societies especially in the developing countries. Therefore, participatory development and public participation is the key pillar of democracy. As espoused by proponents of democracy, meaningful citizen participations ties government projects to people (Ihemeje, 2018). Public participation is a key ingredient of the legislative and policy functions of all governments.

According to Aref and Redzuan, (2009), the levels of public participation is the degree to which citizens of devolved units actively engage the governance system, and decision-making structures so as to influence how they are to be governed, or how resources attributable to the citizens are accrued, planned for, and spent. According to Dener and Young (2018), public participation in budgetary formulation can only be enhanced through institutional frameworks. If the public's institutional analysis is perceived to address their social-economic and cultural issues, then the public will engage (Gugler, 2003). The level to which the public engages and endorses the structures of participation is directly related to the perception of goodness of fit of the structures and mechanisms. OECD (2001) contends that the concept of participation by the public may be interchangeably used with stakeholder engagement concepts and the concept popular participation. Participation by the public generally seeks the involvement of individuals who might be interested in or affected by a decision-making process by the county authorities. In retrospect, public participation has established the level at which the public will engage the local or national governance in budgetary formulations and planning (Muda, *et al.*, 2017).

Therefore, public participation is regarded as an empowering and vital part of democratic governance by the citizens in democratic governments (OECD, 2001). According to Lammers (1988), as a legislative entitlement, participation encompasses the means by which communities may contribute to governance and public policy decision making and impact activities, decisions and processes and is not in itself, an end. In addition, public involvement is the contribution of the public in decision making during budgetary allocation (Lukensmeyer, 2009).

In addition, public participation promotes ownership creation, shared governance accountability, transparency and understanding in development decisions, projects and programmes within a given regional governments (OECD, (2001). Public participation is a process that enables persons who are sidelined to contribute in the execution of initiatives on development (Tshabalala & Lombard, 2009). Public participation has enabled the involvement of ordinary community members in processes of decision making, planning of projects, designing, executing and organizing of development initiative that affect the communities at large. According to Dola and Mijan (2006) there are various benefits resulting from ordinary members

of community being involved in participation by the public that entails the promotion of stability and consensus, reduction of conflict, consciousness increases and bargaining and containment.

Through public participation the marginalized individuals are enabled to have voices in the implementation development initiatives in their regions/counties (Tshabalala & Lombard, 2009). Public participation has enabled the involvement of ordinary public members to take part in community decision making process. Public participation has brought effectiveness and efficiency in service delivery. In addition, article 10 of the Kenya Constitution emphasizes the need to enhance inclusivity and public participation of the people.

Public empowering should be considering the final decision-making authority to be in the hands of the citizens. The various methods of involvement by members of the public include; cooperating with the citizenry to form an effective criterion of making decisions and alternative in identifying a preferred solution. The essence of devolution in Kenya was to ensure that all citizens and the civil society have a platform to participate in their own governance processes. They are expected to take up an active role in formulating the policies; making laws; planning for any development; budgeting; and/or monitoring the execution of programs, projects, and activities funded by the taxpayer. The County Government Act of 2012 established elaborate structures all the way from the grassroots level represented by the village councils to wards, administered by the ward administrators to the sub-county administered by the sub-county administrators. This way, they ensure that all citizens are provided with an equal chance to take part in governance processes that were devolved with the new constitution, through the designated administrators at every level (County Government Act, 2012).

The thinking behind devolution was that since every county will have a manageable jurisdiction the county government will be able to easily come up with policies and laws that are more responsive to the needs of the public, thereby positively impacting on their lives. The county governments, unlike the national governments are able to effectively do this as they can tailor their policies to fit into the specific preferences of the local populace. That the government is close to its people gives the county

governments a greater degree of flexibility that matches its delivery of services to the local population's demand. The other principle of devolution was to empower the communities at the local level to organize their own revenue resources more successfully. The inclusivity of the devolved governance system has promoted both the productivity and efficiency of the services delivered, the utilization of public services and even in resource allocation. Decentralization has enabled members of the public who have historically been sidelined from participating in public policy making, most of whom are below the poverty line and in vulnerable groups including the youth and women, to now take part in public policy formulation and effect the decisions in budgeting, planning, implementation and policy formulation.

Accordingly, county governments across the country are now in a position to develop policies that are pro-poor, as a majority of the poorest households reside in the rural areas and are not in a position to give their views due to the unfavorable conditions. This holds the prospect of impacting positively, the national indicators of poverty (Lukensmeyer, 2009). The government is in the business of providing essential services to its citizens. In order for the government to do that effectively, it relies on the revenue it collects from the citizens. If the citizens are not willing or motivated to pay taxes, levies and rates, the government cannot provide them with the basic services. Hence, it is important that the government generates a conducive environment for cost recovery from its citizens. Devolution has provided a great opportunity to the Citizens and is now; more than ever before willing to pay any fees charged for the service they receive from the various units of governments because they know the money will come back to them in response to their needs especially during public participation. Further, devolution has developed a sense of ownership among the citizens since they are involved aggressively in making decisions and execution of projects and programs meant for them.

When the citizens are actively involved in governance, through public participation, there is likely to be growth in the counties in terms of better planning; projects are prioritized, are citizen needs' targeted; government activities are better monitored, which in turn contributes to better governance; and increased effectiveness, that have a positive impact on governance. Reducing poverty realizing sustainable development of this country will depend on whether or not devolution is implemented as it was

meant to. Every county government's budget, before its implementation, is subjected to public participation at least twice; the first time during the preparation of the CFSP by the county treasury and the second time by the County Assembly before its adoption and assent by the Governor (County Government Act, 2012).

2.4.2.1 Levels of Public Participation

According to Robinson (2007), levels of public participation is defined as the degree to which citizens of devolved units actively engage the governance system, and decision-making structures so as to influence how they are to be governed, or how resources attributable to the citizens are accrued, planned for, and spent by those in the authority. According to Young (2008), public participation in budgetary formulation can only be enhanced through institutional frameworks. If the public institutional analysis is perceived to address their social-economic and cultural issues, then the public will engage (Esonu & Kavanamur, 2011). The level to which the public engages and endorses the structures of participation is directly related to the perception of the goodness of fit of the structures and mechanisms. In retrospect, this establishes the level at which the public will engage the local or national governance in budgetary formulations and planning (Von Korff, *et al.*, (2010).

In addition, Frey *et al.*, (2004), and Moller *et al.*, (2006), argue that human motivation is central tenet in establishing relationship between governance structures, systems and levels of public participation. According to Deci and Ryan, (2008) human beings are creatures of habit whose function is based on level of motivation. Further, they argue that for the public to engage actively in any civil, or governance process including budgetary process, they have to feel that the engagement process actually fulfils their needs. Therefore, it is extremely essential of decentralized units to establish and link benefits of budgetary planning and formulation to public participation (Esonu & Kavanamur, 2011). Equally important, Ostrom (2009) argues that public participation requires an environment that precipitates desire for engagement in decision making, and also an environment that guarantees the public's inherent psychological need for fair involvement, self-determination and procedural justice. According to Aref and Redzuan, (2009) institutional acceptance by the public determines whether they will engage with the articulated public participation process. In devolved units public participation indicates acceptance of the structures and systems (Young, 2008).

However, structures and systems in themselves do not constitute acceptance, rather the extent to which opinion leaders inspires acceptance (Ostrom, 2009). The elected and administrative leaders at a national level and county/regional level have enhance the zeal of local citizens in devolved units to participate more fully in planning and implementation budget resources at the local level (Ostrom, 2009). However, Yang (2008) contends that devolved system framework for public participation must ensure effective involvement of citizens in the local affairs. Further, Yang (2008) argues that for public participation to be effective, citizen's participation mechanisms should be matched to the local social–ecological context to which the citizens belong in order to establish the goodness of fit in defining what participation means. According to Deci and Ryan, (2008) the level of public participation will always be the degree that the public perceives participation as goodness fit. According to Ostrom (2009) public participation within decentralized units can only elevate levels of participation if social cultural, and economic tenets are synchronized to address the needs the public it is endearing for budgetary participation within a government unit.

2.4.2.2 The Legal Framework for Public Participation in Kenya

A decade ago, budgeting was advocated among the macroeconomic policy makers, technocrats and academics, which made it an exclusive reserve of technocrats in planning and finance ministries. The partiality in regard to budgeting was carried out lacking political influence of the day (World Bank, 2002). According to Haggard and Webb (1994), the authority to make decisions was allocated to technocrats who enjoyed protection against the interference and pressure from bureaucratic processes, the legislature and interest groups. Even though survey findings on public participation contrasted the argument of delegating the authority to the technocrats and few individuals in the ministry of finance was not influenced by the politics of the day. The World Bank (2002) discovered that a more all-encompassing method with the main stakeholders being the public would augment policy sustainability and improve policies' prospects for successful implementation. Public participation has become an imperative talking point in governance debates in the country.

The sovereign power of the people under the constitution of Kenya (COK) is allocated to various structures which include; legislative and parliament assemblies at

the national and county government levels. Both the government levels are dissimilar but codependent and operate on a shared basis on grounds cooperation and consultation. Both the Legislative and Executive County government arms are accountability for delivery of public service and county revenues in the decentralized government units (Government of Kenya, 2010).

In the course of drafting the new constitution, participation by members of the public was made a crucial principle by Kenyans in which anchoring public governance was sought (Economic and Social Rights Centre, 2013). The preamble of the County Government Act, 2012, spells out what the public means, indicating that, when employed in association with participation by members of the public, it denotes a particular county's residents, a given city or municipality's tax payers; any inhabitant non-governmental, civic organization, labor organization or private sector, with a concentration in a given particular municipality's, city's or county's governance; and non-resident individuals who owing to their impermanent occurrence in a given municipality, city or county, utilize facilities or services offered by the municipality, city or county, over a given time period. The county government Act, 2012 (CGA) Section 6 Part 2 states that in performing any of its functions or exercising its powers, a county government shall guarantee participation, efficiency, inclusivity and effectiveness in the county.

Therefore, through the constitution public participation has been entrenched as one of the fundamental privileges of the Kenyan people. The County Government Act, 2012 (CGA) in section 87 of the Act include the ideologies hereby outlined: - access to documents, data, information, and other material related or pertinent to policy implementation and formulation in a timely manner; judicious access to the development of policies, regulations and laws, particularly their implementation and formulation, including the endorsement of budgets and proposals of development project, with special emphasis on historically sidelined societies and persons, including disadvantaged groups the youth, and women; obligation and role equity in non-state actors and county governments in processes of making decision with a view to encourage partnership and shared responsibility, as well as to offer oversight and complementary authority; promotion of such public-private partnerships as public commissions, technical teams, and joint committees, to foster concerted action

and dialogue on sustainability; and promotion and recognition of the reciprocal non-state actors' roles in governmental oversight and facilitation (County Government Act, 2012). The legal framework for the participation of the public is provided in Kenya's Public Financial Management Act, to guarantee accountability that which was ratified into law in July 2012 by the President.

In the Bill, numerous references are made with a bearing on the necessity to guarantee participation by the public in various processes of financial management (Government of Kenya 2014). In budgetary matters, it is anticipated that the Office of Parliamentary Budget observes the principle of participation by members of the public. At the creation of county governments following the promulgation of the new constitution, it was anticipated that the process of budgeting at the county would be in line with the constitution in regard to participation by the public. It is spelled out in the constitution that devolved County governments ought to engage the citizens in making decisions, including budget allocation (Government of Kenya 2010).

2.4.2.3 Participatory Budgeting

Participatory budgeting occurs through deliberate action on the part of the county government in a concern for hearing from citizens. Efforts on behalf of participatory budgeting in general continue to be brought benefits to governments. The Strengths of Successful Participation Budgeting leads the spirit of democracy. Andrade and Rhodes (2012) consider democratic values as the most important rewards of public involvement. The qualification of participants is not limited by age, status, occupation, well-beings, etc. Only when having time and willingness, citizens can join in any citizen participation mechanisms. Via the implementation of participation budgeting, democratic values and thoughts of people will be solid (Deci & Ryan, 2008).

Participatory budgeting provides citizens with understanding and direct insights into how a government actually works, especially when citizens would actively and properly participate in the government process. If decisions are made "in a public forum open to taxpayers and the media," budgeting seems easier at municipalities to protect interests of citizenry (DeCaro & Stokes, 2008). Citizens are able to see what is happening as actions and events occur in the policy process.

Participatory budgeting educates people with the knowledge of public affairs (Lukensmeyer, 2009). Citizens can be cultivated more familiar with the operation of government and public affairs. When citizens develop mature civil awareness, criticisms of government may decrease. Generally, the more people that participate in public affairs, the higher representation the elected officers possess to enact public policies. According to Muda et al. (2017) citizen participation are suggestions from citizens and know what citizens really want to have.

Although some scholars question whether people know the operations of the governments, as the time passes by and participatory mechanisms develop, citizens will become better educated and have more knowledge of public issues. Although it is often difficult for citizen participation to improve the level and quality of service provision by making services more responsive to the needs of citizens (Callahan & Holzer, 1999), the implementation of public services and policies becomes more efficient. Thus, meaningful citizen participation would bring external citizen input in the public budget process (Muda & Abykusno, 2015). However, policies are formulated and funds allocated by the national government for basic services at the macro level. At micro, members of the local community can take place through the state and county or, on behalf of the state, by a voluntary community organization or private sector company. The bottom-up approach implies that members of the local community, through public participation, can influence the policy decision-making.

2.4.3 Factors Affecting Public Participation

Theories and approaches to explain and identify the social participation process, behaviors, motivation, desire and attitudes which emphasize involvement. Social action theories in partnership with behavioral and mental engagement separation, as a distinct human behavior reflection (Lutfi & Muda, 2016). Attendance is in fact essential for persons to address their difficulties. If persons will not or cannot take the initiative to aid the county's administration and its localities, the likelihood that the devolved government will address serious challenges the communities face. Conversely, if the managers and planners of affairs of the county and claiming the realization of their strategies to manage them with the social setting and with people's involvement owing to their rich understanding of the social environment, wishes and needs is conceivable (Lismawati, 2013). Social fulfilment is the

fulfillment of requirements (needs and expectations) with the aim of more people better meeting personal expectations and needs, fulfillment and satisfaction.

Therefore, the open system theory altered the perception towards the management of organizations, from the mechanistic perspective. It perceives management as a process that is open-ended, and emphasizes control, objectivity and detachment. Organizations are today viewed as processes that are open-ended, involving the coordination of purposeful persons whose activities stem from using their exclusive interpretations to the specific situations they confront.

2.4.3.1 Citizen Awareness

Awareness denotes the capability to perceive and know directly, to be conscious of events or to feel. It is more generally elucidated as the status of being cognizant of a phenomenon. Kosecik and Sagnasos (2004) describes awareness as knowledge by a subject, of some info in the event that info is unswervingly obtainable to actualize in view of a behavioral processes that are wide ranging. The concept of awareness is regularly tantamount to consciousness and is further taken as itself being consciousness (Ledingham & O'Connor, 2017). The concept of awareness is relative, and can be fixated on external measures through sensory perception, or on such an internal state, as visceral feeling. It is equivalent to detecting something, a process illustrious from perceiving and observing (Ebdon & Franklin, 2014).

This elucidation is posited within the challenge in establishing an investigative elucidation of sensory awareness or awareness. Awareness is further linked to consciousness, where the concept represents such an important experience as an intuition or feeling that goes with understanding the phenomena (Lao-Araya, 2002). According to Kis-Katos and Sjahrir (2016), making stakeholders aware will enable them to be involved in the decision-making process. Radical procedures, vicarious authority and shortage of mindfulness can cause people from becoming complicated but if persons appreciate the expected findings and the courses and are mindful, then the participation by members of the public will be realized.

2.4.3.2 Demographic Factors

According to Devas and Grant (2003), demographic profile is commonly elucidated by various sorts: religion, ethnicity, race, age, income, gender, education, employment, marital status, geographical location and home ownership. Demography incorporates the assessment of the distribution, size, and structure of these populaces, and temporal or spatial vicissitudes among them as a result of death, migration, birth and aging. Courtesy of the demographic assessment of the earth, the population of the earth can be estimated by demographers up to the year 2100 and 2050. Demographics denote a given population's computable features, covering whole groups or societies including ethnicity, religion, education and nationality. Demography is typically treated as a discipline of sociology, although several autonomous demography departments exist. Demography formally restricts its study object to the assessment of processes of population, while social demography's wider discipline or population researches also analyze the relations between biological, economic, cultural, and social processes affecting a population (Gugler, 2003).

2.4.3.3 Behavioural Factors

Behaviour, according to Hemakumara, Gpts; Rainis, Ruslan (2018) is the scope of mannerisms and actions by artificial entities, systems, organisms or individuals in combination with their environment, or themselves. It is the calculated reaction of the organism or system to a number inputs or stimuli, whether external or internal, subconscious or conscious, covert or overt, and involuntary or voluntary (Yang, 2005). Adopting a viewpoint of behavior informatics, a behavior is made up of interactions, operation, behavior actor, as well as their characteristics. Behaviors are in management linked to undesired or desired focuses. Generally, managers are aware of what the desired outcome is, but patterns of behavior may take over (Kis-Katos & Sjahrir, 2016).

2.4.3.4 Economic Factors

Aref and Redzuan (2019) define economic factors are individual social welfare that affects the way they perceive certain activities within their environments. A person's income as extreme value they could utilize in the course of a certain period of time and yet remain financially stable at the period's end, same as the beginning (Ledingham & O'Connor, 2017). According to the Calvert-Henderson income

indicator, the living standards trends is the main focus as depicted in financial indicators of income of the family. The leanings in family income distribution and level since 1947 are elucidated with a particular emphasis on what has constituted the main family income determinants of trends, that is hourly changes in wages (Aref & Redzuan, 2019).

2.5 Critique of Existing Literature

The academic literature reviewed underscores the importance of participation by the general public in the allocation of public resources, use of local public finances and thus enhancing outcomes of development. Most studies agree that the general public is best aware of their local conditions, their preferences, and own needs and therefore, their involvement in taking decisions makes it more probable that funds that are available will go into delivering services and the goods that are required the most, and therefore improving the effectiveness of government. Agency theory postulates the agents tasked with representing others ought to eventually commit the organizational resources to value optimization for their principals. It is anticipated that the agents will observe care and due diligence in ensuring that the principal's interests are safeguarded and corporate decisions are made. Elected officials, politicians and policy makers are according to the Stewardship theory, satisfied only when the entire county or the departments they oversee realizes success.

Finally, the Stakeholder theory regards the electorates as the major stakeholders, who claim service delivery and representation from development partners, contractors and leaders, who assert transparency in the use of funds and awarding of tenders and, the civil society who represent the disenfranchised, the suppliers who demand payments in a timely manner, for goods delivered, and the national government who demand judicious use of income distributed to the counties. There is general consensus in theory that involvement of the general results in better formulation and execution of public policy. The empirical studies reviewed further agree that involvement by members of the general public leads to accountability that is better socially or vertically. When the general public is involved in delivering, funding, planning, and monitoring public services and goods, the pressures and incentives on officeholders and public officials change. Public administrators assume more accountability for the decisions they make on the general public's behalf and consequently, efficiency and

effectiveness increase and there is less likely corruption. The perceptions of members of the public shifts as they start perceiving themselves as government clients.

However, the empirical review shows that a lot of studies carried out on citizens engagement in budgeting making is mostly in developed countries and mostly to decentralize county governments, cities and municipalities not so much has been done in developing countries and especially Kenya among the devolved units of government. According to Esonu and Kavanamur (2011) numerous factors have resulted in the success of made participatory budgeting in Latin American nations which include sufficient resources, political will, social capital, political decentralization, legal foundation, small size and bureaucratic competence. Other aspects promoting involvement of the public in budgeting include accessible information and rules, deliberation, emphasis on instant as opposed to long-term planning needs, as well as formal versus informal structure (Esonu & Kavanamur, 2011). Accordingly, Esonu and Kavanamur (2011) observe that as compared to other cities in Latin America, the cities in Brazil are more decentralized fiscally, have strong civil society institutions, are wealthier and in addition, record more incomes for spending. Previous study focused more on direct individuals' participation and instant needs as opposed to organizations that are representative and that appear common for municipalities in Brazil according to reviewed literature examined participation by members of the public in Ukrainian county budgeting (Krylova, 2007).

2.6 Research Gap

The review of literature gives the characterization of participation by members of the public, the significance of participation by members of the public, the legislative guideline overseeing participation by the Kenyan public, approaches of participation by the public in matters on legislation, the perfect requirement for participation by citizens and the historical context participation by the Kenyan public that may be the best effort to elucidate the factors upsetting participation by the public in governments' budgetary allocation.

The research gaps that have been identified is that in the political context, circumstances may restrict the county officials' commitment to seek or use input

during the public participation in the budgeting process. Professional administrators are always concerned about opening up the decision-making reserve on subject matters that are complex affecting the public with the citizens themselves (Aspden & Birch, 2005; Fordham et al., 2009; Mohammadi et al., 2010). Elected officials and administrators may therefore consider the citizens as having already had adequate access or that their jobs are made more difficult by the augmented input. To confound the issue even further, whereas officers are reported to encourage involvement of the public, they would prefer that the political leaders initiate the same. Public participation may also be affected by environmental factors inconsistently, which brings about thought-provoking but unanswered questions concerning the association between outcomes of public participatory and the selected environmental factors particularly when varying results have been demonstrated before. Another set of difficulties that are difficult to overcome is presented by process-design factors (Sirojuzilam et al., 2016; Sopanah, 2003).

It is challenging to get a group of archetypal members of the public ready to channel the required effort and time to be informed about multifaceted processes of public budget formulation (Tang, 2008; Tarmizi et al., 2016), specifically in a manner which will go above and beyond the inclination to concentrate on aspects of fine self-interest. Additionally, excessive involvement may actually water down efficiency for example; presence at public forums of “regulars” who have always something to talk about (Ebdon & Franklin, 2014). No mechanism of public participation is perfect, devoid of weaknesses. A notable distinction among the mechanisms of public participation is the kind of information conveyance they promote between public officials and citizens. Public hearings for example, appear to offer one-way communication concerning citizen viewpoints. One-way information conveyance may take place in both directions. When budget information is released by county officials, the kind of data collected and its release may alter the perceptions of the members of the public on the budget preparation and the probability that their involvement is worth. An indirect indication that demonstrates the county officials’ anticipation concerning participation by the public can be the professionalization of the public information office.

According to Ledingham and O'Connor (2017), globally, the process of input is depicted as taking place in a single cycle of budget and linearly as opposed to a continuing two-way interchange. Whereas scholarly works have determined that participation by members of the public is more advantageous when it a two-way process of communication is involved (Tang, 2008; Tarmizi et al., 2016), findings to this end in the budget process are conflicting and no clear conclusion. Single cases of dialogue that is two-way are found in extant literature, but findings from multicity interviews and surveys indicate that in the budget process, there is considerably little utility of input mechanisms that are two-way. Frequency and cost of input may be aspects in the absence of a two-way communication. Two-way techniques may require more effort and time in the course of the process of budgeting allocation. Some scholarly works on participation in budgeting have concentrate on considerably one-time premeditated, time-consuming techniques for a particular objective, for instance, addressing long term planning or serious fiscal constraints (Ledingham & O'Connor, 2017; Ebdon & Franklin, 2004). It could be more challenging to employ on a regular basis, such intensive approaches as the yearly process of budgeting.

There are notable gaps in the body of knowledge globally, regionally and in the Kenyan context regarding knowledge of participation by members of the public in the process of budgeting. This can be partly attributed to the methodologies adopted by a majority of the studies. A majority of the studies have adopted case studies, key informant interviews, small inadequate samples, or in wider surveys, an insufficient number of questions on budget participation. The empirical studies show this assortment in publishing material on what is applicable in practical terms and linking this experience to its theoretical underpinnings leaving out the large-scale longitudinal analyses and research projects on the subject area on budget allocation and public participation. It is important that case studies be reported from a descriptive point of view, but not proceeding to the next step to deductively test, simplify the information and deduce the conclusions, the development of a theory, cannot be advanced. One notable gap in our understanding and knowledge concerns the communication influences among the diverse issues influencing participation by members of the public and the overall effect on budgetary allocation. Much more is

however, unknown, including the mechanisms or goals utilized for input into capital plans or apportionment of earmarked funds instead of operating budgets.

A conspicuous gap in theory building is the dearth empirical findings about the outcomes and goals of participation by members of the public. Extant empirical literature demonstrates that it may be pursued for various reasons including both low and high. According to Ebdon and Franklin (2004), it unfortunately appears that the objective of participation by members of the public is infrequently overtly expressed, which has resulted in various assumptions and scanty means for establishing whether or not the findings are satisfactory or even surpass the activity's costs. These contradictory objectives may color insights of the efficiency of participatory attempts and influence the examination of whether or not the outcomes are adequate to validate them. Additionally, a majority of the studies on budget allocation have focused on cities. A departure from this would be to focus on budgetary allocation with a focus on such other governmental units, as states, counties, school districts, and special districts. Designs and needs could be very dissimilar in general-purpose versus single-purpose governments. Finally, an absence of conceptual precision may limit a study of citizen participation and budgetary allocation as the study variables will lack sufficient face validity.

The prescriptive conclusions from the reviewed literature are showcased on Table 2.2. The table also outlines the practical challenges faced in the course of promoting participation by members of the public. The research gap regarding public participation and budgetary allocation is finally articulated in the last column of the table.

Table 2*Current Knowledge on Public Participation in Budgetary Theory*

Authors	Focus of Study	Findings	Knowledge Gaps	Focus of the Current Study
Abelson and Eyles (2018)	Association between citizen governance and public participation in the Canadian health system	Focus ought to shift from imported practical professional solutions to community-based awareness and empowerment, recognizing skills of poor people and local knowledge and making effort to engage community in budgetary public participatory programmes	The study was linear in conceptualization, with no linkage to budgetary allocation; the study was also conducted in Canada, which is a different socioeconomic context compared to Kenya	The current study assessed both the direct effects of the antecedents of public participation and public participation on budgetary; as well as the mediating effect of public participation. The study was further conducted in Kenya
Thwala (2010)	Community participation on project success with reference to rural water supply project in South Africa	Citizen awareness is necessary in fostering public participation in the management of public funds owing to inadequacies of the top-down strategies	The study was narrow in scope, focusing on a particular public project	The current study focused on the wider budgetary allocation process for an all-encompassing perspective

Ihemeje (2018)	The necessity of participation by women in subnational governance	The concepts of participation and gender in fiscal discourse have featured greatly in practices and calls to liberate women in Nigeria in the recent past.	The study did not proceed to explore the effect of participation by women in subnational governance, on budgetary allocation	The current study advanced further to explore how gender in public participation influenced budgetary allocation
Edwards (2005)	Public participation in government's financial and economic policy making	Calls for more public participation in government's financial and economic policy making affairs is influenced generally by a more demanding, more articulate and an educated citizenry	The study did not proceed to explore the effect of involvement of an educated citizenry on budgetary allocation	The current study explored how educational characteristics in public participation influenced budgetary allocation
Suzanne et al. (2007)	Citizen participation in formulation of budgets in county governments	Citizen participation in formulation of budgets is positively affected by attitude toward the county government	The study was a desktop review, and therefore lacked context specificity. Findings may therefore not be relevant to the	The current study was conducted in Kenya, with particular reference to NOREB Counties

			Kenyan context	
Mohammadi et al. (2010)	Citizens Attitude towards Local Government and Citizen's Participation in Local Government	Effective relationships between government and the public need to be perceived as beneficial mutually, grounded on mutual interests of the parties in question	The study did not show how the relationships between government and the public's perception of government influence budgetary allocation	The current study assessed the association among citizen behaviour, public participation and budgetary allocation
Brady (2003)	Linkage between income level and public participation in public policy decision-making endeavors	A variation in income influences the level at which the public participates in public policy decision-making endeavors	The study did not proceed to show how participation by income level influences budgetary allocation	The current study explored how income level among public participants influenced budgetary allocation
Weber (2000)	Socio-economic determinants of public participation	Participation by members of the public in policy making decision forums and committees are normally jam-packed with highest socio-	The study did not also show how participation by different socio-economic group members influences budgetary allocation	The current study explored how economic factors in public participation influenced budgetary allocation

		economic group members while in a developing economy context, there is lack of low-income members of the society		
Wu and Wang (2011)	Participatory budgeting: a case study of Wuxi, China	Such motivating factors as assistance in research foundation, support for party leadership, fiscal strength, and a culture of engagement with several civil society institutions and mass media aid in educating and encouraging participants with respect to the process of budgetary formulation	The study adopted a linear model, with no linkage to the antecedents of public participation; the study was also conducted in China, which is a different socioeconomic context compared to Kenya	The present study assessed both the direct effects of the antecedents of public participation and public participation on budgetary; as well as the mediating effect of public participation. The study was further conducted in Kenya

Source: (Researcher, 2019)

Since most of the existing literature on public budgeting and financial management tends to concentrate on central government budgeting issues, the researcher felt an empirical gap on the influence of citizen participation on budget implementation in Kenyan counties. For this reason, the researcher sought to assess how citizen participation affects budget allocation in north rift economic block Counties (NOREB) by attempting to answer the question; what is the effect of the antecedents of public participation on the budget allocation among the NOREB Counties.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the methodology of the study. It presents an overview of the, research design, study area, target population and sampling techniques which were used. Data collection methods and data analysis has been discussed, measurement of variables, reliability, validity, ethical considerations, limitations and expected outcomes of the study.

3.2 Research Philosophy

Research is generally underpinned by the ideological viewpoint which entails the epistemology and ontology of the study. Collis and Hussey (2009) define ontology as either the subjectivity of the social world or its objectivity, in that whether or not it is a social construction. Creswell (2009) refers to these two ontological perspectives as constructionism and objectivism, respectively. According to Creswell (2009), constructionism is the perspective that social reality is not constant, as it constructed is therefore constructed. Creswell (2009) adds that objectivism requires that the reality is objective and the participants or researchers cannot affect it. Epistemology on the other hand concerns how valid knowledge is created (Collis & Hussey, 2009). Two epistemological viewpoints are the positivists who argue that valid knowledge is measurable and observable, and the interpretivist who argue that valid knowledge is expressed by participants of a research. Prior to choosing a suitable methodology, an appropriate research paradigm ought to be chosen since it affects every stage of the study from decisions on the research problem analysis and interpretation of data and this concurs with (Mertens, 2005). The study was grounded on philosophical foundations of logical positivism. The study will consider positivistic tradition due to the applications of empirical methods in producing new knowledge as per previous studies.

Positivistic paradigm allowed the researchers to operationalize definition, formulate variables and hypothesis based on the existing theory which involve the verification of the study hypothesis. The study adopted a positivistic paradigm.

3.3 Research Design

Given the research problem and research objectives as outlined in Chapter one, the study used a quantitative analytical approach in an attempt to empirically determine the relationship between the variables of interest (Kothari, 2004). Research design is a prototype that stipulates the procedures and methods for analyzing and collecting information that is required (Kombo & Tromp, 2006). In this research, a mixed of explanatory and descriptive designs was adopted. Therefore, a research ought to adopt a mix of designs so as to augment the study; and achieve optimal results (Kothari, 2004); to enhance the achievement of optimal results as recommended by Saunders, Lewis and Thornhill (2009). The emphasis of explanatory studies is to study a situation or problem in order to establish whether causal relationships exist between the variables in the study has recommended by Saunders *et al.*, (2011). The design was considered suitable as it minimizes biasness through probability sampling and at the same time maximizing the reliability of data collection method, the design also allowed the use of questionnaires and inferential statistics in establishing the significance of the relationships between independent and dependent variables.

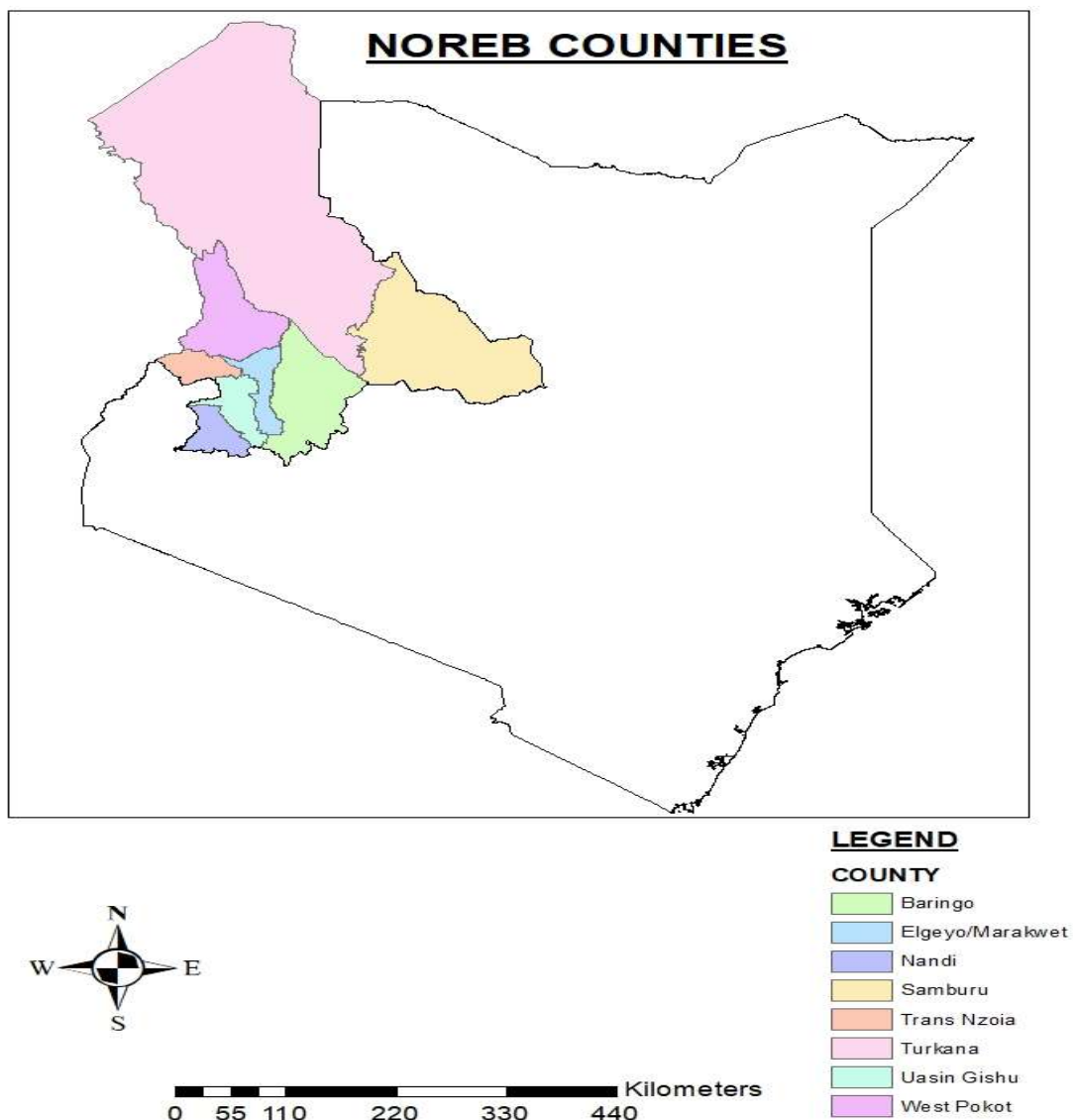
3.4 Study Location

The study was conducted in the north rift region of Kenya. The Republic of Kenya is a country in Africa and a founding member of the East African Community (EAC). Its capital and largest city is Nairobi. Kenya's territory lies on the equator and overlies the East African Rift covering a diverse and expansive terrain that extends roughly from Lake Victoria to Lake Turkana (formerly called Lake Rudolf) and further south-east to the Indian Ocean. It is bordered by Tanzania to the south, Uganda to the west, South Sudan to the north-west, Ethiopia to the north and Somalia to the north-east. Kenya covers 581,309 km² (224,445 sq mi), and had a population of approximately 45 million people in July 2014 (Central Intelligence Agency, 2018).

The study focused on the North rift Economic bloc counties (Baringo, West Pokot, Samburu, Turkana, Transzoia, Elgeyo-Marakwet Nandi and Uasin-Gishu). The North Rift Economic Block was chosen because of its setup in regards to its socio-economic representation of the entire country. While some counties are highly agriculturally productive (Uasin-gishu, Elgewyo Marakwet, Nandi and TransNzoia) representing the highland regions of Kenya; others (Baringo, Westpokot, Turkana, and Samburu) are predominantly dry, representing the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) of Kenya.

Figure 3

Area of Study



3.5 Target Population

Kombo and Tromp (2006) define target population as the entire assemblage of elements that the research intends to make inference to. According to Saunders *et al.*, (2014) a target population is the complete collection of individuals or objects with homogeneous characteristics under investigation by the researcher. Information regarding the target population was obtained from the respective counties' finance ministries, following a preliminary survey prior to both the pilot and main study. In this regard, the target population of the study comprised of 334 elected leaders, 76 county budgetary and planning staff, 10,080 members of sub location development committees, each with 50% representation from the general public and 200 County ward administrators, all totaling 10,690. The 10,690 target respondents also formed the units of analysis.

Table 3

Target Population

Category	Elected leaders	County budgetary and planning staff	Sub Location Development committee	County Ward admin	Population
Baringo	48	9	1967	30	2054
Uasin-gishu	50	10	679	30	769
Elgeyo		9			
Marakwet	36		1484	20	1549
Nandi	42	8	2093	30	2173
Westpokot	36	8	1568	20	1632
Turkana	50	12	1092	30	1184
TransNzoia	42	11	441	25	519
Samburu	30	9	756	15	810
TOTAL	334	76	10080	200	10690

Source: (CIDPs, 2018)

3.6 Sampling Procedures and Sample Size

3.6.1 Sample Size

The study followed the Yamane (1967) sampling technique in shaping the sample size of the study to be used to test the hypotheses. However, the greater the sample size, the lesser the likelihood of errors in the generalization to the entire population (Creswell, 2009; Saunders, Lewis and Thornhill, 2003). The study used Yamane (1967:886) and modified by Saunders *et al.* (2003) formula to calculate sample sizes.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N_e^2}$$

Where, N=population size, n=sample size, e=the sampling error. While the sampling error of 0.05.

$$\begin{aligned} n &= 10,690 / (1 + 10,690 * 0.05^2) \\ n &= 10,690 / 27.725 \\ n &= 385.57 \\ n &= 386 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, using Saunders *et al.* (2003) formula the sample size of the study was 386 stakeholders from the north rift economic bloc who participate in budgetary formulation process.

3.6.2 Sampling Procedure

The determination of the sample size involved giving due recognition of the fact that it should be large enough for statistical analysis. The study used multi-stage sampling design because it allowed the researcher to segregate the population into several mutually exclusive sub-populations or strata which aided in increasing the sample statistical efficiency by providing adequate data for analyzing sub populations and allowing the researcher to use different research methods and procedures in different strata. The eight counties forming the north rift economic block will be purposively selected.

The study also used simple random sampling method to choose the members within the strata. Finally, the study utilized purposive sampling in selecting the respondent in every category. Which includes: the elected leaders, the county budgetary and planning staff, the Sub-location development committee and the County Ward administrators from the 8 counties selected systematically. The study further purposively sampled an equal proportion of male and female respondents across each category, for purposes of representability. The study used Neyman allocation formula to distribute the respondents into the two selected strata. The purpose of selecting the responded into the strata is to optimize the precision of survey, especially when provided a fixed sample size. The sample size for stratum h, employing Neyman allocation, will be:

$$n_h = \left(\frac{N_h}{N} \right) n$$

Where:

N = The total population; n = Total sample size; n_h = The sample size for stratum h;
 N_h -The population size for stratum h

Sample determination for elected leaders:

$$n_h = (334/10,690) * 386$$

$$n_h = 12.1$$

$$n_h = 12$$

Sample determination for county budgetary and planning staff:

$$n_h = (76/10,690) * 386$$

$$n_h = 2.7$$

$$n_h = 3$$

Sample determination for sub-location development committee:

$$n_h = (10,080/10,690) * 386$$

$$n_h = 363.9$$

$$n_h = 364$$

Sample determination for county ward administrators:

$$n_h = (200/10,690) * 386$$

$$n_h = 7.2$$

$$n_h = 7$$

Hence, distribution will be as follows;

Table 4

Sample Size

Population Category	Population	$n_h = \left(\frac{N_h}{N} \right) n$
Elected leaders	334	012
County budgetary and planning staff	076	003
Sub-location development committee	10,080	364
County ward administrators	200	007
Total	10690	386

Source: Researcher (2019)

The sample of 386 was proportionately distributed among the 8 counties of Baringo, Uasin-gishu, Elgeyo Marakwet, Nandi, Westpokot, Turkana, TransNzoia and Samburu as presented in Table 5.

Table 5

Sample Distribution Per County

Category	Population	% Proportion	Sample
Baringo	2054	19.2	74
Uasin-gishu	769	7.2	28
Elgeyo Marakwet	1549	14.5	56
Nandi	2173	20.3	78
Westpokot	1632	15.3	59
Turkana	1184	11.1	43
TransNzoia	519	4.9	19
Samburu	810	7.6	29
TOTAL	10690		386

3.7 Data Collection Instruments

3.7.1 Types and Sources of Data

The study used primary data, which was collected by a researcher specifically for a research assignment. In other words, primary data is information that a study must gather because no one has compiled and published the information in a forum accessible to the public. Researcher generally take the time and allocate the resources required to gather primary data only when a question, issue or problem presents itself that is sufficiently important or unique that it warrants the expenditure necessary to gather the primary data. Primary data are original in nature and directly relates to the issue or problem and current data. Primary data are collected through various methods like interviews, surveys, questionnaires etc.

3.7.2 Data Collection Instruments

Data collection instrument refers to the tools employed in collection of data in the study (Kombo & Tromp, 2006). The study used a structured questionnaire as a tool for data collection in regard to information on antecedents of public participation and budgetary allocation. The questionnaire was close ended questions because they are easier to administer and analyze since each item is followed by an alternative answer. The closed- ended questions ensure that the respondent stay focus within the study objectives (Saunders *et al.*, 2012). The study utilized questionnaires for data

collection because since it has been considered to be economical method and it provides standardized and structural questions into variables for data analysis. The questions for the variables of interest in the study were adopted from previous studies (Lubis *et al.*, 2016; Ihemeje. 2018; Mkasiwa, 2018; McCommon, 2019; Odary, 2020) that have been developed and tested. However, the wording and style of presentation will be modified to fit the Kenyan context and scope of study. The instrument was simplified to make ease the target participants' comprehension of the questions thus enabling them to give reliable information. The same questionnaire was administered to all respondent categories, and means computed for analysis from the divergent respondents.

3.7.3 Data Collection Procedures

Before the actual data collection exercise, the researcher undertook preliminary survey within the selected counties in order to familiarize with the study area and also make appointments with the identified persons. During the appointment day, the researcher and the research assistant distributed the questionnaires to the selected individual from the eight counties and collect them once they are filled on the same day but the researcher worked together with the respondents to help them answer the questions in the questionnaire as some of the respondents.

3.8 Measurement of Variables

3.8.1 Measurement of Budgetary Allocation

Budgetary Allocation was measured using 5 items adopted from Creswell (2012), the items comprised of: the number of projects undertaken by the county government were initiated by the members of the public; projects proposed and prioritized by participants were allocated during budgeting, projects on development that the county government started by have gotten a raise in budgetary allocation supported by the local citizen; more positive comments from the citizen to the county government have being received in regards to projects that are ongoing; and projects on development that the county government started have gotten a raise in budgetary allocation supported by the local citizen. The items were measured on a 1- 5 scale, with 1 = 'Strongly Disagree', and 5 = 'Strongly Agree'. The definition of Budgetary Allocation of Frey *et al.*, (2004), was adopted.

3.8.2 Measurement of Public Participation

Public Participation was measured using 10 items adopted from Collis and Hussey (2009), the items comprised of: do you comprehend the notion of participation by members of the public in the formulation of budget; in the span of the past two years, they have taken part in the formulation of budget at the constituency level. Mechanisms for members of the public to participate in formulation of budget; and offered an occasion, I would take part in the formulation of budget at my sub county level. The items were measured on a 1- 5 scale, with 1 = ‘Strongly Disagree’, and 5 = ‘Strongly Agree’. The definition of public participation of Frey *et al.*, (2004) was adopted. The level to which the public engages and endorses the structures of participation is directly related to the perception of the goodness of fit of the structures and mechanisms. In retrospect, this establishes the level at which the public engage the local or national governance in budgetary formulations and planning adopted from Von Korff, *et al.*, (2010). Therefore, participation by the public is to encourage accountability, transparency and shared understanding in public administration and form possession of decisions on development, projects and programmes. Further, it is considered to build the capacity of sidelined persons in the execution developmental initiatives (Tshabalala & Lombard, 2009).

3.8.3 Measurement of Factors Influencing Public Participation

When assessing the participation of members of the public, the only deduction that practitioners and scholars are in agreement about is its difficulty. A number of variables exist in the context of every component. There are also options in the scope of coverage in the context of each variable. According to Kosecik & Sagbas (2004), a favorable attitude regarding county government can lead to members of the public being more eager and active in participating in county government programs and activities. Hickey and Seligson (2003) measured social economic (demographic and economic factors) using the social economical factor gender was measured using four items: I take part in the formulation of budget due to the fact that I am a man/woman; the fact that I am a man/woman has inclined my decision of taking part in public forums on budget formulation; equal opportunities are presented to men and women have to take part in formulation of budget; I am able to take part in public policy formulation forums better because I am a man; being a woman has

enabled me to get involved better. Age: my capacity to adequately take part in the formulation of budget is influenced by my age. Youthful (younger) citizens take part more adequately; older citizens take part more effectually. Education: the extent to which I take part in the preparation of budget influenced by my level of education; higher educated people participate more effectively on budget forums on a 1- 5 scale, with 1 = 'Strongly Disagree', and 5 = Strongly Agree'. To avoid bias in measurement of education, the established levels of academic education as per the Kenyan education system were used.

3.9 Validity of the Research Instrument

Validity is the extent to which the research instrument measure what it's supposed to measure (Kothari, 2004). Validity of a research instrument assesses the extent to which the instrument measures what it is designed to measure (Robson, 2011). Validity is in qualitative studies grounded on dependability, utility, and trustworthiness (Zohrabi, 2013). Research validity is a degree at which the guidelines of scientific research methodologies have been adhered to in the procedure of producing findings of research. According to Kothari (2004), validity test is an obligatory prerequisite for all kinds of studies. In the other hand, validity in quantitative research is regarded as the degree at which any data collection toll assesses that which it is envisioned to assess. According to Creswell (2009), there are four criteria validity measurement; face validity, content validity, criterion-related validity, and construct validity. Included in these criteria are the issues of internal validity and external validity.

3.9.1 Face Validity

According to Mertens (2010), face validity is regarded as a minimum and basic indicator of content validity, which is examined after the construction of the test. The notions of face validity and content evidence are of apparent similarity, but however quite dissimilar. Robson (2002) defines face validity as the extent at which a construct seems to assess that which is supposed to measure. It determines if that the indicator seems to assess the target variable being studied. Whereas this study employed earlier determined models of measurements and not by introducing any new measurement form, the models that were constructed were evaluated and discussed with assistance from Kabarak University's teaching staff. This research

additionally ensured content validity by administering questionnaires in a consistent manner and by personally by the researcher. For ease of understanding and clarity, the questions were prepared in a language that is simple. The subjects were given clear and for those participants who could not read or write, the researcher filled the questionnaires.

3.9.2 Internal Validity

According to Mertens (2010)., internal validity refers to the study's trustworthiness and is focused normally on the observation of the researcher and if the outcome variables vary owing to the predictor variable and not due to some other factors. The measure needs to be consistent in order to create a valid result throughout the research. According to Saunders *et al.* (2009), the study outcome variables were controlled and calculated prior to entering into a spread sheet of data. Concerning the significance in association between factors, the P-value of below 0.05 was used to measure. Therefore, the study was more relaxed and used a boundary of 0.1 was established in line with previous studies in this research field.

3.9.3 External Validity

According to Saunders *et al.* (2009, external validity denotes the likelihood of arriving at generalizable of findings and it shows how adequate the research's findings are appropriate to other companies or organizations. Scholars normally endeavor to attain a result which can be deemed to epitomize a sample that is larger than what is being studied. The concern therefore within measurable surveys is particularly emphasized on choosing as a sample that is as representative as possible for generalizability (Bryman, 2012). The sample of the study consisted of individuals in the eight selected counties in the north rift in order to cover the broadest possible region and constitute a larger sample size.

3.9.4 Predictive Validity

De Vos, Strydom, Fouche and Delpont (2011) defined predictive validity as the extent to which the operationalization can correlate with or predict other indicators of the same factor which are in the future assessed. It is normally employed in studies on program evaluation, and is significantly suitable for functional studies. It is a measure developed and constructed for predicting behavior purposes. Logically,

concurrent and predictive validation are similar, and between measures, no time elapsed. The greater the correlation between the predictors and the criterion, the higher the predictive validity. If there is perfect correlation is, the prediction is also perfect.

3.10 Reliability of the Research Instrument

A pilot study was carried out to determine the instrument's reliability defined by De Vos *et al.* (2011) as a measurement that supplies consistent results with equal values. It measures consistency, precision, repeatability, and trustworthiness of a research. It indicates the extent to which it is without bias (error free), and hence insures consistent measurement cross time and across the various items in the instruments (the observed scores). According to Bryman and Bell (2011), reliability in research is related to whether the results of the study would be consistent if the study would be repeated with the same data and method. However, Ghauri and Gronhaug (2010) considered reliability as the degree to which the variables are in line with what was supposed to measure. The coefficient of reliability falls between 0 and 1, with perfect reliability equaling 1, and no reliability equaling 0.

Therefore, a data collection tool is dependable after being directed to deferent groups of respondent's yields consistent results. Reliability of the study items were assessed by determining the item cronbach's alpha coefficients. The results obtained depicted that cronbach's alpha of 0.916 was obtained from 16 statements explaining Citizen awareness, 0.753 was obtained from 12 statements explaining demographic characteristics, 0.757 was obtained from 9 statements explaining behavioral factors, 0.875 was obtained from 10 statements explaining economic factors, 0.775 was obtained from 8 statements explaining public participations in budgetary allocation and 0.766 was obtained from 5 statements explaining budget allocation. Since all the coefficients were above 0.7 as shown in table 3.3 the instruments were considered reliable as their reliability coefficients were above the recommended 0.7 threshold by Nunnally and Bernstein (1994).

Therefore, the general acceptable level of cronbach's alpha is above 0.70 and may reduce to 0.60 for exploratory research design (Ghauri & Gronhaug, 2010). Therefore, for the study the minimum desired level of cronbach's alpha was above 0.70.

Table 6*Reliability Analysis*

	Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	No. of Items
Citizen awareness	0.916	0.900	16
Demographic characteristics	0.753	0.750	12
Behavioural Factors	0.757	0.755	9
Economic Factors	0.875	0.870	10
Public participation	0.775	0.770	8
Budgetary Allocation	0.766	0.700	5

Source: Research Data, (2019)

3.11 Data Analysis and Presentations

Data obtained from the field cleaned, coded and keyed for analysis with the aid of SPSS. With a view to observe emergent issues and trends around particular themes, the data was summarized in accordance with the objectives and variables. To obtain the scores, the respective scores were compounded from the variable indicators. The combination of scores from different variable indicators is grounded on an integration of both quantitative and qualitative techniques contingent on the data collected (Parveen & Leonhauser, 2004). Descriptive analytic operations including frequency distributions and cross-tabulations were performed with a view to offer contrasts and comparisons between the factors inducing participation of the public during the allocation of budgets. This was an addition multiple regression analysis adopted to test the hypotheses. Multiple regression analysis is applied to analyze the relationship between a single dependent variable and several independent variables (Ghuri & Gronhaug, 2010). The study utilized variable inflation factor (VIF) to handle the issue of multi-collinearity. The beta (β) coefficients for each independent variable were generated from the model, subjected to a t –test, in order to test each of the hypotheses under study.

The regression models that were used to test the study hypotheses are shown below:

Model Specification

Objective 1 (H₀₁):

$Y = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \varepsilon$ 1

Where Y = Budgetary allocation
 X₁ – Citizen Awareness
 β₁= Beta Coefficient
 ε = Error term assumed to be randomly distributed

Objective 2 (H₀₂):

$Y = \alpha + \beta_{2a} X_{2a} + \beta_{2b} X_{2b} + \beta_{2c} X_{2c} + \varepsilon$ 2

Where Y = Budgetary allocation
 X_{2a} = Age
 X_{2b} = Gender
 X_{2c} = Education
 β₂ = Beta Coefficient
 ε = Error term assumed to be randomly distributed

Objective 3 (H₀₃):

$Y = \alpha + \beta_3 X_3 + \varepsilon$3

Where Y = Budgetary allocation
 X₃ = Behavioral factors
 β₃ = Beta Coefficient
 ε = Error term assumed to be randomly distributed

Objective 4 (H₀₄):

$Y = \alpha + \beta_4 X_4 + \varepsilon$ 4

Where Y = Budgetary allocation
 X₄ = Economic Factors
 α = regression constant
 β₄ = Beta Coefficient
 ε = Error term assumed to be randomly distributed

Objective 5 (H_{05a}):

$Y = \alpha_5 + C' X_{5(a)} + bPP + \varepsilon_5$5

Where Y₂ = Budgetary Allocation (dependent variable)
 C = Beta coefficient of antecedents
 X_{5a} = Citizen Awareness
 PP = Public Participation
 α₅ – regression constant
 ε₅ – Error term assumed to be randomly distributed

Objective 5 (H_{05b}):

$Y = \alpha_5 + C' X_{5(b)} + bPP + \varepsilon_5$5

Where Y₂ = Budgetary Allocation (dependent variable)

C = Beta coefficient of antecedents
 X_{5b} = Demographic Characteristics
 PP = Public Participation
 α_5 – regression constant
 ε_5 – Error term assumed to be randomly distributed

Objective 5 (H_{05c}):

$$Y = \alpha_5 + C'X_{5(c)} + bPP + \varepsilon_5 \dots \dots \dots 5$$

Where Y_2 = Budgetary Allocation (dependent variable)
 C = Beta coefficient of antecedents
 X_{5c} = Behavioral Factors
 PP = Public Participation
 α_5 – regression constant
 ε_5 – Error term assumed to be randomly distributed

Objective 5 (H_{05d}):

$$Y = \alpha_5 + C'X_{5(d)} + bPP + \varepsilon_5 \dots \dots \dots 5$$

Where Y_2 = Budgetary Allocation (dependent variable)
 C = Beta coefficient of antecedents
 X_{5d} = Economic Factors
 PP = Public Participation
 α_5 – regression constant
 ε_5 – Error term assumed to be randomly distributed

Table 7

Operationalization of Variables

Objective	Variables	Subconstructs	Scale of Measurement	Analysis Tools	Specific tools	Model
1	Citizen awareness	Communication medium Trainings	Likert scale	Descriptive and inferential statistics	Means, dispersion to the men, multiple regression model, Pearson correlation	$Y = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \varepsilon$
2	Demographic Factors	Age, Level of education Gender, Marital Status Geographical location Religion, Ethnicity	Likert scale	Descriptive and inferential statistics	Means, dispersion to the men, multiple regression model, Pearson correlation	$Y = \alpha + \beta_2 X_2 + \varepsilon$
3	Behavioral Factors	Trust Public attitude Transparency Accountability	Likert scale	Descriptive and inferential statistics	Means, dispersion to the men, multiple regression model, Pearson correlation	$Y = \alpha + \beta_3 X_3 + \varepsilon$
4	Economic Factors	Income level Financial literacy Home Ownership Employment	Likert scale	Descriptive and inferential statistics	Means, dispersion to the men, multiple regression model, Pearson correlation	$Y = \alpha + \beta_4 X_4 + \varepsilon$
5	Budgetary Allocation	Ratio of projects proposed by public and prioritized Ratio of. Prioritized projects as proposed by public allocated funds No of project duplicated	Likert scale	Descriptive and inferential statistics	Means, dispersion to the men, multiple regression model, Pearson correlation	$Y = \alpha_5 + C'X_{5(a,b,c,d)} + bPP + \varepsilon_5$
	Public Participation	Concept of Public Participation No. of Participants No. of participations	Likert scale	Descriptive and inferential statistics	Means, dispersion to the men, multiple regression model, Pearson correlation	

Source: (Researcher, 2019)

3.13 Ethical Considerations

Before the research was undertaken permission was sought from the pertinent institutions; first, an authorization letter was acquired from the Post graduate Studies dean, Kabarak University. Then the researcher applied for a research permit from the National commission of science and Technology [NACOSTI] for the research permit (Appendix VI). Finally, permission from the selected the selected counties was sought from the relevant authorities so as to allow the study to be carried out. To ensure the confidence of the respondents and to ascertain high response rate the cover letter was attached (Appendix V) so as to elucidate to participants further on the significance and reasons for carrying out the study. According to De Vos eet al. (2011), the benefit of selecting a research tool of an unknown nature is easy to understand, low risk, increases the response rate and does not include personal data.

3.14 Expected Results

The current study expected that the conceptualized antecedents of public participation would positively and significantly influence public participation and in turn also influence budgetary allocation among the North Rift Economic Bloc counties, Kenya. This was informed by the anchoring theories, including Agency Theory, Stakeholder's Theory, Stewardship Theory, Political Budget Cycles (PBC) Theory, Musgrave- Rostow's Theory and Systems Theory. The expected results were also informed by the extant empirical studies reviewed, including Abelson and Eyles (2018), Thwala (2010), Ihemeje (2018), Edwards (2005), Suzanne et al. (2007), Mohammadi et al. (2010), Brady (2003), Weber (2000) and Wu and Wang (2011).

CHAPTER FOUR
DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND
DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

The chapter presents the data analysis, data presentation and interpretation of antecedents of public participation and their effect on budgetary allocation in the NOREB Counties, Kenya. The research predominantly set out to establish the effect citizen awareness, economic, demographic and behavioral factors on budgetary allocation in the NOREB counties. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the data. The chapter is organized as follows: response rate, descriptive analysis, reliability and validity analysis, correlation analysis, hypotheses testing and discussion.

4.2 Response Rate

Data was collected during public participation in NOREB counties; data was collected from individual participating in budgetary allocation. A total of 386 questionnaires were issued of which 320 were filled and returned and represented a response rate of 82.9%. The response rate was considered satisfactory since Nyamjom (2013) argued that a response rate of 75% was considered excellent and a representative of a population. The archived response rate of 83.55% in the current study was high and meant that the rate of participation in the research was adequate for data analysis. The rate of success was accredited to the self-administered questioners used by the scholar from whom the envisioned participants were pre-informed. The response rate is showcased on Table 8.

Table 8

Response Rate Questionnaire

	Count	Percent
Returned	320	83.55%
Non-Returned	66	16.45%
Total	386	100%

Source: Research Data, (2019)

4.3 Data Screening and Cleaning

The process of screening and cleaning data ordinarily entails an examination of the data obtained and removal (or correction) of any faults which could possibly result in significant impacts on the result of the analysis (Tabachnick & Fidell, 2014). It normally entails the identification of errors that are substantial, and an assessment of values that are missing outliers and normality, as well managing raw data for appropriate analysis of data (Osborne, 2013).

4.3.1 Examination of Missing Data

The study first identified any missing values in the data. It is proposed largely that investigators may eliminate specific statements if values missing are recorded at above 50% (Haire *et al*, 2010). According to Tabachnick and Fidell (2014), these questions may result in notable effects on the other data. In line with this proposal, the researcher removed the statements whose missing values are above 50%. After the removal of the cases, the study also diagnosed the statements whose missing values were below 50%. To treat such values that are missing, three choices are always available and proposed; list-wise elimination: by eliminating the statements from examination if any information is absent in the case; Pair wise elimination: removal of the statement if the data essential for a particular analysis only are missing; Substituting with mean: involves calculation of the average figure for factors and utilizing the mean on the value that is missing. Among the three techniques the study adopted the pair-wise exclusion method considering its advantage over the rest since it has less convergence problems (factor loadings estimates are comparatively free from bias) and it is not difficult to execute (Hair *et al.*, 2010).

Table 9

Multivariate Outlier Test Results

Case	D ²	D ² /df(df=116)	Case	D ²	D ² /df(df=116)
15	411.2	3.5	56	283.02	2.36
130	346.18	3	161	279.4	2.33
34	291.17	2.43	203	270.24	2.25
25	288.5	2.4	11	259.21	2.16
95	287.2	2.39	53	258	2.5

Source: Research Data, (2019)

4.3.2 Examination for Outliers

Hair *et al.* (2010) and Byrne (2010) define outliers as observations or cases with variable values that are significantly dissimilar from other observations. The outliers are considered not illustrative of the target population, as they have been found to misrepresent statistical operations, and therefore work contrary to the objective of the study. They may be assessed from a multivariate, bivariate and univariate perspectives. The survey conducted a multivariate outlier test, as the research employs a multivariate assessment for outliers that are multivariate, which have extreme values on at least two variables.

This is contrary to outliers that are univariate, which on one variable, have an extreme value (Hair *et al.*, 2010). According to Kline (2010), a popular technique to the multivariate outlier discovery, is the squared Mahalanobis distance (D^2) computation for each attribute, which is different from the variance, as the latter focuses on squared deviations. The Mahalanobis distance is squared in order to assess the dispersion to the mean distance by units within sets of values for each variable and the sample averages for all concepts. The D^2 examines the degree of difference of every case or observation (in terms of its aloofness from the centre of the mean for all observations) a cross of factors. An out-of-the-way case (the D^2 values that are substantially higher relative others) will record a D^2 figure which distinctively stands alone from every other D^2 score.

Hair *et al.* (2010) argues that as a rule of thumb, an outlier is any observation whose value of D^2/df surpasses four or three in large sample sizes (whereby the determine size of the sample is greater than 200). Based on the postulation by Hair *et al.* (2010), the research used D^2 to examine the dataset with a view to check for multivariate outliers as measure of distance, and accordingly computed D^2/df . As portrayed in Table 9, the D^2/df scores of cases 130 and 15 are either exceeding or equal to three, indicating outlying observations. As such, the two observations were removed from further statistical operations. To summarize, the multivariate outlier analysis for the presence pointed out two outlier cases and excluded them from additional statistical analysis. As such, the research utilized only the other 320 cases in all succeeding examinations to be conducted in this research.

4.3.3 Factor Analysis for Citizen Awareness

The study conducted factor analyses with a view to ascertain the aptness of the stated constructs in the study. To this end, various statistical outputs were produced, including: KMO sampling adequacy measure and Bartlett's sphericity Test, rotated component matrix obtained by the Principal Component Analysis (PCA) technique and total variance explained. As Table 10 presents, a KMO test statistics of 0.623 was established. This was deemed adequate and affirmed sampling adequacy, in line with Kaiser (1974), who stated that KMO values greater than 0.5 are statistically adequate. Similar results were reported by Thwala (2010). A value of 0.000 was produced from Bartlett's Test of Sphericity indicating significant correlation among constructs in the dataset. A 1-component structure was further established from varimax rotated principal components with one factor loading accounting for 84.157% of variance in citizen awareness, having an Eigen value larger than 1. The resultant 14 items had loading greater than threshold value of 0.50, implying that citizen awareness can be measured by all the 14 items. All the 14 factors therefore used in subsequent analysis in the study.

Table 10
Factors Analysis for Citizen awareness

	1
I listen to the radio more often	.711
The County government advertises for public participations through radio.	.701
The advertisements on radio in regard to public participation are made at convenient times	.795
The radio advertisements are always clear and understandable.	.711
I watch TV more often.	.701
The County government advertises for public participations through TV and website.	.795
The advertisements on TV in regard to public participation are made at convenient times	.711
The TV advertisements are always clear and understandable, especially the ones in relation to public participation	.701
I use SMS more often.	.795
The County government informs the public-on-public participation forums using SMS	.711
The SMS informing on public participation is sent at convenient time	.701
The SMS is always clear and understandable especially the ones in relation to public participation	.795
I read print media often e.g Posters, Newspapers, Banners etc.	.795
The county government uses print media to invite individuals on public participation.	.624
The advertisements on print media are clear and understandable especially the ones regarding public participation.	.711
The advertisements are placed on accessible, convenient and visible locations for everyone.	.701
<i>Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin</i>	0.623
<i>Bartlett's Test of Sphericity (df=15)</i>	0.000
<i>Total Variance Explained</i>	84.157
<i>Approx. Chi-Square</i>	834.534
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.	
Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.	
<i>Source: Research Data (2019)</i>	

4.3.4 Factor Analysis for Demographic Factors

As Table 11 presents, a KMO test statistics of 0.641 was established. This was deemed adequate and affirmed sampling adequacy in line with Kaiser (1974), who stated that KMO values greater than 0.5 are statistically adequate. Similar results were reported by Ihemeje (2018). A P value of 0.000 was produced from Bartlett's Test of Sphericity indicating significant correlation among constructs in the dataset. A 3-component structure was further established from varimax rotated principal components with 3 factor loadings accounting for 57.242% of variance in demographic characteristics, having an Eigen value larger than 1. The resultant 12 items had loading greater than threshold value of 0.50, implying that demographic characteristics can be measured by all the 12 items, which were therefore used in subsequent analysis in the study.

Table 11

Factor Analysis of Demographic Characteristics

	1	2	3
I participate in budgetary allocation because of my gender.		.937	
My gender influenced my choice of participating in public budget forums		.971	
Either gender have equal opportunities to participate in budgetary allocation		.951	
My gender enables me to participate better		.873	
I participate in budgetary allocation because of my age.	.871		
My age influences my ability to effectively participate in Budgetary allocation	.770		
The youth participate more effectively during budgetary allocation.	.550		
Older people participate more effectively	.624		
I participate in Budgetary allocation because of my education levels.			.937
Education level influences the degree of participate in budgetary allocation.			.971
Majority of the participants are able to read and write			.951
People who have lower education level participate more effectively			.701
<i>Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin</i>			0.641
<i>Bartlett's Test of Sphericity (df=15)</i>			0.000
<i>Total Variance Explained</i>			57.242
<i>Approx. Chi-Square</i>			2434.534
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.			
Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.			

Source: Research Data (2019)

4.3.5 Factor Analysis for Behavioural Factors

As Table 12 presents, a KMO test statistics of 0.789 was established. This was deemed adequate and affirmed sampling adequacy in line with Kaiser (1974), who stated that KMO values greater than 0.5 are statistically adequate. Similar results were reported by Njeru (2016). A P value of 0.000 was produced from Bartlett's Test of Sphericity indicating significant correlation among constructs in the dataset. A 1-component structure was further established from varimax rotated principal components with 1 factor loading accounting for 87.242% of variance in behavioural factors, having an Eigen value larger than 1. The resultant 9 items had loading greater than threshold value of 0.50, implying that behavioural factors can be measured by all the 9 items, which were therefore used in subsequent analysis in the study.

Table 12

Factors Analysis of Behavioural Factors

Items	1
Generally, I have a positive attitude towards participation in budgetary allocation.	.984
People with positive attitude towards the county government participate effectively.	.868
Women attitude towards the governance, limits their participation in budgetary allocation	.977
Demanding citizenry encourages participation in budgetary allocation	.977
Perceived benefits by the citizens on county development initiatives influences public participation	.984
I have trust in the budgetary allocation process	.868
People with higher trust on the budgetary allocation process participate effectively.	.551
High level of community trust with government influences community participation in budgetary allocation.	.689
Acting in the best interest of local people encourages community participation in budgetary allocation process	.701
<i>Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin</i>	0.789
<i>Bartlett's Test of Sphericity (df=15)</i>	0.000
<i>Total Variance Explained</i>	87.242
<i>Approx. Chi-Square</i>	1434.534
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.	
Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.	

Source: Research Data (2019)

4.3.6 Factor Analysis for Economic Factors

As Table 13 presents, a KMO test statistics of 0.629 was established. This was deemed adequate and affirmed sampling adequacy in line with Kaiser (1974), who stated that KMO values greater than 0.5 are statistically adequate. Similar results were reported by Njenga et al. (2014). A P value of 0.000 was produced from Bartlett's Test of Sphericity indicating significant correlation among constructs in the dataset. A 1-component structure was further established from varimax rotated principal components with 1 factor loading accounting for 71.242% of variance in economic factors, having an Eigen value larger than 1. The resultant 10 items had loading greater than threshold value of 0.50, implying that economic factors can be measured by all the 10 items, which were therefore used in subsequent analysis in the study.

Table 13*Factors Analysis of Economic Factors*

	1
Majority of the people participating in budgetary allocation are unemployed	.978
Employed people have a less Influence in budgetary allocation	.986
The timing for public participation does not allow the employed to participate in budgetary allocation	.966
Public officials ensure that the public resources are managed in transparent manner.	.978
Most of the Participants are low Income earners	.986
Most of the Participants have a constant source of livelihood	.966
My income level influences my level of participation in budgetary allocation.	.978
The perceived income level influences public participation in budgetary allocation.	.986
People of different economic activities participate in budgetary allocation.	.966
My economic activities influences my participation in budgetary allocation	.623
<i>Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin</i>	0.629
<i>Bartlett's Test of Sphericity (df=15)</i>	0.000
<i>Total Variance Explained</i>	71.242
<i>Approx. Chi-Square</i>	934.534

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

Source: Research Data (2019)

4.3.7 Factor Analysis for Public Participation

As Table 14 presents, a KMO test statistics of 0.666 was established. This was deemed adequate and affirmed sampling adequacy in line with Kaiser (1974), who stated that KMO values greater than 0.5 are statistically adequate. A P value of 0.000 was produced from Bartlett's Test of Sphericity indicating significant correlation among constructs in the dataset. A 1-component structure was further established from varimax rotated principal components with 1 factor loading accounting for 61.580% of variance in public participation, having an Eigen value larger than 1. The resultant 8 items had loading greater than threshold value of 0.50, implying that

public participation can be measured by all the 8 items, which were therefore used in subsequent analysis in the study.

Table 14

Factors Analysis of Public Participation

	1
I do understand the concept of public participation in budget allocation process	.669
The number of local community members participating in budgetary allocation have generally increased	.721
Development Projects initiated by county government are operating efficiently under the management of the local community members.	.787
Local community Support development Projects initiated by county government has increased	.544
In the last two years, I have participated in most of the budgetary allocation forum at my ward level	.682
The constitution provides mechanisms for public participation in budgetary allocation	.681
Given a chance, I would participate (again) in budgetary allocation forums	.835
The number of complaints from local community members on county development programs or policies has decreased	.658
<i>Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin</i>	0.666
<i>Bartlett's Test of Sphericity (df=28)</i>	0.000
<i>Total Variance Explained</i>	61.580
<i>Approx. Chi-Square</i>	434.534

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.
 Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

4.3.8 Factor Analysis for Budgetary Allocation

As Table 15 presents, a KMO test statistics of 0.733 was established. This was deemed adequate and affirmed sampling adequacy in line with Kaiser (1974), who stated that KMO values greater than 0.5 are statistically adequate. A P value of 0.000 was produced from Bartlett's Test of Sphericity indicating significant correlation among constructs in the dataset. A 1-component structure was further established from varimax rotated principal components with 1 factor loading accounting for 77.242% of variance in budgetary allocation, having an Eigen value larger than 1. The resultant 5 items had loading greater than threshold value of 0.50, implying that

budgetary allocation can be measured by all the 5 items, which were therefore used in subsequent analysis in the study.

Table 15

Factors Analysis of Budgetary Allocation

	1
A number of projects undertaken by the county government were initiated by the local community members.	.668
The number of complaints from local community members on county budgetary process has decreased	.570
Development projects initiated by the county government has increased in budgetary allocation supported by the local community	.747
More positive comments from the citizen to the county government has being received in regards to projects that are ongoing	.516
Projects proposed and prioritized by participants were allocated funds	.758
<i>Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin</i>	0.733
<i>Bartlett's Test of Sphericity (df=10)</i>	0.000
<i>Total Variance Explained</i>	77.242
<i>Approx. Chi-Square</i>	219.218
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.	
Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.	

Source: Research Data, (2019)

4.3.9 Confirmatory Factor Analysis (Measurement Model)

Using Amos 7.0, the confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was performed to the multiple item scale of citizen awareness, demographic characteristics, public participation economic factors, and behavioral factors and budgetary allocation. Confirmatory factor analysis, as used in this thesis, was to confirm a proposed analytical model to be used to predict the effect of public participation antecedents on budgetary allocation as opposed to creating one through exploration of data. The observation indicator variables were entered into the factor analysis.

The resulting factors generated indicated the distinctive factors that underpin one or more of the measured variables. The factors generated were then compared with the latent variable in the proposed model, looking to confirm or otherwise the viability of proposed model. The confirmatory factor analysis was used to provide credibility for the proposed analytical model.

Table 16*Confirmatory Factor Analysis Result*

Fit Index	Test Value	Std. Value	Results
Chi Square (χ^2)	30.05	p-value < 0.05	Good fit
NFI	0.926	>0.09	Good fit
CFI	1	>0.09	Good fit
TLI	0.947	>0.09	Good fit
RMSEA	0.041	<0.05	Good fit

Source: Research Data, (2019)

Table 16 above shows different types of goodness of fit indices in assessing this study initial specified model. The results of confirmatory factor analysis indicated that the chi-square (X^2) value of model was 1768.682, with 312 degrees of freedom ($p < 0.05$), which implies that the measurement did not fit the data well. The other model indices used for this study were, Tucker-Lewis Index (TLI) OF 0.948, comparative fit index (CFI) of 1, Normed fit index of 0.926 and the root mean square Error of approximation (RMSEA) of 0.041. Based on these fit indices, the measurement model appeared to fit the sample data well (Hair *et al.*, 2006). Thus, it is concluded that the measures for the study were valid and internally consistent.

4.4 Characteristics of the Respondents

In section I of the questionnaire, the researcher asked the respondents some of the basic information. The results are presented below:

4.4.1 Classification of Respondents by Age

The information in table 17 shows the number of responses by age classification. From the table it was evident that: most of the respondents were aged between and 31-40 years and 41-50 years which accounted for 74.7% in both cases of the total respondents. This finding indicates that majority of the respondent (44.1%) are between 31 years to 40 years. Hence those who attend public participation fora are the youthful to middle-aged, aged between 25 years to 50 years. However, those below 25 years accounted for 15.9 % (51) and those above 40 years accounted for 10% (30) of the participants. Therefore, most participants of the study were of 31-40 years (35%) a clear indication that young people are more likely to participate in public participation and are likely to understand the concept of public participation during budget allocation process by representing their views to the administrative

authority.

Table 17

Classification of the Respondents by Ages

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percentage
Less than 25 years	51	15.9	15.9
25-30 years	20	06.3	22.2
31-40 years	141	44.1	66.3
41-50 years	98	30.6	96.9
Above 51 years	10	03.1	100.0
Total	320	100	

Source: Research Data, (2019)

4.4.3 Classification of Respondents by Gender

The data in table 18 shows the number of responses by gender. From the table shown, 54.7% of the respondents were male while 45.3% were female an indication that gender bias was not an issue in public participation in budget allocation process considering the level of participation of both male and female are almost equal.

Table 18

Classification of respondents by gender

Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Male	175	54.7	54.7
Female	145	45.3	100.0
Total	320	100	

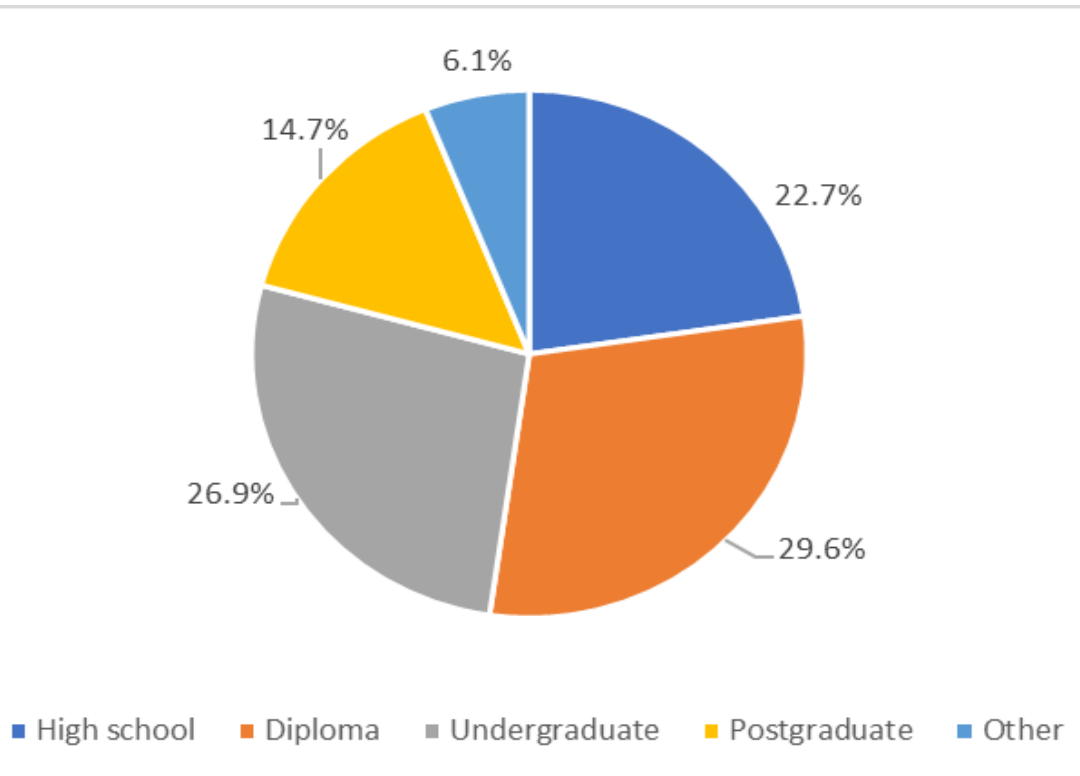
Source: Research Data, (2019)

4.4.3 Classification of Respondents by Education Level

The illustrated findings in figure 4 indicate the number of answers by education levels. As portrayed, a lot of study participants had attained a diploma (29.6%), followed by undergraduate (26.9%). The results were trailed by high school and post-graduates which accounted for 22.7% and 14.7% respectively, while 6.1% of respondents indicated either primary education level or no formal education. This indicates that the most participants of the study either understand or a competent enough to address or provide credible information related to the research questions by virtue of their education level.

Figure 4

Classification of the respondents by levels of education



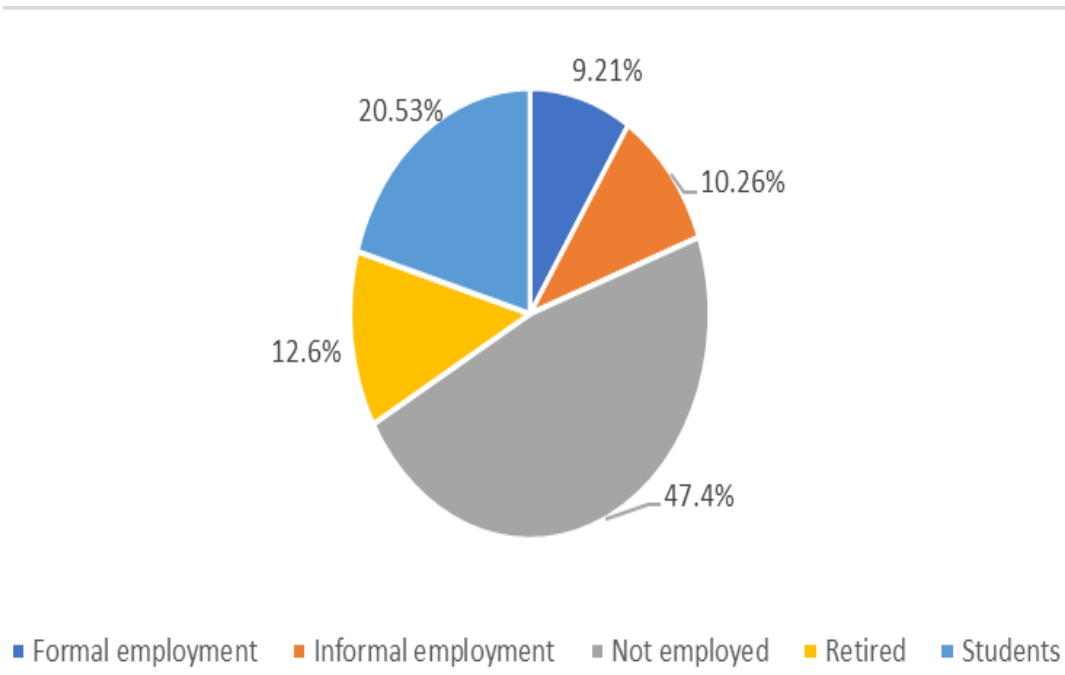
Source: Research Data (2019)

4.4.4 Classification of the Respondents by Employment Status

The respondents were expected to indicate their employment status to establish the respondents' employment status. The result in figure 5 shows the number of responses by the employment status. From the findings 12.6% affirmed to informal employment while 9.21% were formally employed, attributing that public participation were done concurrent to working hours. Further 12.6% represented those individuals who had retired while 20.53% represented individual who took part in public participation while still pursuing either their diploma or respectfully degree programmes. Majority of the respondent were not employed represented by 47.4% of the total population.

Figure 5

Classification of the Respondents by Employment Status



Source: Research Data (2019)

4.5 Descriptive Analysis for Independent and Dependent Variables

The foregoing factor analyses reveal four antecedents of public participation, in line with the first study objectives that sought to determine the antecedents of public participation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. This section thus presents the descriptive analysis of the four public participation dimensions of interest namely citizen awareness, demographic factors, behavioral factors, and economic factors. The descriptive analysis was used to elucidate the primary characteristics of the information under the research as they offer synopses about the study subjects and its indicators. Descriptive analysis in the present research entails graphical presentations, dispersion to the mean, means, percentages and frequencies. As a dispersion measure, the mean was employed to show how the dataset was spread. normally was then assessed using Skewness and Kurtosis values fell between -20.to 3.0 skewness and kurtosis values for the variable in the study were within the acceptable range. Normality assumption was therefore considered to have been met among the studied variables.

4.5.1 Citizen Awareness

Participants were requested to indicate on a five-point Likert scale their degree of affirmation on a number of statements articulating describing the extent of awareness in regards to participation by members of the public in the counties. Such descriptive computations as dispersion to the mean and mean were jointly used to summarize the response as showcased on Table 19. The findings showed that most participants in the survey affirmed that they listen to the radio more often as revealed by the mean score of (4.02), while the county government advertises for public participations through the radio had a mean of (3.81), however in regard if the advertisement on the radio in relation to public participation is made on convenient time had mean of (3.92), finally they rated the radio advertisements are always clear and understandable indicated by a mean (4.02) an indication that radio advertisement is an important medium for creating public awareness. Further the findings showed that most participants in the survey affirmed that they watch TV more often as shown by the mean score (3.81), They were in agreement that the county government advertises for public participations through TV and website shown by the mean score of (3.92), most participants affirmed that the advertisement on TV and website in relation to public participation invitation were done on convenient time shown by the mean score of (4.02).

Lastly the respondents also affirmed that the TV advertisements are always clear and understandable, especially the ones in relation to public participation invitation as indicated by a mean of (3.81). It is therefore concluded that TV advertisements are crucial especially in notifying the public in relation to public participation. Further the results obtained showed that most participants in the survey affirmed that they use short message services (SMS) more often to communicate as indicated by a mean of (3.92), while they were in agreement that the county government informs the public-on-public participation forums using SMS as shown by the mean score of (4.02). The respondents were also in agreement that the time the SMS were sent to them was convenient time as shown by the mean score (3.81) and finally majority of the responded affirmed that the short message services (SMS)are always clear and understandable especially the ones in relation to public participation as shown by the mean score (3.92).

Table 19*Citizen Awareness*

	Mean	Std. Dev	Skew.	Kurt.
I listen to the radio more often	4.02	1.040	-.806	-.202
The County government advertises for public participations through radio	3.81	.947	-.362	-.780
The advertisement on radio in regard to public participation is made on convenient time	3.92	.935	-.491	-.662
The radio advertisements are always clear and understandable	4.02	1.040	-.806	-.202
I watch TV more often	3.81	.947	-.362	-.780
The County government advertises for public participations through TV	3.92	.935	-.491	-.662
The advertisement on TV in regard to public participation is made on convenient time	4.02	1.040	-.806	-.202
The TV advertisement is always clear and understandable, especially the ones in relation to public participation	3.81	.947	-.362	-.780
I use SMS more often	3.92	.935	-.491	-.662
The County government informs the public-on-public participation forums using SMS	4.02	1.040	-.806	-.202
The SMS informing on public participation is sent on convenient time	3.81	.947	-.362	-.780
The SMS is always clear and understandable especially the ones in relation to public participation	3.92	.935	-.491	-.662
I read print media often e.g posters, newspaper, Banners etc	3.92	.935	-.491	-.662
The county government uses print media to invite individuals on public participation.	4.09	1.008	-	6.085
The advertisements on print media are clear and understandable especially the ones in regarding public participation.	4.02	1.040	-.806	-.202
The advertisements are placed on accessible, convenient and visible locations for everyone.	3.81	.947	-.362	-.780
Citizen awareness	3.9256	.650003	-.448	-.698

Source: Research Data, (2019)

Finally, the responded were rated regarding print media and the findings showed that most respondent affirmed that they read print media such as posters, newspaper, banners, among others. often as shown by the mean score of (3.92), the responded were also in agreement that the county government uses print media to invite them to public participation forums as shown by the mean score (4.09), when they were

asked whether the advertisements on print media are clear and understandable majority of the respondent agreed as shown by the mean score of (4.02) especially the adverts in regarding public participation. Finally, majority of the respondent were in agreement that the advertisements are placed on accessible, convenient and visible locations for everyone to see as shown by the mean score (3.81).

From the results obtained, it is noted that the responses to the 16 statements used to measure citizen awareness ranged between 3.81 and 4.03, with the overall mean being (3.9256). This shows that most participants of the study were in agreement with the statements that were used to measure citizen awareness. Therefore, as Thwala (2010) advances, participation by members of the public bears a myriad of benefits to communities with regard to capacity building, empowerment, improving efficiency and effectiveness of projects; enhancing ownership and project cost sharing. The degree of involvement ranges from action initiation, information sharing, decision making and consultation. The notion is efficacious in circumstances in which community-based organizations and members of the community take up active responsibilities and role as opposed to where they are merely targeted by meetings of consensus building and baseline surveys (Thwala, 2001; 2010).

4.5.4 Demographic Characteristics

On a five–point Likert scale, participants were required to affirm their agreement levels on numerous statements elucidating demographic characteristics. Such descriptive computations as dispersion to the mean and mean were jointly used to summarize the response as showcased on Table 20. The findings showed that most participants in the survey affirmed that they participated in budgetary allocation because of their gender as shown by mean (4.02), they also affirmed that their gender influence their choice of participating in public budget forums shown by mean of (3.81). however most of them affirmed that their age influenced their ability to effectively participate in budgetary allocation(3.92) ,their gender enables them to participate better (4.02), their age influences their ability to effectively participate budgetary allocation (3.81) and The youth take part more resourcefully during budgetary allocation (3.92), Older people take part more resourcefully, they participate in budgetary allocation because of their education levels (4.02), their

education level influences the degree to which they participate in budgetary allocation (3.81), People who have higher educated level take part more resourcefully (3.92), I participate in budgetary allocation because of my gender (3.92), My gender inclined my decision to take part in forums on public budget formulation (4.09), their gender enables them to participate better (4.02).

Table 20

Demographic Characteristics

	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
I participate in budgetary allocation because of my gender.	4.92	.935	-.491	-.662
My gender inclined my decision to take part in forums on public budget formulation	4.81	.953	-.346	-.823
Either gender is presented an equal occasion to take part in budgetary allocation	4.92	.990	-.590	-.674
My gender enables me to participate better	4.82	1.129	-1.419	2.269
I participate in budgetary allocation because of my age.	4.68	1.093	-1.334	2.184
My age influences my ability to effectively participate Budgetary allocation	4.78	1.122	-1.368	2.157
The youth take part more resourcefully during budgetary allocation.	4.02	1.040	-.806	-.202
Older people take part more resourcefully	4.81	.947	-.362	-.780
I participate in Budgetary allocation because of my education levels.	4.92	.935	-.491	-.662
My education level influences the degree to which I participate in budgetary allocation.	4.81	.953	-.346	-.823
Majority of the Participants are able to read and Write	4.92	.990	-.590	-.674
People who have lower education level take part more resourcefully	4.18	1.102	-2.004	4.614
Demographic Characteristics	4.728	0.796	-0.6862	0.491

Source: Research Data, (2019)

From the results obtained it is noted that all the responses to the 12 statements used to measure demographic characteristics ranged between 4.02 and 4.92, with the overall mean being 4.728. This shows that most participants of the study were strongly in agreement with the statements that were used to measure demographic

characteristics.

The results obtained was consistent with findings of Pharr & Putnam (2000) and Edwards (2005), argue in their study that calls for more public participation in government's financial and economic policy making affairs is influenced generally by a more demanding, more articulate and an educated citizenry, a majority of whom express a deteriorating trust level in the country's political institutions and their elected politicians. The opinions, expressed usually in calls for more involvement of members of the public with expressive interaction with government over and above the democratic traditional processes of four- or five-year electoral calendars.

4.5.5 Behavioural Factors

On a five-point Likert scale, participants were required to affirm their agreement levels on numerous statements elucidating budget allocation in the counties. Such descriptive computations as dispersion to the mean and mean were jointly used to summarize the response as showcased on Table 21. The findings showed that most participants in the survey affirmed that they had a positive attitude towards participation in budgetary allocation as shown by a mean of (3.81). However most of them affirmed that people with positive attitude towards the county government initiatives and projects take part more resourcefully as shown by the mean score of (3.92), they also affirmed that the attitude of women towards the governance process, reduces their involvement in budgetary allocation as shown by mean of (4.02), they also affirmed that assertive members of the public promote participation of members of the public in budgetary allocation process as shown by the mean score(4.02).

The respondent also affirmed that they have trust in the budgetary allocation process as shown by the mean score of (3.92), further individual with higher trust on the budgetary allocation process take part more resourcefully had a mean of (4.81) which showed that the respondent strongly agreed to, high public trust levels in public institutions influences participation of the community in budgetary allocation (3.92), finally the respondent strongly agreed to the statement that majority of them act in consideration of the members of the public which influence the involvement of members of the public in budgetary allocation process as shown by the mean score of (4.12).

Table 21*Behavioural Factors*

		Std.		
	Mean	Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
Generally, I have a positive attitude towards participation in budgetary allocation.	3.81	.947	-.362	-.780
People with positive attitude towards the county government take part more resourcefully.	3.92	.935	-.491	-.662
The attitude of women towards the governance process, reduces their involvement in budgetary allocation	4.02	1.040	-.806	-.202
Demanding citizenry encourages involvement of members of the public in budgetary allocation	4.02	1.040	-.806	-.202
Apparent advantages by members of the community on initiatives of county development affects participation by members of the public	3.81	.947	-.362	-.780
I have trust in the budgetary allocation process	3.92	.935	-.491	-.662
People with higher trust on the budgetary allocation process take part more resourcefully.	4.81	.953	-.346	-.823
High public trust levels in public institutions influences participation of the community in budgetary allocation.	3.92	.990	-.590	-.674
Acting in consideration of members of the public promotes involvement of members of the public in budgetary allocation process	4.74	1.090	-1.319	2.418
Behavioral Factors	4.12	0.983	-0.6216	-0.1042

Source: Research Data, (2019)

From the results obtained it is noted that the responses to the 9 statements used to measure behavioral factors ranged between 3.81 and 4.81, with the overall mean being 4.24. This shows that most participants of the study were in agreement with the statements that were used to measure behavioral factors. The findings were consistent with studies by Suzanne *et al*, (2007) and Kosecik and Sagbas (2004). Therefore, as county governments grow increasingly important and significant in

daily lives of citizens, the enquiry of attitude of the public toward county governments gets critical for future county government reforms' and programs' success. Participation is considered by Aldashev (2003) as a societal attribute, while Rishi (2003) considers attitude a vital component in social behavior indicating that to make change of behavior, attitude is important.

4.5.6 Economic Factors

On a five-point Likert scale, participants were required to affirm their agreement levels on numerous statements. Such descriptive computations as dispersion to the mean and mean were jointly used to summarize the response as showcased on Table 22. The findings showed that most participants in the survey affirmed that most of them participating in budgetary allocation are not employed as shown by a mean of (4.02). Most of them also affirmed that, the employed individuals have less influence in budgetary allocation process mean of (3.81); that the timing for public participation does not allow those employed to participate in budgetary allocation effectively as shown by mean of (3.92); and that the individual participating are of low-income level evidential from the mean of (4.81). Majority of the participants were materially wealthy shown by mean of (3.92). It was also observed that their income level influenced their level of participation in budgetary allocation process as shown by the mean score (4.02), they also strongly affirmed that their perceived income level influences public participation in budgetary allocation process shown by the mean score of (4.81), finally they were in agreement that individuals economic activities influence the level of participation indicated by a mean of (4.81).

From the results obtained it is noted that the responses to the 10 statements used to measure economic Factors ranged between 3.81 and 4.81, with the overall mean being 4.296. This shows that most participants of the study were in agreement with the statements that were used to measure economic factors. With a view to offer a favorable association between political activity and income, involvement may also offer basic desire. The results obtained were in line with Bartels, (2003). Bartels argued that that the well to do sections of the society together with the more educated contribute more in their participation in decision-making activities by the government. This owes to the greater risks in government affairs as they better

appreciate and understand social and political life. The scholars further aver that the wealthier sections of the society have a higher likelihood of being engaged and interested in civic and political engagement practices. The low-income participants are illustrated well in developing world since they find it difficult to participate in public decision-making activities owing to their major primacies are for and to offer primary products including not spending too much time in meetings and food to feed their families.

Table 22

Economic Factors

	Mean	Std. Dev.	Skewness	Kurtosis
Majority of the people participating in budgetary allocation are unemployed	4.02	1.040	-.806	-.202
Employed people have a less Influence in budgetary allocation	3.81	.947	-.362	-.780
The timing for public participation does not allow the employed to participate in budgetary allocation	3.92	.935	-.491	-.662
Elected leaders guarantee that resources owned by the public are administered in an open manner.	4.02	1.040	-.806	-.202
Most of the Participants are low-income earners	4.81	.947	-.362	-.780
Most of the Participants have a constant source of livelihood	3.92	.935	-.491	-.662
My income level influences my level of participation in budgetary allocation.	4.02	1.040	-.806	-.202
The perceived income level influences public participation in budgetary allocation	4.81	.947	-.362	-.780
People of different economic activities participate in budgetary allocation.	3.92	.935	-.491	-.662
My economic activities influence my participation in budgetary allocation	4.81	.953	-.346	-.823
Overall Economic Factors Mean	4.296	0.962	-0.4992	-0.6258

Source: Research Data, (2019)

The most outstanding variables for unemployed people take part more resourcefully in budgetary allocation. This was acknowledged by mean of (4.02). The most outstanding variables for income levels was people with higher income levels take part more resourcefully during budget allocation. This was represented by mean (4.81) The most outstanding variable timing was that the time for participation does

not allow the employed to take part in public participation which was acknowledged by mean (3.92).

4.5.2 Public Participation

On a five–point Likert scale, participants were required to affirm their agreement levels on numerous statements elucidating the public participation of citizens. Such descriptive computations as dispersion to the mean and mean were jointly used to summarize the response as showcased on Table 23. The results showed that most participants in the survey affirmed that they understand the concept of public participation in budget allocation process as shown by a mean of (4.02). However, most of them were not sure if the number of participating members of the local community in budgetary allocation has increased (3.81), the projects on development that the county government started are efficiently operating and managed by members of the local community (3.92). Local community support for projects on development that the county government started has increased in the last two years (3.81), they have participated in most of the budgetary allocation forums at my ward level (3.92). In the last two years, they have participated in most of the budgetary allocation forum at my ward level (3.92). The mechanisms of engagement by members of the public in budgetary allocation is provided for in the constitution (3.82).

From the results obtained it is noted that the responses of the eight statements used to measure public participations, their mean ranged between 3.82 and 4.03, with the overall mean being 3.888. This shows that most participants of the study were in agreement with the statements that were used to measure public participation. The findings were in line with Robinson (2007), who concluded that the levels of public participation are the degree to which citizens of devolved units actively engage the governance system, and decision-making structures so as to influence how they are to be governed, or how resources attributable to the citizens are accrued, planned for, and spent.

Table 23*Public Participation*

	Std.			
	Mean	Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
I do understand the concept of public participation in budget allocation process	4.02	1.040	-.806	-.202
The number of participating members of the local community in budgetary allocation has increased	3.81	.947	-.362	-.780
Projects on development that the county government started are adequately in operation under the supervision of the members of the general public.	3.92	.935	-.491	-.662
Local community support projects on development that the county government started has increased	3.81	.953	-.346	-.823
In the last two years, I have participated in most of the budgetary allocation forums at my ward level	3.92	.990	-.590	-.674
The mechanisms of engagement by members of the public in budgetary allocations provided for in the constitution	3.82	1.112	-.567	-.772
Provided an occasion, I would take part (again) in budgetary allocation forums	4.03	1.047	-1.220	1.236
The amount of grievances raised by members of the local community on policies and/or programs started by the county government has decreased	3.86	.933	-.491	-.593
Overall Public Participation Mean	3.899	0.995	-0.609	-0.409

Source: Research Data, (2019)

4.5.3 Budget Allocation

On a five–point Likert scale, participants were required to affirm their agreement levels on numerous statements elucidating the allocation of budget in the devolved governments. Such descriptive computations as dispersion to the mean and mean was jointly utilized to summarize the response as showcased on Table 24.

The findings showed that most participants in the survey affirmed that number of projects undertaken by the county government were initiated by the members of the

public as shown by a mean of 4.02. However, most of them affirmed that projects proposed and prioritized by participants were allocated during budgeting (3.92), Projects on development that the county government started have gotten a raise budgetary allocation supported by the local citizen (223; 3.92). More positive comments from the citizen to the county government have been received in regards to projects that are ongoing (206; 3.81).

Table 24

Budget Allocation

	SA	D	N	A	SA	Mean	Std. Dev.	Skewness	Kurtosis
A number of projects undertaken by the county government were initiated by the members of the public	5	26	62	93	134	4.02	1.040	-.806	.272
The number of grievances from members of the public on county budgetary process has increased	0	34	78	124	84	3.81	.947	-.362	.272
Projects on development that the county government started have been supported by the local citizen	0	28	69	123	100	3.92	.935	-.491	.272
More positive comments from the citizen to the county government have been received in regards to projects that are ongoing	0	34	80	120	86	3.81	.953	-.346	.272
Projects proposed and prioritized by participants were allocated during budgeting	0	39	54	122	105	3.92 3.92	.990	-.590	.272
Budget Allocation						3.896	0.973	-0.519	0.272

Source: Research Data, (2019)

The findings to the study showed that the responses to the five statements used to measure budget allocation ranged between 3.81 and 4.02, with the overall mean being 3.896. This shows that most participants of the study were in agreement with the statements that were used to measure budget allocation. The study concludes that most of the respondent were in agreement that budget allocation was highly dependable on public participation, the findings were consistent with study of Tsang (2009) argue that for adequate policy implementation and formulation, trust ought to be gained by governments from the citizens to ensure that all the projects will be implemented by the citizens during budget allocation process.

4.6 Post-estimation Diagnostic Test of Assumptions

According to Sevier (1957), before a full analysis is conducted, the basic assumption of linear regression regarding the original information ought to be made. Antonakis and Deitz (2011) argues that disregarding the assumption of regression results in wrong estimates of validity. Osborne and Waters (2002) argue that if preconditions are not observed, the findings may result in type I and II errors, or underestimate of significant of effect size. Expressive analysis of data depends on the scholar's testing and understanding of the consequences and assumptions of violation. Regression analysis requires two predictor variables at the very least, which may be interval/ratio, ordinal or normal level variables. The preliminary regression analysis assumptions that are recognized as most important in the study include collinearity, independence of errors, linearity, normality, and homoscedasticity.

4.6.1 Normality

To determine whether the data is normally distributed, the study performed a normality test. Multiple regression assumes that variables have normal distributions (Darlington, 1969; Osborne & waters, 2002 this means the errors are normally distributed, and that a plot of values of the residuals will approximate a normal curve (Keith, 2006). The assumption is based on the shape of normal distribution and gives the researcher knowledge about what values to expect (Keith, 2006). Osborne and waters (2002) argue that variables that are not normally distributed can misrepresent associations and significant tests of the studied variables. Osborne and waters (2002), outliers have the ability affect both type II and type I errors as well as the overall accurateness of results. Through various pieces of data, the researchers test the precondition: p-plots, kurtosis, skew, and visual data plots inspection. Cleaning of data was also imperative in testing this supposition through outlier identification (Osborne & water, 2002). There are tools in statistical software intended for assumption testing. Kurtosis and skewness may be observed in statistical values and tables which are near zero show normal spread (Ghasemi & Zahediasl, 2012).

To identify the shape of distribution in the study if the data comes from a normal distribution or not the study used Kolmogrov-Smirnov and Shapiro willk's tests (Shapiro and Willk, 1965) which were calculated for each variable. Normality could

be detected by looking at the p-value of Kolmogorov-Smirnov test and Shapiro Willk-test. In this respect if the p-value (sig. value) of the Shapiro-wilk test is greater than 0.05, the data is normal. If it is below 0.05, the data significantly deviate from a normal distribution. Therefore, since the p-values for all the variables were more than 0.05 the normality of the data was confirmed. According to Osborne and waters, (2002) the Lilliefors test based on the significant correction is used to test that data if it comes from a normally distributed population was applied. To test the normality of the study data, the Lilliefors test was used to test if data comes from a normal distributed population, using the following two testable hypotheses:

H0: The data does not come from a normally distributed population

H1: The data come from a normally distributed population

In Figure 5 the frequency distributions and figure 6 P-P plots show that data follow a normal distribution. Results of K-S with Lilliefors correction and Shapiro-Wilk normality tests for all the variables are shown in Table 25. It is clear that all the variables (economic factors, behavior factors, demographic factors, budget allocation, public participation and citizen awareness) all had p-value greater than 0.05, which indicates normal distribution of data. The study rejected the alternative supposition and it was deduced that data come from a normal distribution. This also agreed with the findings of skewness and kurtosis result discussed in construction of variables which suggested normality of data which ranged from -1.96 to +1.96. The results from these tests are shown in (Table 25). All the variables had p values that were greater than 0.05, the study concluded that the data comes from a normally spread-out population.

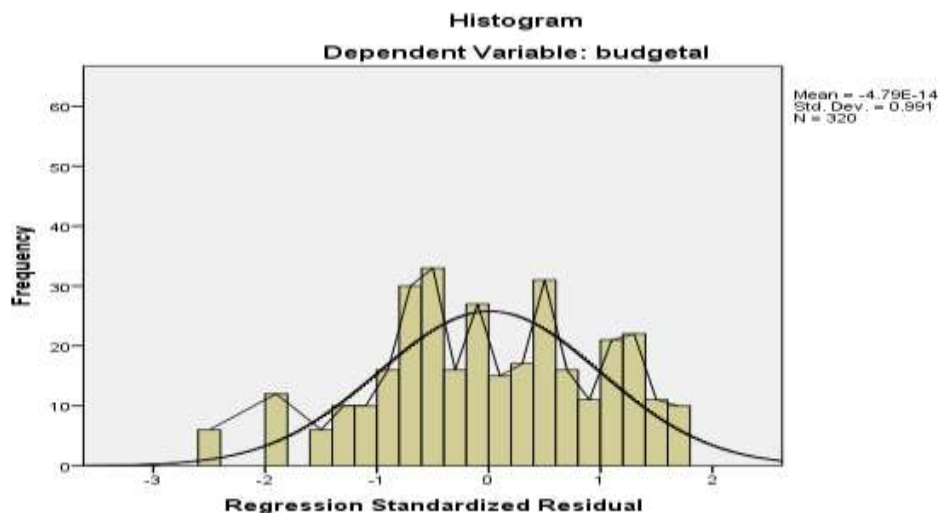
Table 25*Test for Normality for the Variables*

Model		Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS) test			Shapiro-Wilk		
		Statistic	Df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.
1	Citizen awareness	0.158	320	0.067	0.887	320	0.205
2	Demographic factors	0.237	320	0.23	0.499667	320	0.285
3	Behavioral factors	0.159	320	0.230	0.146	320	0.674
4	Economic Factors	0.259	320	0.200	0.946	320	0.674
5	Public Participation	0.136	320	1.141	0.912	320	0.072
	Budget Allocation	0.243	320	0.061	0.849	320	0.841

a Lilliefors Significance Correction

Source: Research Data, (2019)

The study further checked for normality through the standardized residuals' histogram (Stevens, 2009). Histograms encompass the residuals' bar graphs, an overlaid normal curve which shows the distribution. Figure 5 illustrates a normal spread-out from the SPSS program. P-plots and Q-plot provide a more demanding technique to identify as departures from a straight line, nonconformities from normality, and are comparatively easy to understand (Keith, 2006).

Figure 6*Normal Histogram Plot*

4.6.2 Linearity

Darlington (1968) defines outcome variables in the context of linearity as the predictor variable's linear functions. Osborne and waters (2002) add that when the

association is linear, the association between predictor and outcome variable is more accurately estimated by multiple regression analysis. According to Osborne and Waters (2002), the probability of associations that are non-linear is high in social sciences studies, and as such, it is indispensable to test for linearity in an analysis. Keith (2006) adds that if the assumption of linearity is not met, all the regression estimates such as tests of statistical significance, standard errors, and regression coefficient, may be incorrect. Osborne and Waters (2002) observe that if the association between the predictor and outcome factors is not linear, the outcome of the regression estimates will over- or under-estimate the actual association and raise the type II and type I risk errors. Linearity was tested with the SPSS following the accepted procedures. The decision rule applied was that if the value of significant deviation from linearity is > 0.05 , then the relationship between the independent and dependent variables is said to be linearly related.

However, the reverse was true if the value < 0.05 . Linearity means that the amount of change or rate of change, between scores on two variables is constant for the entire range of scores for the variables. From the above figure 6 the graphical methods were used to examine the scatter plots which was within the trend line.

Table 26:
Linearity Test

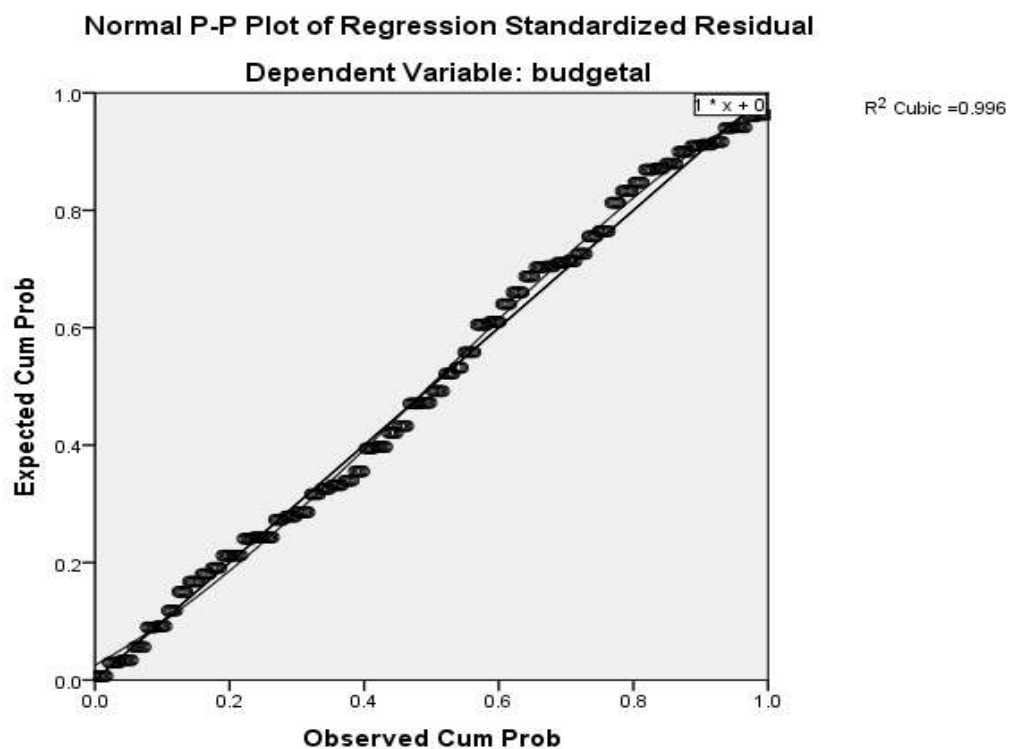
			Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig
Model 1							
Budget awareness	participation*Citizen	(combined)	198.299	22	9.013591	43.411	0.00
		Linearity	107.264	1	107.264	516.603	0.00
		Deviation from linearity	91.036	21	4.335048	20.878	0.08
Model 2							
Budget participation*Demographic characteristic		(combined)	164.517	17	9.677471	31.092	0.00
		Linearity	122.902	1	122.902	394.864	0.00
		Deviation from linearity	41.615	16	2.600938	8.356	0.09
Model 3							
Budget participation*Behavioral factors		(combined)	132.777	17	7.810412	18.971	0.00
		Linearity	93.596	1	93.596	227.342	0.00
		Deviation from linearity	39.18	16	2.44875	5.948	0.09
Model 4							
Budget Factors	participation*economic	(combined)	193.24	19	10.17053	45.862	0.00
		Linearity	153.545	1	153.545	692.384	0.00
		Deviation from linearity	39.695	18	2.205278	9.944	0.01

Source: Research Data, (2019)

Residual graphs illustrating the predicted values vs. standardized residual and have high utility in testing for linearity violations (Keith, 2006). The residuals amplify the deviations from linearity (Stevens, 2009). In case of non-deviation from linearity one would anticipate to see a haphazard dispersion about the straight line. Otherwise, any systematic residual clustering or pattern indicates violation (Steven, 2009). An illustration of both curvilinear and linear associations is presented in Figure 6. Linearity means that the amount of change or rate of change, between scores on two variables is constant for the entire range of scores for the variables. As shown from figure 6 overleaf the graphical method was used to examine the scatter plots which were within the trend line.

Figure 7

Normal P-P Plot from SPSS



4.6.3 Homoscedasticity

The assumption of homoscedasticity refers to equal variance of errors across all levels of the independent variables (Osborne & Waters, 2002). This means that researchers assume the errors are spread out consistently between the variables (Kith,

2006). This is evident when the variance around the regression line is the same for all values of the predictor variables. Homoscedasticity was checked by visual examination of a plot of the standardized residual by the regression standardized predicted value (Osborne & Waters, 2002) the levene's statistic for equality of variance was used to test for the assumption of homoscedasticity. The Violation of homoscedasticity of variance is confirmed if the levene's statistic were above 0.05) as shown in the table 27 the levene's statistics were above 0.05 (Martin & Bridgmon, 2012). The assumption of homoscedasticity of variance in this study was therefore supported.

Table 27

Levene's Test for Homoscedasticity

Model		Levene Statistic	df2	Sig.
1	Citizen awareness	1.365	311	0.081
2	Demographic factors	1.488	311	0.363
3	Behavioural Factors	1.446	311	0.098
4	Economic Factors	0.885	311	0.668
5	Public participation	1.757	311	0.105
	Budgetary Allocation	0.985	311	0.089

Source: Research Data, (2019)

4.6.4 Multicollinearity

Collinearity refers to the assumption that the independent variables are uncorrelated (Keith, 2006). Multi-collinearity occurs when several independent variables correlate at high levels with one another, or one independent variable is near linear combination of other independent variable (Keith, 2006). When there is low collinearity, the researcher is in a position to understand as the influences of the predictor variables, the regression coefficients (Keith, 2006). This implies that implications are reliably derived about the effect and cause of factors. The more factors correlate (overlap) the less the effects of factors can be separated by researchers. In multivariate regressions the predictor variables are correlated to some extent (Hoyt et al., 2006). Predictor variables are ideally, independent more vastly correlated with the outcome variables as compared with other predictor factors. Packages on statistical software comprise testing for collinearity, which assesses the extent to which a factor is non-dependent on other predictor factors.

According to Mason and Perreault (1991), the influence of a particular collinearity level may be assessed in combination with the other aspects of magnitude of the coefficients, R^2 and sample size. According to Mason & Perreault (1991), the extensively utilized processes of assessing the predictor variables' correlation matrix, variance inflation factors (VIF), calculating the measures of the Eigen values, R^2 , and coefficients of determination of the dataset including. According to Keith (2006), levels of tolerance for correlation vary from completely independent (one) to no independence (zero).

The Tolerance and VIF figures were utilized to perform the diagnosis. The outcomes of the multicollinearity test in Table 4.21 show that the tolerance of the 5 variables varied from 0.348 to 0.500 which were less than 1 an indication that multicollinearity was absent. Further the Variance inflation Factor (VIF) scores ranged from 1.239 to 2.87. There for the entire variables had Variance inflation Factor (VIF) which were greater than 1 and less than 10 (Haire *et al.*, 2006). Hence, we conclude that there was no multicollinearity. The assumption on multicollinearity was deemed to have been met.

Table 28

Collinearity Statistics

Model		Tolerance	VIF
1	Citizen awareness	0.500	2.000
2	Demographic factors	0.348	2.873
3	Behavioural Factors	0.350	2.857
4	Economic Factors	0.383	2.608
5	Public participation	0.500	2.000

Source: Research Data, (2019)

4.7 Regression Results and Hypothesis Tests

This section presents the hypotheses test results. A total of six hypotheses were set in their null form informed by the corresponding specific objectives of the study. To achieve this, various regression analyses were performed including simple linear and moderation. To aid in the moderation analysis, the Process Macro for SPSS by Hayes

(2013) was plugged in and used to run the various models.

4.7.1 Regression Results for Citizen Awareness and Budget Allocation

The study first sought to examine whether citizen awareness influences budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. This informed the first study hypothesis (H_{01}), which stated that a statistically significant association does not exist between Citizen Awareness and budgetary allocation. To test the hypothesis, a simple linear regression analysis was performed, results of which are showcased on Table 29.

Table 29

Hypothesis 1 (H_{01}) Test Results

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.903 ^a	.815	.815	.27423

a. Predictors: (Constant), Citizen awareness

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	105.431	1	105.431	1401.980	.000 ^b
	Residual	23.914	318	.075		
	Total	129.345	319			

a. Dependent Variable: Budgetary Allocation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Citizen awareness

Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.421	.094		4.481	.000
	Citizen awareness	.884	.024	.903	37.443	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Budgetary Allocation

Results in Table 29 reveal a correlation value (R) of .903, indicating a strong linear relationship between citizen awareness and budgetary allocation. An adjusted R Square of .815 was also recorded, implying that 81.5% of the variation in budgetary allocation attributed to citizen awareness, while the remaining 18.5% is attributed to

attributes not included in this regression model. An F value of 1401.980 was further revealed with a P value of .000 (<0.05) indicating that the adopted regression model is statistically significant and can be relied upon to make further inferences.

Regression coefficients for the model further revealed that citizen awareness has a significant effect on budgetary allocation at 95% confidence level ($\beta = .884$, $p = .000 < .05$). The null hypothesis that citizen awareness does not have a significant effect on budgetary allocation (H_{01}) is therefore rejected and it was concluded that citizen awareness had a positive and significant effect on budgetary allocation.

The foregoing findings have thus revealed that citizen awareness positively and significantly influences budgetary allocation ($\beta = .884$, $p = .000 < .05$), in line with the first objective of the study, which was to examine whether citizen awareness influences budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. The findings imply that citizen awareness was an important factor in enhancing budgetary allocation, hence the need to enhance public awareness through media advertisement such as radio, Tvs posters and short message services and consequently improving citizen awareness on the importance of public participation and generally enhancing budgetary allocation effectiveness. The results obtained were in line with both Agency theory as proposed by Berle and Means (1932) and developed by Jensen and Meckling (1976), and Stakeholder theory as put forth by Freeman (1984). While Agency theory elucidates that, public officials (Agents) hold the office in trust by the public (Principals) and therefore ought to maximize value for the public, Stakeholder theory argues that organizations ought to work in a nexus with all the stakeholders to ensure equity and utility driven development. As such, by creating awareness among members of the public who are the principals and key stakeholders in budgetary allocation, participation in the same is facilitated.

The findings are also in line with those of Thwala, (2010), Omolo, (2010) and Warburton, 2000 Warburton, (2000) who attributed citizen involvement in budgetary process always result in deviation from what was actually attributed. Participation by members of the public bears a myriad of benefits to communities with regard to capacity building, empowerment, improving efficiency and effectiveness of projects;

enhancing ownership and project cost sharing. The results obtained were consistent with findings of McCommon, (1993) who attributed that in a majority of developing economies, participation and citizen awareness are appreciated in educating people in local administration, cultivating community welfare and extending the control of government through self-initiatives. Therefore, participation by members of the public bears a myriad of benefits to communities with regard to capacity building, empowerment, improving efficiency and effectiveness of projects; enhancing ownership and project cost sharing (Thwala, 2010). The degree of involvement ranges from action initiation, information sharing, decision making and consultation.

4.7.2 Regression Results for Demographic Factors and Budget Allocation

The study then sought to assess demographic characteristics influencing budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. This informed the second study hypothesis (H_{02}), that stated that there is no statistically significant association between demographic factors and budgetary allocation. To test the hypothesis, a simple linear regression analysis was performed, results of which are showcased on Table 30.

Table 30

Hypothesis 2 (H_{02}) Test Results

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.165 ^a	.027	.018	.63100

a. Predictors: (Constant), Age, Gender, Education Level

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	3.524	3	1.175	2.950	.033 ^b
	Residual	125.821	316	.398		
	Total	129.345	319			

a. Dependent Variable: Budgetary Allocation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Age, Gender, Education Level

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Coefficients Beta		
1	(Constant)	3.500	.164		21.325	.000
	Age	.003	.041	.004	.072	.943
	Gender	.021	.071	.016	.289	.773
	Education level	.139	.047	.166	2.945	.003

a. Dependent Variable: Budgetary Allocation

Results in Table 30 reveal a correlation value (R) of .165, indicating a rather weak linear relationship between the demographic factors including education level, gender and age and budgetary allocation. An adjusted R Square of .018 was also recorded, implying that only 1.8% of the variation in budgetary allocation is attributed to demographic factors, particularly education level, gender and age while the remaining 98.2% attributed to other factors not included in this regression model. An F value of 2.950 was further revealed with a P value of .033 (<0.05) indicating that the adopted regression model is statistically significant and can be relied upon to make further inferences.

Regression coefficients for the model further revealed that out of the three demographic factors, only Education level of participants has a significant effect on budgetary allocation at 95% confidence level ($\beta = .139$, $p = .000 < .05$), while participant age ($\beta = .003$, $p = .943 > .05$) and gender ($\beta = .021$, $p = .773 > .05$) did not significantly influence budgetary allocation. The study thus accepts the null hypotheses that age (H_{02a}) and gender (H_{02b}) does not have a significant effect on budgetary allocation and concluded that both participant age and gender do not have a significant effect on budgetary allocation. The null hypothesis that education level does not have a significant effect on budgetary allocation (H_{02c}) is however rejected, and the study concludes that education level has a significant effect on budgetary allocation.

The foregoing findings have thus revealed that while some demographic characteristics, particularly education ($\beta = .139$, $p = .000 < .05$) positively and

significantly influence budgetary allocation, others including gender ($\beta = .021$, $p = .773 > .05$) and age ($\beta = .003$, $p = .943 > .05$) do not significantly influence budgetary allocation. The results have thus addressed the second objective of the study, which was to assess demographic characteristics influencing budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. The findings imply that for effective budgetary allocation, participant education level should be addressed during public participation. Members of the public included in public participation forums on budgetary allocation ought to particularly be drawn from different educational backgrounds. The findings offer both support and critique to the Stakeholder theory as opined by Freeman (1984). Whereas results show that involvement of members of the public from different stakeholder educational backgrounds significantly influences performance, involvement of different stakeholder age groups and gender does not have any significant effect on budgetary allocation.

The findings were consistent with findings of Mwenda (2010) associates education level to the ability of the public to voice out their wish in democratic governance by the people, of the people and assert that deficiency of adequate educational accomplishment curtails the dissemination of information, therefore lessens the excellence participation by the of public. According to Ahmad *et al*, (2005) the awareness of citizens on how to involve the system of governance and the programs of governance is often enhanced by education.

The results however imply that contrary to previous study findings (Ochieng, 2014, Ihemeje, 2018), during public participation, age and gender inclusivity are not required. The findings of this study particularly disagree with Ochieng (2014) that age is important element in enhancing effective budget allocation process. Also, according to John, (2009), the level of education of the members of the public significantly and negatively correlates with the degree of involvement of the members of the public, which is contrary to the results obtained. Also, in contrast to the present study findings, Mboga (2009) recorded a non-significant correlation between the process of budgetary formulation in Kenya, public participation and attainment of higher education.

4.7.3 Regression Results for Behavioral Factors and Budget Allocation

The study further sought to assess whether behavioral factors influence budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. This informed the third study hypothesis (H_{03}), which stated that a statistically significant association does not exist between behavioral factors and budgetary allocation. To test the hypothesis, a simple linear regression analysis was performed, results of which are showcased on Table 31.

Table 31

Hypothesis 3 (H_{03}) Test Results

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.962 ^a	.926	.926	.17349

a. Predictors: (Constant), Behavioral Factors

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	119.773	1	119.773	3992.4	.000 ^b
	Residual	9.571	318	.030		
	Total	129.345	319			

a. Dependent Variable: Budgetary Allocation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Behavioral Factors

Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-.238	.066		-3.595	.000
	Behavioral Factors	1.064	.017	.962	63.082	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Budgetary Allocation

Results in Table 31 reveal a correlation value (R) of .962, indicating a strong linear relationship between behavioral factors and budgetary allocation. An adjusted R Square of .926 was also recorded, implying that 92.6% of the variation in budgetary allocation attributed to behavioral factors, while the remaining 7.4% attributed to other factors not included in this regression model. An F value of 3992.4 was further revealed with a P value of .000 (<0.05) indicating that the adopted regression model

is statistically significant and can be relied upon to make further inferences.

Regression coefficients for the model further revealed that behavioral factors have a significant effect on budgetary allocation at 95% confidence level ($\beta = 1.064$, $p = .000 < .05$). The null hypothesis that behavioral factors does not have a significant effect on budgetary allocation (H_{03}) is therefore rejected and it was concluded that citizen behavioral factors have positive significant effect on budgetary allocation. This indicated that citizen's behavioral factors such as trust and attitude in the budgetary process during public participation will enhance the budgetary process because of the trust of the process and system.

The foregoing findings have thus revealed that behavioral factors ($\beta = 1.064$, $p = .000 < .05$) positively and significantly influence budgetary allocation, in line with the third objective of the study, which was to assess whether behavioral factors influence budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. The results imply that citizen's behavioral factors such as trust and attitude in the budgetary process during budgetary allocation will enhance the budgetary process because of the trust of the process and system. This is in line with the Stewardship theory as proposed by Davis, Schoorman and Donaldson (1999), when competing interests confront the management, the steward holds in high regard collaboration and concentrates on the organization's best interest. As such, while ideally the expectation of the public should be that public officials will hold their offices in high regard, manage finances and carry out budgetary allocation in the best interest of the public, the reality is largely different, highlighted by corruption cases at the county levels. This consequently results in mistrust and a negative attitude towards public decision and policy making process, hence poor public participation which in turn influences budgetary allocation.

Participation is considered by Aldashev (2003) as a societal attribute, while Rishi (2003) considers attitude a vital component in social behavior indicating that to make change of behavior, attitude is important. According to Rishi (2003) people's attitudes towards a given event shapes their personal program or social actions. Findings from the study revealed that behavioral factors namely trust and attitude

influence budget allocation. This was indicated by strongly agreement of the respondent with the sentiments used measure citizen behavior with an overall mean of (4.25). However, it was revealed that there is significant positive association between behavioral factors and budgetary allocation. The results from the descriptive analysis are in tandem with Hiskey & Seligson (2003) and Rishi (2003) who established report that the social behavior of citizens including attitude towards the county government shapes their participation levels in affairs of the county government. However, these studies also concluded that there was a significant positive association between public attitude and budgetary allocation.

4.7.4 Regression Results for Economic Factors and Budget Allocation

The study also endeavored to determine the effect of economic factors on budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. This informed the fourth study hypothesis (H_{04}), which stated that a statistically significant association does not exist between economic factors and budgetary allocation. To test the hypothesis, a simple linear regression analysis was performed, results of which are showcased on Table 32.

Table 32

Hypothesis 4 (H_{04}) Test Results

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.946 ^a	.894	.894	.20734

a. Predictors: (Constant), Economic Factors

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	115.673	1	115.673	2690.584	.000 ^b
	Residual	13.671	318	.043		
	Total	129.345	319			

a. Dependent Variable: Budgetary Allocation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Economic Factors

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.368	.069		5.334	.000
	Economic Factors	.903	.017	.946	51.871	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Budgetary Allocation

Results in Table 32 reveal a correlation value (R) of .946, indicating a strong linear relationship between economic factors and budgetary allocation. An adjusted R Square of .894 was also recorded, implying that 89.4% of the variation in budgetary allocation attributed to economic factors, while the remaining 10.6% attributed to other factors not included in this regression model. An F value of 2690.584 was further revealed with a P value of .000 (<0.05) indicating that the adopted regression model is statistically significant and can be relied upon to make further inferences.

Regression coefficients for the model further revealed that economic factors has a significant effect on budgetary allocation at 95% confidence level ($\beta = .903$, $p = .000 < .05$). The null hypothesis that economic factors does not have a significant effect on budgetary allocation (H_{04}) is therefore rejected and it was concluded that economic factors had a significant effect on budgetary allocation.

The findings have further revealed that economic factor ($\beta = .903$, $p = .000 < .05$) positively and significantly influence budgetary allocation, in line with the fourth objective of the study, which was to determine the effect of economic factors on budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. Therefore, during budgetary allocation all the individuals in the community should be considered in public participation regardless of their economic condition considering that that the wealthy segments of society and those who have high economic condition take a greater role in public participation (Bartels, 2003). However, A person's level of income is in a traditional society regarded as an imperative principle for assessing the person's capacity. In addition, Brady (2003) argues that because civic and political process also constitute a kind of participation similar to economic involvement that occurs in the place of market, it appears that models that are known economic

participation may offer information into the linkages between income inequality, income, civic and political participation in policy making decisions by the government.

4.7.5 Multiple Regression Analysis

A Multiple Regression Analysis was conducted with a view to assess the collective association among the variables explored in the study, including citizen awareness, age, gender, education level, behavioural factors and economic factors as the predictor variables and budgetary allocation as the dependent variable. Results in this regard are showcased on Table 33.

Table 33
Multiple Regression Analysis

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.985 ^a	.969	.969	.11249

a. Predictors: (Constant), Citizen Awareness, Age, Gender, Education Level, Behavioural Factors, Economic factors

ANOVA^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	125.384	6	20.897	1651.466	.000 ^b
	Residual	3.961	313	.013		
	Total	129.345	319			

a. Dependent Variable: Budgetary Allocation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Citizen Awareness, Age, Gender, Education Level, Behavioural Factors, Economic factors

Coefficients^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-.200	.054		-3.679	.000
	Citizen Awareness	.039	.045	.040	.873	.383
	Age	.156	.027	.131	5.860	.000
	Gender	-.115	.017	-.099	-6.842	.000
	Education Level	.083	.025	.073	3.325	.001
	Behavioural Factors	.480	.054	.434	8.914	.000
	Economic factors	.408	.037	.408	10.950	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Budgetary Allocation

Results in Table 33 reveal a correlation value (R) of .985, indicating a strong linear relationship between citizen awareness, age, gender, education level, behavioural factors and economic factors and budgetary allocation. An adjusted R Square of .969 was also recorded, implying that 96.9% of the variation in budgetary allocation attributed to citizen awareness, age, gender, education level, behavioural factors and economic factors, while the remaining 3.1% attributed to other factors not included in this regression model. An F value of 1651.466 was further revealed with a P value of .000 (<0.05) indicating that the adopted regression model is statistically significant and can be relied upon to make further inferences. Regression coefficients for the model further revealed that other than citizen awareness ($\beta = .039$, $p = .383 > .05$), all other predictor variables have a significant effect on budgetary allocation at 95% confidence level. These include age ($\beta = .156$, $p = .000 < .05$), gender ($\beta = -.115$, $p = .000 < .05$), education level ($\beta = .083$, $p = .001 < .05$), behavioural factors ($\beta = .903$, $p = .000 < .05$) and economic factors ($\beta = .408$, $p = .000 < .05$).

4.7.6 Regression Results for Antecedents, Public Participation and Budget Allocation

The study finally sought to determine the mediating effect of public participation on the relationship between the antecedents and budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. This informed the fifth study hypothesis (H_{05}), which stated that public participation does not have a statistically significant mediating effect on the relationship between the antecedents and budgetary allocation. To test the hypothesis, the study adopted Hayes model 4 by Hayes (2017), results of which are showcased on Table 34.

Table 34

Hypothesis 5 (H_{05a}) Test Results

Model 1: Outcome Variable: Public Participation

Model Summary						
R	R-sq	MSE	F	df1	df2	p
.8404	.7063	.0721	764.5674	1.0000	318.0000	.0000

Model						
	coeff	se	t	p	LLCI	ULCI
constant	1.3862	.0920	15.0664	.0000	1.2052	1.5672
ComAwar	.6394	.0231	27.6508	.0000	.5939	.6849

Model 2: Outcome Variable: Budgetary Allocation

Model Summary

R	R-sq	MSE	F	df1	df2	p
.9418	.8871	.0461	1245.0783	2.0000	317.0000	.0000

Model

	coeff	se	t	p	LLCI	ULCI
constant	-.4623	.0963	-4.7998	.0000	-.6518	-.2728
ComAwar	.4770	.0341	13.9813	.0000	.4099	.5441
APPP	.6373	.0448	14.2128	.0000	.5491	.7255

Direct effect of X on Y

Effect	se	t	p	LLCI	ULCI
.4770	.0341	13.9813	.0000	.4099	.5441

Indirect effect(s) of X on Y:

	Effect	BootSE	BootLLCI	BootULCI
APPP	.4075	.0286	.3530	.4651

The study established a correlation value (R) of .8404 in Model 1 indicating a linear relationship between the citizen awareness and public participation. An R Square value of .7063 was also recorded implying that 70.6% of the variation in public participation is accounted for by direct effect of citizen awareness, while the remaining 29.4% is accounted for by other factors not included in this regression model. A P value of .0000 was further established at 95% confidence level implying that the regression model adopted is statistically significant and can be relied upon to make further inferences.

The regression Model 1 further revealed that citizen awareness has a significant effect on public participation at 95% confidence level ($\beta = .6394$, $p = .000 < .05$). In model 2, the direct effect of citizen awareness on budgetary allocation recorded statistical significance ($\beta = .4770$, $p = .000 < .05$). The mediating variable, public participation also showed statistical significance ($\beta = .4075$), with both the lower limit (.3530) and the upper limit (.4651) not crossing zero (0). The null hypothesis (H_{05a}) stating that public participation does not have a statistically significant mediating effect on the relationship between citizen awareness and budgetary allocation was therefore rejected.

Table 35***Hypothesis 5 (H_{05b}) Test Results***

Model 1: Outcome Variable: Public Participation

Model Summary

R	R-sq	MSE	F	df1	df2	p
.6708	.4499	.1349	260.1137	1.0000	318.0000	.0000

Model

	coeff	se	t	p	LLCI	ULCI
constant	1.1219	.1732	6.4764	.0000	.7811	.4627
DemoX	.7148	.0443	16.1280	.0000	.6276	.8020

Model 2: Outcome Variable: Budgetary allocation

Model Summary

R	R-sq	MSE	F	df1	df2	p
.9280	.8611	.0567	982.8356	2.0000	317.0000	.0000

Model

	coeff	se	t	p	LLCI	ULCI
constant	-1.1950	.1194	-10.0065	.0000	-1.4300	-.9601
DemoX	.3867	.0387	9.9863	.0000	.3105	.4629
APPP	.9208	.0363	25.3388	.0000	.8493	.9923

Direct effect of X on Y

Effect	se	t	p	LLCI	ULCI
.3867	.0387	9.9863	.0000	.3105	.4629

Indirect effect(s) of X on Y:

Effect	BootSE	BootLLCI	BootULCI
APPP	.6582	.0414	.5689 .7330

The study established a correlation value (R) of .6708 in Model 1 indicating a linear relationship between the demographic characteristics and public participation. An R Square value of .4499 was also recorded implying that 44.9% of the variation in public participation is accounted for by direct effect of demographic characteristics, while the remaining 55.1% is accounted for by other factors not included in this regression model. A P value of .0000 was further established at 95% confidence level implying that the regression model adopted is statistically significant and can be relied upon to make further inferences.

The regression Model 1 further revealed that demographic characteristics has a significant effect on public participation at 95% confidence level ($\beta = .7148$, $p = .000 < .05$). In model 2, the direct effect of demographic characteristics on budgetary allocation recorded statistical significance ($\beta = .3867$, $p = .000 < .05$). The mediating variable, public participation also showed statistical significance ($\beta = .6582$), with both the lower limit (.5689) and the upper limit (.7330) not crossing zero (0). The null hypothesis (H_{05b}) stating that public participation does not have a statistically significant mediating effect on the relationship between demographic characteristics and budgetary allocation was therefore rejected.

Table 36*Hypothesis 5 (H_{05c}) Test Results*

Model 1: Outcome Variable: Public Participation

Model Summary

R	R-sq	MSE	F	df1	df2	p
.8757	.7668	.0572	1045.6961	1.0000	318.0000	.0000

Model

	coeff	se	t	p	LLCI	ULCI
constant	.9765	.0913	10.6995	.0000	.7970	1.1561
behafact	.7517	.0232	32.3372	.0000	.7060	.7975

Model 2: Outcome Variable: Budgetary Allocation

Model Summary

R	R-sq	MSE	F	df1	df2	p
.9707	.9422	.0236	2583.9026	2.0000	317.0000	.0000

Model

	coeff	se	t	p	LLCI	ULCI
constant	-.5694	.0683	-8.3327	.0000	-.7039	-.4350
behafact	.8086	.0309	26.1593	.0000	.7477	.8694
APPP	.3394	.0360	9.4271	.0000	.2686	.4103

Direct effect of X on Y

Effect	se	t	p	LLCI	ULCI
.8086	.0309	26.1593	.0000	.7477	.8694

Indirect effect(s) of X on Y:

Effect	BootSE	BootLLCI	BootULCI
APPP	.2552	.0310	.1957 .3164

The study established a correlation value (R) of .8757 in Model 1 indicating a linear relationship between the behavioural factors and public participation. An R Square value of .7668 was also recorded implying that 77.7% of the variation in public participation is accounted for by direct effect of behavioural factors, while the remaining 23.3% is accounted for by other factors not included in this regression model. A P value of .0000 was further established at 95% confidence level implying that the regression model adopted is statistically significant and can be relied upon to make further inferences.

The regression Model 1 further revealed that behavioural factors has a significant effect on public participation at 95% confidence level ($\beta = .7517$, $p = .000 < .05$). In model 2, the direct effect of behavioural factors on budgetary allocation recorded statistical significance ($\beta = .8086$, $p = .000 < .05$). The mediating variable, public participation also showed statistical significance ($\beta = .2552$), with both the lower limit (.1957) and the upper limit (.3164) not crossing zero (0). The null hypothesis (H_{05c}) stating that public participation does not have a statistically significant mediating effect on the relationship between behavioural factors and budgetary allocation was therefore rejected.

Table 37*Hypothesis 5 (H_{05d}) Test Results*

Model 1: Outcome Variable: APPP

Model Summary

R	R-sq	MSE	F	df1	df2	p
.8776	.7701	.0564	1065.3617	1.0000	318.0000	.0000

Model

	coeff	se	t	p	LLCI	ULCI
constant	1.3554	.0790	17.1643	.0000	1.2000	1.5107
EcoFac	.6508	.0199	32.6399	.0000	.6116	.6901

OUTCOME VARIABLE: Budgetary Allocation

Model Summary

R	R-sq	MSE	F	df1	df2	p
.9583	.9183	.0333	1780.8530	2.0000	317.0000	.0000

Model

	coeff	se	t	p	LLCI	ULCI
constant	-.1958	.0843	-2.3233	.0208	-.3616	-.0300
EcoFac	.6325	.0320	19.7762	.0000	.5695	.6954
APPP	.4158	.0431	9.6421	.0000	.3309	.5006

Direct effect of X on Y

Effect	se	t	p	LLCI	ULCI
.6325	.0320	19.7762	.0000	.5695	.6954

Indirect effect(s) of X on Y:

	Effect	BootSE	BootLLCI	BootULCI
APPP	.2706	.0230	.2257	.3171

The study established a correlation value (R) of .8776 in Model 1 indicating a linear relationship between economic factors and public participation. An R Square value of .7701 was also recorded implying that 77.01% of the variation in public participation is accounted for by direct effect of economic factors, while the remaining 22.99% is accounted for by other factors not included in this regression model. A P value of .0000 was further established at 95% confidence level implying that the regression model adopted is statistically significant and can be relied upon to make further inferences.

The regression Model 1 further revealed that economic factors have a significant effect on public participation at 95% confidence level ($\beta = .6508$, $p = .000 < .05$). In model 2, the direct effect of economic factors on budgetary allocation recorded statistical significance ($\beta = .6325$, $p = .000 < .05$). The mediating variable, public participation also showed statistical significance ($\beta = .2706$), with both the lower limit (.2257) and the upper limit (.3171) not crossing zero (0). The null hypothesis (H_{05d}) stating that public participation does not have a statistically significant mediating effect on the relationship between economic factors and budgetary allocation was therefore rejected.

From the mediation analysis, public participation was found to significantly mediate the association between citizen awareness ($\beta=.4075$, $LL=.3530$, $UL=.4651$), demographic characteristics ($\beta=.6582$, $LL=.5689$, $UL=.7330$), behavioural factors ($\beta=.2552$, $LL=.1957$, $UL=.3164$), economic factors ($\beta=.2706$, $LL=.2257$, $UL=.3171$) and budgetary allocation. The foregoing findings have thus revealed that of public participation has a significantly mediating effect on the relationship between the antecedents and budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties, in line with the fifth objective of the study, which was to determine the mediating effect of public participation on the relationship between the antecedents and budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. The finding implies that the extent to which the antecedents influence budgetary allocation is hinged on the level of public participation. Therefore, citizens and the community at large need to be sensitized on the importance of taking part in public participation so as to enhance budgetary allocation effectiveness when they take part in the budgetary allocation process.

In addition, participatory budgeting educates people with the knowledge of public affairs. Through public discussion, deliberation, and negotiation on budget issues, participatory budgeting increases the range of citizen participation and enhances the citizens' awareness of the whole budget process. The study findings further lend support to Agency theory, Stewardship theory and Stakeholders theory. The findings have shown that conducting public participation to involve members of the public, who are the main stakeholders in budgetary allocation, offers a platform upon which various factors influencing budgetary allocation, get consideration.

Moreover, fostering positive citizen attitude through a variety of strategies of participation, information, and reputation reduces cynicism (Berman, 1997). This finding contradicted Verba *et al.* (1995), who argues that well to do sections of the society together with the more educated contribute more in their participation in decision-making activities by the government. This owes to the greater risks in government affairs as they better appreciate and understand social and political life. Bartels (2003), argue that the wealthier in the society normally show interest in how to be more vocal and whom to contact. Therefore, the economic position of

individuals taking part in public participation has a great impact on the outcome of budgetary allocation. According to Rishi (2003) people's attitudes towards a given event shapes their personal program or social actions. It was further argued by Rishi that if members of the public have a positive attitude towards an event or an action, it is highly likely, that their behavior would be diverted in additional meaningful manners.

The results obtained were in line with those of Thwala, (2010), who attributed citizen involvement in budgetary process always result in deviation from what was actually attributed. Therefore, Involvement of members of the public bears a myriad of benefits to communities with regard to capacity building, empowerment, improving efficiency and effectiveness of projects; enhancing ownership and project cost sharing (Thwala, 2010). Therefore, the concepts of participation and gender in fiscal discourse have featured greatly in practices and calls to liberate women in Nigeria in the recent past. Advocates of these concepts have claimed that it is critical to revise and review existing political, constitutional, regulatory and legislative guidelines, including systems of electoral involvement, to do away with provisions hindering the equal participation of women in the processes of decision- making with a view to liberate women and guarantee that they fully take part through public participation (Akerkar, 2001).

This indicated that for each unit increase in public participants with various age groups, there was effectiveness in public participation effectiveness. All of the listed demographic characteristics are significant except for gender. Most county governments and organizations ensure that the youth are involved in their daily activities to ensure effectiveness. There is compelling evidence indicates that the youth's participation in political, institutional, or formal processes or forums where public policies are formulated, is in comparison to older citizens globally, relatively low. This results in the disenfranchisement of the youth and puts to test, political system representativeness. When the youth's political participation is enhanced in a country during the electoral cycle, this will increase budget implementation efficiency and effectiveness and inclusiveness (UNDP, 2012).

The results obtained were also consistent with findings of Pharr & Putnam (2000), and Edwards (2005), who argue in their study that calls for more public participation in government's financial and economic policy making affairs is influenced generally by a more demanding, more articulate and an educated citizenry, a majority of whom express a deteriorating trust level in the country's political institutions and their elected politicians. The opinions, expressed usually in calls for more involvement of members of the public with expressive interaction with government over and above the democratic traditional processes of four- or five-year electoral calendars.

According to John, (2009), the level of education of the members of the public significantly and negatively correlates with the degree of involvement of the members of the public, which is contrary to the results obtained. According to Ahmad *et al.* (2005), the awareness of citizens on how to involve the system of governance and the programs of governance is often enhanced by education. Bratton *et al.*, surveyed six countries in Sub-Sahara to examine if levels of education are correlated with the degree of involvement by public members in devolved units. The study found that the more a society gets education, the more they take part in such civic obligations as budget formulation.

Participation is considered by Aldashev (2003) as a societal attribute, while Rishi (2003) considers attitude a vital component in social behavior indicating that to make change of behavior, attitude is important. According to Rishi (2003) people's attitudes towards a given event shapes their personal program or social actions. It was further argued by Rishi that if members of the public have a positive attitude towards an event or an action, it is highly likely, that their behavior would be diverted in additional meaningful manners (Rishi, 2003).

Ledingham (2001) argues in their study that members of the public are likely to be involved in public decision-making practices in county government, if they distinguish that the county government is offering members of the public some benefits or acting in the members of the public's best interest, and/ or channeling finances among other resources to facilitate important matters to the members of the public in the mutual association between county government and the people. Ledingham (2001) further observes that members of the public's mutually relate with county government and

they pursue an equilibrium between the incurred costs of relations with their county government. In their study, Mohammadi, Norazizan and Ahmad (2010) established that, effective relationships between government and the public need to be perceived as beneficial mutually, grounded on mutual interests of the parties in question.

The results obtained were in line to those of Brady (2003) and Nazleen (2004). A person's level of income is in a traditional society regarded as an imperative principle for assessing the person's capacity. Similarly, to assess the extent of participation of individuals is determined by their economic condition/status. The findings of this study agree with Bartels, (2003) and Verba *et al.* (1995) argue that the well to do sections of the society together with the more educated contribute more in their participation in decision-making activities by the government. This owes to the greater risks in government affairs as they better appreciate and understand social and political life. The scholars further aver that the wealthier sections of the society have a higher likelihood of being engaged and interested in civic and political engagement practices.

Verba *et al.* (1995) and Bartels (2003) further argue that the wealthier in the society normally show interest in how to be more vocal and whom to contact. It was also echoed by Nazleen, (2004) that governments' participation by the marginalized and poor in making decision in rural development has yet to significantly increased. On the contrary, some intermediaries and touts have experienced more access to the projects and benefited from the same. A general assumption exists, that the disadvantaged and poor's interest cannot be guaranteed in the social structure that is exploitative, unless the legislation protects it. Brady (2003) argues that because civic and political process also constitute a kind of participation similar to economic involvement that occurs in the place of market, it appears that models that are known economic participation may offer information into the linkages between income inequality, income, civic and political participation in policy making decisions by the government.

The foregoing findings validate the Agency theory, in that the involved of citizens as principals by the county leadership as agents, positively and significantly influences budgetary allocation process. This is consistent with Kaufman and Kraay (2008) who

argues that in order to safeguard its citizens value, the government ought to demonstrate discipline, efficiency, effectiveness, accountability and transparency as the main attribute of a good process of budgeting. Lasswell (1936) avers that it is not possible to have proper budgeting absent proper governance, since proper governance is the basis for realizing proper budgeting. Proponents of this theory suggest their remedies to the agency problem. Among others Scholars like Fama and Jensen (1969) suggest remedies to curb failures of corporate governance. Even though Gugler (2003) intimates that the corporate control market does serve as a devise for disciplining underperforming organizations.

Similarly, Bagaka (2008) observes that for accountability one has to account for one's inaction or action, and based on the answer, to be aware of probable approvals, both negative and positive. According to Ahmad and Ahmad (2019), for answerability, it is a prerequisite that public officials ought to answer for the utilization of the confidence to their representatives or citizens. The author offers that, accountability to the public indicates the public's superiority over interests to the private sector.

The study findings also validate the Stakeholders theory, in that, the that the involvement of citizens as key stakeholders positively and significantly influences budgetary allocation process. management of stakeholder is supposed to be satisfied by the organization's managers. Fontaine, Haarman, and schmid (2006) argue that a popular way of distinguishing the dissimilar types of shareholders is to contemplate collections of people who possess distinctive relations with the institution. The main stakeholder groups are: employees, customers, members of the local community, shareholders distributors and suppliers (Friedman & Miles, 2006).

Accordingly, McShane and Von Glinow (2003) argue that organization ought to employ the appropriate instruments to guarantee stakeholders' satisfaction. When proper ways and instructions to enhance the process of participation, one ought to be creative to develop motivations for stakeholders to keep on taking part. Information exchange with stakeholders is imperative for a good association to be established with the organization.

Similarly, Agbude and Yartey (2012) echoed that each organization should identify their stakeholders' prospects and strive to accomplish the goals. The stakeholders are the "final judge" of organizational performance (Donaldson & Preston, 1995). It also offers a comprehensive way of measuring performance and resolving issue of differentiating between outcomes and antecedents of performance. The stakeholder theory requires firms to work in a nexus with all the stakeholders to ensure equity and utility driven (Fitzgerald & Storbeck, 2003; Carneiro, Silva, Rocha, & Dib, 2007).

The study findings further validate Arnstein's (1969) classic on the ladder of citizen participation theory, in that, the that the involvement of citizens with diverse demographic, economic and behaviour factors as well as with different awareness levels, positively and significantly influences budgetary allocation process. management of stakeholder is supposed to be satisfied by the organization's managers. According to Arnstein's (1969) classic on the ladder of citizen participation, educational pamphlets, attitude surveys, and public hearings do not constitute public participation. The argument behind this assertion is that attitude surveys, education pamphlets, and hearings do not provide direct citizen control over the participation process of budgetary planning, formulation and implementation but also influenced by other environmental factors. According to Andrade and Rhodes (2012), equally contend that measuring high levels of participation in budgetary formulation from a psychological standpoint, does not necessarily translate into actual participation since the reliability of human motivation in public participation must be measured at different levels.

The findings further offer support to the political budget cycles, whereby public participation in budgetary allocation is predominantly carried in line with the 5-year election cycles. Similar observations were made by extant studies (Shi & Svensson, 2006; Brender & Drazen, 2005; Persson & Tabellini, 2002). Furthermore, Alt and Lassen (2014) provided and evidence that political budget cycles have existed in Europe nation. The various studies examining political budget cycles on local election have generated mixed results (Klomp & De Haan, 2013b). Even though Brender (2003) dint find robust result using data for Israel. The underline assumption

on the theoretical framework of political budget cycle is that an incumbent's reelection chances can be increased by expansionary fiscal policy in election years (Brender & Drazen, 2008).

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Introduction

The chapter presents summary of the study as guided by specific objectives of the study, conclusion and recommendations as well as direction for future research as per findings were also presented for Antecedents of Public Participation (citizen awareness, age, education level gender, economic factors and behavioral factors) and Its Effect on Budgetary Allocation in the North Rift Economic Bloc Counties, Kenya.

5.2 Summary of Findings

A total of 386 questioners were issued of which 320 were responded to and returned and represented a return rate of 82.9%. The response rate was deemed satisfactory as recommended by Nyamjom (2013), who postulated that a 75% return rate was deemed illustrative of the study population and outstanding. Most participants of the study were male 175 (54.7%). This was an indication that individuals participating in public budgetary allocation in the NOREB Counties were more males than females who were (145) representing (45.3%). Most participants of the study were aged between 25-30 years and 31-40 years which accounted for 74.7% in both cases of the total respondents. The finding indicates that majority of the respondent 44.1 are between 31 years to 40 years. Hence those who attend public participation fora are the youth, aged between 25 years to 40 years which was represented by 74.7% (239) of the respondents. However, those below 25 years accounted for 15.9 % (51) and those above 40 years accounted for 10% (30) of the participants. Therefore, most participants of the study were of 31-40 years (35%) a clear indication that young people are more likely to participate in public participation and are likely to understand the concept of public participation during budget allocation process by representing their views to the administrative authority.

Further the findings revealed that most of the respondents held diploma certificate (46.84%) of the total participants. Secondary school certificates and college certificates accounted for (25.26%). It was also established from the findings that

(19.47%) of the participants were employed attributing that public participation was done concurrent to working hours, hence those who took part on the process were unemployed (47.4%). Further 12.6% represented those individuals who had retired while 20.53% represented individual who took part in public participation while still pursuing either their diploma or respectfully degree programmes. From the findings 19.47% were employed attributing that public participation was done concurrent to working hours. Further 12.6% represented those individuals who had retired while 20.53% represented individual who took part in public participation while still pursuing either their diploma or respectfully degree programmes. Most participants of the study 41.6% rated the level of public participation in their counties as good, hence allocation of resources, access to information on public participation, availability of enabling legislation on public participation are attributable to the level of public participation on legislative procedure and access of information on public participation.

The study set out to examine whether citizen awareness influences budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. Regression result revealed that citizen awareness had significant effect on budgetary allocation ($\beta = .884$, $p = .000 < .05$), which was consistent with findings of correlation analysis. This indicates that hypothesis H_{01} was rejected. Therefore, it was concluded that citizen awareness had a significant effect on budgetary allocation. The findings are in line with those of Thwala, (2010), Omolo, (2010) and Warburton, 2000 Warburton, (2000) who attributed citizen involvement in budgetary process always result in deviation from what was actually attributed. Participation by members of the public bears a myriad of benefits to communities with regard to capacity building, empowerment, improving efficiency and effectiveness of projects; enhancing ownership and project cost sharing. The results obtained were also consistent with findings of McCommon, (1993) who attributed that in a majority of developing economies, participation and citizen awareness are appreciated in educating people in local administration, cultivating community welfare and extending the control of government through self-initiatives.

The study also sought to assess demographic characteristics influencing budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. More specifically, the study assessed the effect of gender equality, age characteristics and educational characteristics on budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. It was found that educational characteristics ($\beta = .139$, $p = .000 < .05$) have a significant effect on budgetary allocation, while participant age ($\beta = .003$, $p = .943 > .05$) and gender ($\beta = .021$, $p = .773 > .05$) did not significantly influence budgetary allocation. The study thus accepts the null hypotheses that age (H_{02a}) and gender (H_{02b}) does not have a significant effect on budgetary allocation and concluded that both participant age and gender do not have a significant effect on budgetary allocation. The null hypothesis that education level does not have a significant effect on budgetary allocation (H_{02c}) is however rejected, and the study concludes that education level has a significant effect on budgetary allocation.

The findings were consistent with findings of Mwenda (2010) associates education level to the ability of the public to voice out their wish in democratic governance by the people, of the people and assert that deficiency of adequate educational accomplishment curtails the dissemination of information, therefore lessens the excellence participation by the of public. The results however imply that contrary to previous study findings (Ochieng, 2014, Ihemeje, 2018), during public participation, age and gender inclusivity are not required. The findings of this study particularly disagree with Ochieng (2014) that age is important element in enhancing effective budget allocation process. Also, according to John, (2009), the level of education of the members of the public significantly and negatively correlates with the degree of involvement of the members of the public, which is contrary to the results obtained.

The study also assessed whether behavioral factors influence budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. It was found that behavioral factors have a significant effect on budgetary allocation level ($\beta = 1.064$, $p = .000 < .05$). The null hypothesis that behavioral factors does not have a significant effect on budgetary allocation (H_{03}) is therefore rejected and it was concluded that citizen behavioral factors have positive significant effect on budgetary allocation. Participation is considered by Aldashev (2003) as a societal attribute, while Rishi (2003) considers

attitude a vital component in social behavior indicating that to make change of behavior, attitude is important. According to Rishi (2003) people's attitudes towards a given event shapes their personal program or social actions.

The study further determined the effect of economic factors on budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. It was established that economic factors have a significant effect on budgetary allocation ($\beta = .903$, $p = .000 < .05$). The null hypothesis that economic factors does not have a significant effect on budgetary allocation (H_{04}) is therefore rejected and it was concluded that economic factors had a significant effect on budgetary allocation. Therefore, during budgetary allocation all the individuals in the community should be considered in public participation regardless of their economic condition considering that that the wealthy segments of society and those who have high economic condition take a greater role in public participation (Bartels, 2003). However, A person's level of income is in a traditional society regarded as an imperative principle for assessing the person's capacity. In addition, Brady (2003) argues that because civic and political process also constitute a kind of participation similar to economic involvement that occurs in the place of market, it appears that models that are known economic participation may offer information into the linkages between income inequality, income, civic and political participation in policy making decisions by the government.

The study also determined the mediating effect of public participation on the relationship between the antecedents and budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. To this end, the study determined the mediating effect of public participation on the relationship between citizen awareness and budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. The direct effect of citizen awareness on budgetary allocation recorded statistical significance ($\beta = .4770$, $p = .000 < .05$). The mediating variable, public participation also showed statistical significance ($\beta = .4075$), with both the lower limit (.3530) and the upper limit (.4651) not crossing zero (0). The null hypothesis (H_{05a}) stating that public participation does not have a statistically significant mediating effect on the relationship between citizen awareness and budgetary allocation was therefore rejected.

The study also determined the mediating effect of public participation on the relationship between demographic characteristics and budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. The direct effect of demographic characteristics on budgetary allocation recorded statistical significance ($\beta = .3867$, $p = .000 < .05$). The mediating variable, public participation also showed statistical significance ($\beta = .6582$), with both the lower limit (.5689) and the upper limit (.7330) not crossing zero (0). The null hypothesis (H_{05b}) stating that public participation does not have a statistically significant mediating effect on the relationship between demographic characteristics and budgetary allocation was therefore rejected.

The study further determined the mediating effect of public participation on the relationship between citizen behavioral factors and budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. The direct effect of behavioural factors on budgetary allocation recorded statistical significance ($\beta = .8086$, $p = .000 < .05$). The mediating variable, public participation also showed statistical significance ($\beta = .2552$), with both the lower limit (.1957) and the upper limit (.3164) not crossing zero (0). The null hypothesis (H_{05c}) stating that public participation does not have a statistically significant mediating effect on the relationship between behavioural factors and budgetary allocation was therefore rejected.

The study also determined the mediating effect of public participation on the relationship between economic factors and budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. The direct effect of economic factors on budgetary allocation recorded statistical significance ($\beta = .6325$, $p = .000 < .05$). The mediating variable, public participation also showed statistical significance ($\beta = .2706$), with both the lower limit (.2257) and the upper limit (.3171) not crossing zero (0). The null hypothesis (H_{05d}) stating that public participation does not have a statistically significant mediating effect on the relationship between economic factors and budgetary allocation was therefore rejected.

The results obtained were in line with those of Thwala, (2010), who attributed citizen involvement in budgetary process always result in deviation from what was actually attributed. Similarly, Akerkar (2001) observes that it is critical to revise and review existing political, constitutional, regulatory and legislative guidelines, including

systems of electoral involvement, to do away with provisions hindering the equal participation of women in the processes of decision-making with a view to liberate women and guarantee that they fully take part through public participation. The results obtained were also consistent with findings of Pharr & Putnam (2000), and Edwards (2005), who argue in their study that calls for more public participation in government's financial and economic policy making affairs is influenced generally by a more demanding, more articulate and an educated citizenry, a majority of whom express a deteriorating trust level in the country's political institutions and their elected politicians.

Accordingly, Ledingham (2001) argues in their study that members of the public are likely to be involved in public decision-making practices in county government, if they distinguish that the county government is offering members of the public some benefits or acting in the members of the public's best interest. The results obtained were in line to those of Brady (2003) and Nazleen (2004). A person's level of income is in a traditional society regarded as an imperative principle for assessing the person's capacity. Similarly, to assess the extent of participation of individuals is determined by their economic condition/status. The findings of this study agree with Bartels, (2003) and Verba *et al.* (1995) argue that the well to do sections of the society together with the more educated contribute more in their participation in decision-making activities by the government.

5.3 Conclusion

Basing on the findings it is concluded that the citizen awareness positively and significantly influences budgetary allocation, in line with the second objective of the study, which was to examine whether citizen awareness influences budgetary allocation in the North Rift economic bloc counties. The findings imply that citizen awareness was an important factor in enhancing budgetary allocation, hence the need to enhance public awareness through media advertisement such as radio, TVs, posters and short message services and consequently improving citizen awareness on the importance of public participation and generally enhancing budgetary allocation effectiveness. Generally, governance is critical and has significant effects on community to participate into development projects. On the other hand, from

inferential analysis, there is significant link between good governance principles and levels of involvement of members of the public in public development projects despite of few discrepancies emanating from leadership election and implementation of development projects.

It is also concluded from the findings, that for effective budgetary allocation, participant education level should be addressed during public participation. Members of the public included in public participation forums on budgetary allocation ought to particularly be drawn from different educational backgrounds. Education level determines the ability of the public to voice out their wish in democratic governance by the people, of the people and assert that deficiency of adequate educational accomplishment curtails the dissemination of information, therefore lessens the excellence participation by the of public. The awareness of citizens on how to involve the system of governance and the programs of governance is often enhanced by education.

The study also concludes that behavioral factors such as trust and attitude influence budget allocation. The positive association between behavioral factors and budgetary allocation is an indication that such social behavior of the public as attitude of the citizens towards the county government influences the level of individual citizen participation in the county government affairs. In addition, attitudes significantly shape personal activities or social actions. Hence, if they have a positive attitude toward an action or event, there is considerable likelihood that their behavior would be diverted towards the action in significantly expressive way therefore influencing budgetary allocation effectiveness positively. Therefore, we conclude that there was a significant positive association between public attitude and budgetary allocation. The county government should ensure during budgetary allocation individual participating should have a social action that is directed toward the government agenda.

It is further concluded from the findings, that economic factors positively and significantly influence budgetary allocation. As such, during budgetary allocation all the individuals in the community should be considered in public participation

regardless of their economic condition considering that that the wealthy segments of society and those who have high economic condition take a greater role in public participation. A person's level of income is in a traditional society regarded as an imperative principle for assessing the person's capacity. In Because civic and political process also constitute a kind of participation similar to economic involvement that occurs in the place of market, it appears that models that are known economic participation may offer information into the linkages between income inequality, income, civic and political participation in policy making decisions by the government.

Further, the study established that public participation had a substantial moderating influence on the association between the antecedents and budgetary allocation. This indicated that citizens and the community at large need to be sensitized on the importance of taking part in public participation so as to enhance budgetary allocation effectiveness. In addition, participatory budgeting educates people with the knowledge of public affairs. Through public discussion, deliberation, and negotiation on budget issues, participatory budgeting increases the range of citizen participation and enhances the citizens' awareness of the whole budget process. To enhance citizen awareness information required to inform the public on the importance of participation by members of the public ought to be publicized through the social media platforms, the county government professional social forums and websites. However, not everyone is able to access the internet and therefore the county government should devise ways of ensuring the public access information regarding to public participation in the budgetary allocation process. County governments should advertise on daily newspapers, televisions and radio to create public awareness.

5.4 Recommendations of the Study

5.4.1 Managerial and Policy Implication

Results of the study reveal that citizen awareness positively and significantly influences budgetary allocation. As such, it is recommended that the government makes use of more platforms when informing the public on the date, time, venue and topic of discussion and also on the relevance of the topic to the members of the public. This can be done through use of social media and key personalities in the community like local pastors, priests, chiefs and other influential persons in the community. This will ensure that the locals attend these fora and gives that they air their views so that the projects implemented meet their needs

The study findings also show that educational characteristics as a demographic factor influences budgetary allocation. In this regard, it is recommended that to bridge educational gaps between the formally educated and uneducated, there is need for the government to conduct intensive and extensive civic education. This is because education was found to be an important factor in budget allocation of the fact that public participation is their right as enshrined in the constitution of Kenya. Those conducting public participation should also consider using the local language during public participation forums or making use of interpreters in addition to providing materials in a language that the locals understand. This is because we have not yet attained sufficient literacy levels and those that have no education feel left out during such fora.

The study further found that behavioral factors have a significant influence on budgetary allocation. In this regard, the study recommends that county governments embark on earning the public's trust and attitude the towards the budgetary allocation. This can be achieved through transparency in the budgetary allocation criteria, accountability among public finance administrators in case of misappropriation of funds and adequate involvement of the public in crucial developments and formulation of policies affecting the public.

Economic factors were also found to significantly influence budgetary allocation. It is therefore recommended that the county governments consider facilitating those

who attend public participation fora by either refunding their fare or providing them with lunch during the day. This is because most of those available to attend such fora are casual laborers who earn minimum wage and making such sacrifice ought to be rewarded; it is also important that prior to the public participation, the relevant documents are availed to the public so that they know what will be discussed during the forum.

Finally, public participation was found to significantly mediate the association between the antecedents, and budgetary allocation. As such, it is recommended that the views and concerns raised during public participation fora are taken into consideration during project identification, implementation and evaluation. This will ensure that only the priority projects identified by the locals are implemented.

5.4.2 Policy Recommendations

The researcher recommends that policymakers at the county level make efforts to domesticate and ratify the public participation policy. This is because most respondents did not seem to understand the concept of public participation and that it is their constitutional right to take up an active role in project identification, implementation and evaluation. There is need, also, to come up with an implementation policy that will ensure that the priority projects articulated by the public are implemented correctly and in time. Further, it is important that they come up with clear guidelines on how public participation should be conducted so that every person is included so as to ensure effective and efficient budget allocation. Some respondents indicated felt discriminated against by the language used during public participation, while others yet felt that they should be reimbursed. Clear guidelines on these issues will go a long way in demystifying public participation and budget allocation among government agencies.

5.4.3 Further Studies

The present study makes a contribution to the Kenyan body of knowledge, particularly with the linkage of the antecedents of public participation and both their direct and indirect influences on budgetary allocation. The study proposes that this study be replicated in other conflict affected counties and other devolved units of government throughout the country in order to compare the results. Further research

ought also to be conducted on impact of public participation in other processes of governance. A study should be carried out to investigate the impact of public participation on democracy and the economic development. The study also revealed a gap on studies on the other factors that influence the budget implementation process not only in Budget implementation but also in other processes of governance. Research analyzing the effect of budgetary allocation on service delivery of county governments can be pursued so as to determine options in the counties as well as the economy. This study mainly looked at the factors affecting public input in north rift economic block counties. Further exploration ought to therefore be conducted in the other counties outside north rift economic block counties to examine the devolved governance effects. It is also suggested that further studies be carried out on the effect of political dynamics on budgetary allocation among county governments.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: Letter of Introduction

Edwin Cherop,
P.O Box 3995,
Eldoret-30100
0721 256 263

To

Dear Respondent

RE: LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

I am a student at Kabarak University, undertaking a research on the **Antecedents of Public Participation and their Effect on Budgetary Allocation in the North Rift Economic Bloc Counties, Kenya**. This is in partial fulfillment of the academic requirement so as to be awarded a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration (Finance Option). The study is being conducted in your counties purely for academic purposes. Therefore, it is not meant to evaluate your opinion or demean your county governments in any way whatsoever. In addition, your response will be strictly confidential, and will be used to provide insight into the issues under study.

In view of this, I therefore wish to nicely request you to fill the questionnaire attached. Please respond to all the items in the questionnaire, being as truthful as possible.

Thank you.

Yours faithful,

Edwin Cherop

APPENDIX II: Questionnaire for Participants

A. PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

Specify your response below by ticking the boxes.

1. What is your Age bracket?
 - a) Less than 25 years
 - 25–30 years
 - 31–40 years
 - 41–50 years
 - More than 51 years
 - b) What is your Gender?
 - Male
 - Female
 - c) What is your Educational Level?
 - High school
 - Diploma
 - Undergraduate
 - Postgraduate
 - Other (Specify).....
 - d) What is your Employment Status?
 - Formal employment
 - Informal employment
 - Not employed
 - Retired
 - Student

Please Tick (√) the choice that you feel suits your situation from the choices provided by the Likert scale (1-5)

Citizen awareness in respect to public participation in budgetary Allocation process

(Key 1= strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = moderate 4 = agree 5 = strongly agree)	1	2	3	4	5
I listen to the radio more often					
The County government advertises for public participations through radio					
The advertisement on radio in regard to public participation is made on convenient time					
The radio advertisements are always clear and understandable					
I watch TV more often					
The County government advertises for public participations through TV					
The advertisement on TV in regard to public participation is made on convenient time					
The TV advertisement is always clear and understandable, especially the ones in relation to public participation					
I use SMS more often					
The County government informs the public-on-public participation forums using SMS					
The SMS informing on public participation is sent on convenient time					
The SMS is always clear and understandable especially the ones in relation to public participation					
I read print media often e.g Posters, Newspaper, Banners etc					
The county government uses print media to invite individuals on public participation.					
The advertisements on print media are clear and understandable especially the ones in regarding public participation.					
The advertisements are placed on accessible, convenient and visible locations for everyone.					

Please Tick (√) the choice that you feel suits your situation from the choices provided by the Likert scale (1-5)

Demographic Characteristics						
	(Key 1= strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = moderate 4 = agree 5 = strongly agree)	1	2	3	4	5
Gender	I participate in budgetary allocation because of my gender.					
	My gender inclined my decision to take part in forums on public budget formulation					
	Either gender is presented an equal occasion to take part in budgetary allocation					
	My gender enables me to participate better					
Age	I participate in budgetary allocation because of my age.					
	My age influences my ability to effectively participate Budgetary allocation					
	The youth take part more resourcefully during budgetary allocation.					
	Older people take part more resourcefully					
Education level	I participate in Budgetary allocation because of my education levels.					
	My education level influences the degree to which I participate in budgetary allocation.					
	Majority of the Participants are able to read and write					
	People who have lower education level take part more resourcefully					

Please Tick (√) the choice that you feel suits your situation from the choices provided by the Likert scale (1-5)

Behavioral Factors						
(Key 1= strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = moderate 4 = agree 5 = strongly agree)		1	2	3	4	5
Attitude	Generally, I have a positive attitude towards participation in budget formulation.					
	People with positive attitude towards the county government take part more resourcefully.					
	The attitude of women towards the governance process, reduces their involvement in budgetary allocation					
	Demanding citizenry encourages community participation in budgetary allocation					
	Perceived benefits by the citizens on county development initiatives influences public participation					
Trust	I have trust in the budget formulation process					
	People with higher trust on the budget formulation process take part more resourcefully.					
	High public trust levels in public institutions influences participation of the community in budgetary allocation.					
	Acting in the best interest of members of the public encourages community participation in budgetary allocation process					

Please Tick (√) the choice that you feel suits your situation from the choices provided by the Likert scale (1-5)

	Economic Factors					
	Allocation ((Key 1= strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = moderate 4 = agree 5 = strongly agree)	1	2	3	4	5
Employment Levels	Majority of the people participating in budgetary allocation are unemployed					
	Employed people have a less Influence in budgetary allocation					
	The timing for public participation does not allow the employed to participate in budgetary allocation					
	the public official ensures that public resources are managed in transparent manner.					
Wealth level	Most of the Participants are low Income earners					
	Most of the Participants have a constant source of livelihood					
	My income level influences my level of participation in budgetary allocation.					
	The perceived income level influences public participation in budgetary allocation.					
	People of different economic activities participate in budgetary allocation.					
	My economic activities influences my participation in budgetary allocation					

Please Tick (√) the choice that you feel suits your situation from the choices provided by the Likert scale (1-5)

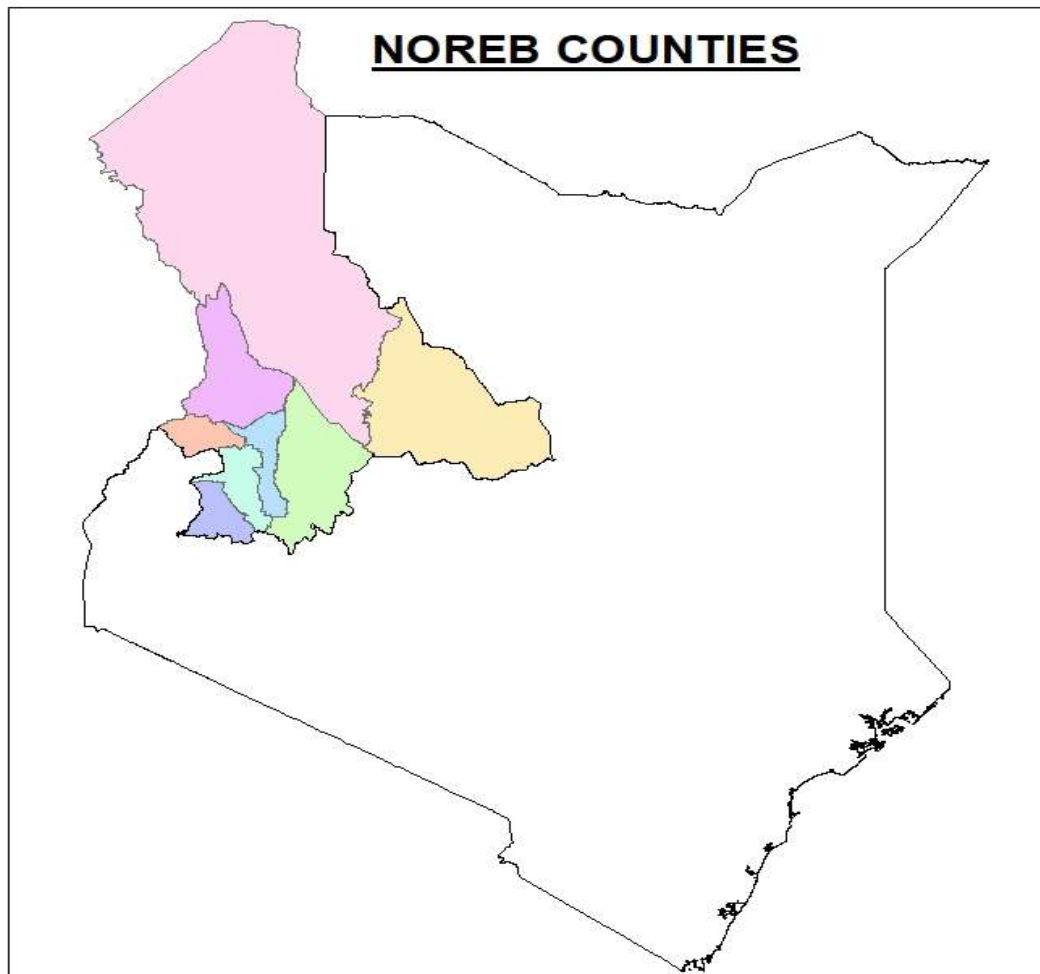
Assessing the level of public participation in budgetary allocation

(Key 1= strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = moderate, 4 = agree, 5= strongly agree.)	1	2	3	4	5
I do understand the concept of public participation in budget allocation process					
The number of participating members of the local community in budgetary allocation has increased					
Projects on development that the county government started are adequately in operation under the supervision of the members of the general public.					
Local community Support projects on development that the county government started has increased					
In the last two years, i have participated in most of the budgetary allocation forums at my ward level					
The mechanisms of engagement by members of the public in budgetary allocations provided for in the constitution					
Provided an occasion, I would take part (again) in budgetary allocation forums					
The amount of grievances raised by members of the local community on policies and/or programs started by the county government has decreased					

Assessing the Budgetary Allocation









(Key 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3= Neutral, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree)	1	2	3	4	5
A number of projects undertaken by the county government were initiated by the members of the public					
The number of grievances from members of the public on county budgetary process has increased					
Projects on development that the county government started have been supported by the Local Citizen					
More positive comments from the citizen to the county government have been received in regards to projects that are ongoing					
Projects proposed and prioritized by participants were allocated during budgeting					

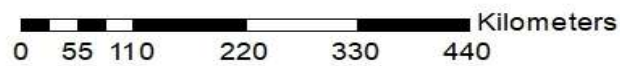
APPENDIX III: Study Area Map



LEGEND

COUNTY

-  Baringo
-  Elgeyo/Marakwet
-  Nandi
-  Samburu
-  Trans Nzoia
-  Turkana
-  Uasin Gishu
-  West Pokot



APPENDIX IV: Study Permit

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT:
MR. EDWIN CHERUIYOT CHEROP
of KABARAK UNIVERSITY, 0-30100
ELDORET, has been permitted to conduct
research in Baringo , Elgeyo-Marakwet
, Nandi , Samburu , Transnzoia ,
Turkana , Uasin-Gishu , Westpokot
Counties
on the topic: ANTECEDENTS OF
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ITS EFFECT
ON BUDGETARY ALLOCATION IN THE
NORTHRIFT ECONOMIC BLOC, KENYA
for the period ending:
23rd July,2020

Permit No : NACOSTI/P/19/81682/31438
Date Of Issue : 24th July,2019
Fee Received :Ksh 2000



.....
Applicant's
Signature


Director General
National Commission for Science,
Technology & Innovation

APPENDIX V: Certificate of Conference Participation

