

**DETERMINANTS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM-BASED  
BUDGETING IN MURANGA COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

**BY**

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**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMMERCE (FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING)**

**KCA UNIVERSITY**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMMERCE  
(FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING) TO THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AT KCA  
UNIVERSITY**

**November 2024**

**DECLARATION**

I declare that this Dissertation is my original work and has not been previously published or submitted elsewhere for award of a degree. I also declare that this contains no material written or published by other people except where due reference is made and author duly acknowledged.

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I do hereby confirm that I have examined the master’s dissertation of

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And have certified that all revisions that the dissertation panel and examiners recommended have been adequately addressed

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## ABSTRACT

Public participation in budgeting processes is a democratic policy-making process which has attracted substantial attention from scholars and public management practitioners. The purpose of the study was to explore the determinants of public participation in the program-based budgeting in county governments. Muranga County is one of the counties which have severally been cited by the Auditor General due to failure to meet transparency and accountability parameters in program-budgeting processes. The study general objective was to examine the determinants public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County Government. The specific objectives of the study were to: To establish how the stakeholders' engagement strategies affect public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County Governments, to assess the influence of public participation framework, examine the influence of communities' demographic characteristics, and explore suggestions for enhancing public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County Governments. The study adopted a descriptive study design and was guided by the New Public Management Theory, Resource-Based Theory and the Agency Theory. The target population were all the 587,126 adult residents of Muranga County. The researcher used Quota sampling with a sample size of 395 and Purposive sampling techniques. Data was gathered using a semi-structured questionnaire and processed with SPSS Version 25. 300 questionnaires were filled and returned, representing 75.9% response rate. All the three variables showed slight correlation with public participation in program-based budgeting but only accounted for 7.5%. The county scored poorly on all the areas focused, yet stakeholders' engagement strategies showed better score (Mean=3.429, SD= 0.5634). The study's regression model indicated Demographic Characteristics had the highest effect ( $\beta= 0.008$ ,  $t= 0.153$ ) but was not significant at  $p < 0.05$ . followed by Public Participation Framework ( $\beta= -0.035$ ,  $t= -0.491$ ,  $p < 0.623$ ) and Stakeholders' engagement ( $\beta= -0.094$ ,  $t= -1.07$ ,  $p < 1.09$ ). The three variables not statistically significance implying that there was no enough evidence to rule out that the relationship was likely by chance. Although the County Government of Muranga has various strategies to engage the residents on its respective program budgeting processes, there is need to improve on accountability and reporting as well as enhancing the public participation framework. The study recommends that the County Government of Muranga should improve its public participation framework to address the concerns raised. The county also needs to leverage on technology by digitizing its public participation protocols as suggested by experts.

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## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

CBO	Community-Based Organizations
CBTS	County Budget Transparency Survey
CECM	County Executive Committee Member
CGM	County Government of Muranga
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CIC	Commission on the Implementation of the Constitution
CoB	Controller of Budget
CoG	Council of County Governors
CoK	Constitution of Kenya
CRA	Commission on Revenue Allocation
IBEC	Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Forum
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IGRTC	Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee
KCBTS	Kenya County Budget Transparency
KII	Key Informant Interview
KSG	Kenya school of Government
LASDAP	Local Authority Service Delivery Action Plan
OECD	Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development
MCA	Member of County Assembly
NPM	New Public Management
PFM	Public Finance Management
PFMA	Public Financial Management Act
PP	Public Participation
PBB	Performance-Based Budgeting
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
TI	Transparency International
USA	United States of America

## **OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF TERMS**

<b>Demographic Characteristics:</b>	Variables used to define the population in a county or country include age, gender, economic level, marital status, ethnic origin, and education level (Kuser Olsen et al., 2018).
<b>Governance Structures:</b>	Structures put up by the county government to control induction, process and application of deliberations from public participation forums (World Bank, 2010).
<b>Public Participation:</b>	A decision-making process in which residents engage in deliberation, dialogue, mutual learning, collaborative planning, and public management with the county government (WB, 2015). In the context of this study, it refers to a two-way communication and collaborative process that involves exchanging viewpoints on developmental priorities, needs, and service delivery goals during the budgeting process.
<b>Program-based Budgeting:</b>	The technique of generating budgets based on the link between program funding levels and predicted program outcomes (Wu, & Tzeng, 2014).
<b>Public Participation:</b>	The process through which the county government consults with affected or interested individuals regarding planning and allocation of resources to programs (Lorsuwannarat, 2017).
<b>Stakeholders:</b>	An individual or party who is aware of, has the authority to influence, or is somehow affected by a proposed budget for the delivery of public services in the county (Trócaire Kenya, 2019).

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter includes the study's history, problem statement, purpose, objectives, research questions, significance, scope, assumptions, constraints, and limits, as well as its conceptual framework.

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Public participation in budgeting also referred to as participatory budgeting facilitates the local and national arms of government to invite the citizens to have their views and influence in budgetary allocations (World Bank, 2010). According to Koplowitz (2022), the budget serves as the foundation of financial planning by monitoring, controlling, and directing the national economy toward planned development while also assuring efficient and effective resource utilization. It can be used to plan, coordinate, monitor, and manage resource movements, as well as make decisions, evaluate performance, and communicate effectively. The effectiveness and efficiency with which the budget is designed and executed determines the success of any organization (Ateh, Prasojo & Huseini, 2019).

However, public organizations frequently struggle with the budgeting process since they are required to offer accurate estimates for the execution of certain programs and development efforts based on economic considerations (Alekseeva & Astakhova, 2017). According to Kiilu and Ngugi (2014), effective budget implementation contributes to the comprehensiveness of budget operations by enhancing the link between annual allocations and medium-term policy objectives. Government agencies seeking to involve the public in budgeting have various options including public surveys, public outreach and education,

budget advisory committees, forums for public deliberation and budget workshops (Blair, 2015).

Program-based budgeting (PBB) is a strategic strategy used by Kenyan county governments to distribute financial resources to specified projects with defined results (Musungu et al., 2023). It encourages openness, accountability, and efficiency by tying budgetary allocations to performance measures and measurable goals. PBB necessitates extensive stakeholder participation, particularly citizen involvement, to ensure that programs match local priorities and needs. This strategy is consistent with Kenya's Public Finance Management Act (2012), which requires counties to use outcome-based financial planning. However, despite its potential, operational obstacles such as limited public engagement, insufficient capacity, and political interference prevent the full realization of PBB's benefits in county government (Wesonga Awire & Nyakwara, 2019).

The budget cycle is typically a one-year process divided into four primary stages: formulation, approval, execution, and oversight (Riabchuk et al., 2022). The cycle consists of a series of decisions made within the institutional and organizational frameworks of the public sector; that is, decisions are made when the budget proposal is produced, approved, then executed and controlled. This perspective on the PFM system aids in understanding one of the most significant difficulties confronting the PB mechanism: access to all phases of budget dynamics (Cunh, 2019).

In general, budget involvement procedures are constructed from the top down by governments, with little room for collaborative rule development (Van Buuren, Van Meerkerk, & Tortajada, 2019). The scope of public participation has changed dramatically, shifting from

traditional public hearings to cost-effective electronic platforms (e-participation models) such as social media (Peter, 2021).

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, 2020) recommends five different types of public interaction that an agency can adopt based on the likelihood of public influence on a decision. These include: 1) informing the public by providing information to help them understand the issues, options, and solutions; 2) consulting with the public to obtain their feedback on alternatives or decisions; 3) involving the public to ensure their concerns are considered throughout the decision process, particularly in the development of decision criteria and options; and 4) collaborating with the public to develop decision criteria and alternatives and identify.

According to the Transparency International Report (2021), Participatory Budgeting can promote democratic legitimacy and act as an important vertical accountability mechanism by engaging the public in the budget process. Since its inception in 1989 in Porto Alegre, Brazil, Participatory Budgeting has grown rapidly. Various countries around the world have implemented public participation frameworks due to the importance of the process in fostering democracy. A global survey by International Budget Partnership (IBP) ranked the Republic of South Korea as the top nation in engaging the public in budget formulation process. Public participation in Nepal started in 1990 after a popular movement that enabled a transition from a governance system heavily controlled by monarchy to a more democratic system (Pandeya, 2015). Public engagement has been included into the laws of democratic societies such as the United States, including the right to petition, which was added to the first amendment of the US constitution in 1791.

A survey of municipalities and counties in US with over 50,000 citizens revealed that in late 1990s and early 2000s, 46.2% of the respondents from those cities and municipalities indicated that their cities involved citizens in their budget formulation processes (Yang & Callahan, 2015).

Many African countries have made participatory budgeting a legal or policy requirement to increase civic participation in governmental financial management (Muthamia, 2021). This procedure allows residents to influence how public monies are allocated, which fosters confidence between governments and communities (Kipyego, 2017). However, it is frequently hampered by systemic issues such as low civic awareness, bureaucratic inefficiencies, political intervention, and insufficient capability at the local government level. Furthermore, public participation is often symbolic rather than substantial, with little impact on budget outcomes. To address this, African countries must engage in civic education, institutional capacity, and frameworks for genuine citizen participation in the budgetary process.

In Kenya, public participation in the budgeting process among county governments is critical for encouraging openness, accountability, and inclusivity in budgetary *decisions* (Kimani, 2020). It is mandated by the Kenyan Constitution (2010) and the Public Finance Management Act (2012), and it allows individuals to contribute to the creation of county budgets, ensuring that resource allocation matches with local goals. Citizens can influence policy decisions by attending forums, public hearings, and consultations. However, obstacles such as insufficient civic education, restricted accessibility, and tokenistic engagement frequently impair the effectiveness of these participatory processes, demanding reforms to increase public participation in budget planning and execution (Kakai, & Mokono, 2022).

### **1.1.2 Public Participation in Program based Budgeting**

Participatory budgeting has emerged as a prominent example of the contemporary relevance of participatory democracy (Barber, 2013). The idea originated in Brazil in the 1980s, when the country was transitioning from dictatorship to democracy and had one of the world's greatest income gaps. For some years, PB has been successfully implemented in South Korea's municipal government (Panday & Chowdhury, 2021; Lee & Min, 2023). Participatory budgeting enables towns to redirect funds away from long-term development investments and toward more immediate and visible spending. The strategy results in the reallocation of local public spending by enhancing information flows between legislators and service users.

Bottom-Up Budgeting (BuB) or Grassroots Participatory Budgeting (GPB) was adopted in the Philippines in 2012 for the drafting of the 2013 budget. It is a bottom-up system that strives to provide essential social services to the needy and act as a roadmap for poverty reduction projects by encouraging public participation in budget preparation and empowering citizens (Mendoza, 2022).

Participatory Budgeting has been implemented in around 350 municipalities across Brazil (Ardigó 2019). According to de Soysa (2022), the municipality of Belo Horizonte constructed mobile 'Digital Inclusion Centres' throughout the region to ensure that all residents could use the electronic voting system and that digital literacy did not limit participation. Municipal administrations' fiscal sustainability and administrative efficiency have increased greatly (Jung, 2021). Municipal administrations frequently hold tremendous influence over participation processes in municipalities with weak associations, to the disadvantage of residents.

Several studies suggest that successful PB relies on the active participation of civil-society organizations such as neighborhood associations, social movements, and even trade unions (Ryan, 2021). Such organizations mobilize participants locally, contribute to informed budget deliberations, coordinate the actions of multiple community associations involved in the process, negotiate between competing interests, communicate local demands and needs to higher levels, and, most importantly, press government institutions to share their power if they are hesitant (Legard & Goldfrank, 2020).

One main critique of participatory democracy is that it takes too long to include all members of a large polity in decision-making processes (Legard, 2020). When participatory forums operate within a complex web of institutional arrangements, the possibility of "venue shopping" arises. This refers to the fact that not only interest groups such as neighborhood associations and trade unions, but also professional organizations, public institutions, and government agencies are strategic actors looking for venues that offer the best chances of achieving their policy goals (Arney, 2017; Wright, 2019, p. 44).

According to Hongo (2013), public involvement allows citizens to participate in a variety of methods and at several levels, including consultation meetings, consensus meetings, project committees, and monitoring and implementation. Although South Africa's participatory budgeting process is more advanced due to a well-developed legal framework, it nevertheless faces issues where racial prejudice in engaging citizens in decision-making persists, as evidenced by discrimination (Kituyi & Moi, 2021). Local government officials in Tanzania, according to Simon (2014), preclude direct citizen participation in the budgeting process for local government in Tanzania.

Kenya Development Vision 2030 all emphasize public participation, although it has remained very low at all levels (Kandie, 2020). Public engagement in the budget process is hampered by the restricted print run and English-only availability of the guidance materials. The overall duty for promoting and documenting public participation in county government at all levels of devolution (sub-county, ward, village, urban, and city areas) rests with the Governor of the County Government and is carried out through the various departments and agencies of the county (Ronoh et al, 2018).

### **1.1.3 Determinants of Participation in Program-Based Budgeting**

Most democratic countries encourage citizens to participate in government processes (De Azevedo et al., 2022). Public participation is a significant tool for informing and educating citizens, which increases accountability (de Azevedoa et al., 2022). However, before the public may engage in the fiscal review process, a number of obstacles must be solved. Major barriers to public participation include a lack of public awareness of their right to participate, a lack of access to government information that would allow the public to participate, a refusal on the part of government officials to involve the public and be accountable, and a lack of time and financial resources (Najimi, 2018).

Stakeholders, including funders and civil society organizations (CSOs), become dissatisfied with superiors and budgets when they are not included in the budgeting process and do not have the power to influence final budgets (Purvis, Zagenczyk, & McCray, 2015). Additionally, donors can support the development of innovative approaches to assist the underprivileged by highlighting inclusivity throughout the budget cycle (Wamugu & Ogollah, 2017).

According to Marzuki (2015), factors in the planning process may dissuade the public from participating. These could include failing to incorporate the public early in the planning process and having difficulty understanding technical reports and budget procedures. Participatory communication as a tactic was absent in South Africa's budget outreach program, and citizen participation was low due to a lack of understanding of the budget and budget processes (Malehlohonolo, 2021).

In Tanzania, Simon (2014) identified constraints resulting from obstacles that impede citizens' engagement in the budgetary process at the village level, such as a lack of resources to encourage attendance and a cap on the number of members on the PP committees. Malipula (2022), on the other hand, asserted that, in addition to environmental concerns, another important impediment to participation in Tanzanian budgeting planning is regional inequities, as evidenced by a low human development index. Locals in Kibaha Town Council are unaware of their Council's planning and budgeting processes, as well as their ability to participate informally in them.

Gender, literacy level, occupation, and age have all been highlighted as key factors influencing budgeting process participation (Mutwiri, 2016). Higher-income residents and citizens who have previously participated in any sort of participatory process, for example, are more likely to participate in the future than other citizens because they effectively represent the "active community" (Hayrapetyan, 2019).

Bottom-up planning including the public was ad hoc in some Kenyan counties, while actual planning was done by county management teams in others, resulting in little or no public participation (IBP, 2021). County governments implement budgets following the approval of each county's supplementary budget (Magani, 2018). Kenyan counties seek to pay their

budgets by a fair share of national resources, conditional and unconditional grants, and local revenue creation. When it comes to execution, each county transferred authority to economic sectors (ministries) to provide services that meet the needs of its residents. These economic sectors vary from county to county and are defined by legislation based on public needs that county governments are expected to address.

Following the adoption of each county's supplementary budget, county governments implement budgets (Magani, 2018). Kenyan counties expect to obtain budget assistance funding from a fair share of national resources, conditional and unconditional grants, and local revenue production. In terms of implementation, each county has entrusted to economic sectors (ministries) the obligation of delivering services that meet citizens' needs.

The economic sectors differ per county and are defined by statute based on the public needs that county governments are supposed to meet. This makes it difficult for the public to participate in the budgeting process and hold the government accountable for its spending of public funds (Open Budget Index, 2016). Mutwiri (2016) discovered that economic and behavioural factors influence the extent of public participation in county-wide integrated development planning processes.

Trócaire Kenya (2019) identifies additional challenges to public participation in budgeting as follows: 1) Stakeholders are not made aware of it; 2) Political interference and manipulation of the process; 3) Lack of coherent framework for participation; 4) Communication barriers (including linguistic difficulties, inadequate channels, and so on); and 5) Poor mobilization for public participation processes. Even though budget hearings were the most well-known means for citizen input, respondents were dissatisfied with the poor

preparation, mobilization, and hasty facilitation, implying that the objective was for them to rubberstamp predetermined outcomes.

According to de Soysa (2022) successful public participation in budgeting requires that the local government adopt regulations that allow individuals to obtain accurate and timely information for decision making. According to Rono et al. (2018), the implementation of public participation faces a number of challenges, including a negative attitude towards it, a lack of public willingness to participate, a lack of political goodwill, a lack of capacity to participate, political interference influences the extent and quality of participation, a demand for incentives, and citizens' lack of time. While the governor's performance has a positive and significant impact on public participation, the citizenry's inability to influence County decision-making, the lack of responsive Members of County Assembly (MCAs), the difficulty in accessing information on County budgets, legislation, and projects, and corruption in the Governor's office have a negative impact (Mbithi, Ndambuki, and Juma, 2019).

Despite improvements, county budget transparency and public involvement information remained restricted and below the halfway point. According to the Kenya County Budget Transparency Survey (IBP, 2022), Nyandarua, Tharaka Nithi, and Vihiga counties included at least one budget implementation report in the CBTS report but did not publish the approved Programme-Based Budgets, which would have allowed oversight bodies and the public to successfully carry out budget execution. Other counties with low scores were Kakamega, Kirinyaga, Kisii, Taita Taveta, Kisumu, Samburu, Embu, Homa Bay, Isiolo, Kajiado, and Kilifi. Migori, Muranga, Narok, Trans-Nzoia, and Wajir.,

#### **1.1.4 Participation in Program-Based Budgeting in Murang'a County Government**

Murang'a County is one of the 47 devolved units in Kenya. It contains seven sub-counties and an expected population of 1,053,059 (Kariuki ET AL., 2020). The Development budget's share of overall expenditure has stayed above 30% and is likely to remain so in the medium term. The total budget for fiscal year 2021/2022 is KShs 10,656,671,245. The recurrent budget is KShs. 7,245,822,094, with development spending accounting for 32% of total county expenditure.

Despite devolution of government, bad governance persists, as indicated by stalled projects, poor fund management, corruption, bureaucracy, ineptitude, pilferages, and inflated costs, all of which have impeded public service delivery in the counties (IBP, 2022). Some of the obstacles Murang'a County faces in participating in program-based budgeting include insufficient money, low involvement in the budget process, and budget queries from the Office of the Auditor General (Office of the Auditor General, 2020). The International Budget Partnership (IBP) reviewed Murang'a County's budget monitoring components and found shortcomings in internal controls such as auditing, stakeholder oversight, and low levels of community stakeholder participation (IBP, 2022). and conformity with regulatory frameworks (IBP, 2022).

According to (IBP, 2022), Nyandarua, Muranga, Tharaka Nithi, and Vihiga had faced issues meeting the stated limits of the Programme-Based Budgeting which would have allowed oversight bodies and the public to properly follow through on budget execution. The Auditor-General's report of June 30, 2020, identifies major faults in the county's financial records, including incidents of poorly implemented projects. Budget evaluation processes were unsuccessful because county financial data were not timely, and oversight was lacking. According to Njoroge and Moi (2020), the county faces a number of financial issues, including

unreliability, delays, and insufficient money, as well as a lack of adequate equipment. Several operational issues arose, including a lack of stakeholder involvement in day-to-day operations and decision-making.

## **1.2 Research Problem**

Public participation is a key component of democratic governance that improves accountability (Rono et al., 2018; Kipyego and Wanjare 2017). Participation in the budgeting process allows citizens to provide feedback on public policy decisions, guaranteeing proper and efficient resource allocation for priority projects (Kimani, 2020). The effectiveness of public involvement forums influences the budgeting process (Kipyego and Wanjare, 2017). Citizens participate at all stages of the budget-making cycle, from planning to execution (Mwaura, Rotich, & Majany, 2018). Participation can improve decision-making by bringing information about public needs to officials' notice as they prioritize spending (Finch, 2015). Public engagement in the budgeting process can be effective provided participants have the ability to engage with authorities (Kipyego and Wanjare 2017). According to Manyala (2021), service delivery, political interactions, and public engagement exist throughout Kenya's counties.

Participation in Kenya's budget-making process confronts a number of obstacles, including low public awareness, insufficient access to budget information, and a lack of competence to engage in meaningful dialogue (Kirika, 2017; Musungu et al., 2023). Socioeconomic gaps prevent excluded groups from contributing effectively, while the technical complexities of budgeting systems sometimes repel non-experts (IBP, 2023). Additionally, political interference and low levels of transparency exacerbate mistrust between citizens and government institutions. Despite constitutional mandates promoting participation,

logistical issues, such as poor coordination and ineffective feedback mechanisms, further restrict genuine public involvement (Ogoti et al., 2024).

These challenges undermine the accountability and inclusivity that are central to democratic governance (Manyala, 2021; Kituyi & Moi, 2021). Various studies have also noted a dearth of skills and capacity of counties to effectively conduct public participation during the budgetary cycles (Mwaura, Rotich & Majany, 2018). For instance, according to the Kenya's County Budget Transparency Survey 2022 report, the Kenyan county governments have been posting low scores in program-based budgeting surveys (IBP, 2023). There has also been a demonstrated lack of skills and capacity of counties to effectively conduct public participation during the budgetary cycles (IBP, 2023; Kituyi & Moi, 2021; Wangui Kimani et al., 2021; Kandie, 2020). Despite a robust legislative framework in Kenya, participatory budgeting faces challenges characterized by low participation rates, poor accountability and lack of accountability (IBP, 2023; Manyala, 2021; TI, 2021; Nkirrimpa & Muna, 2023; Kituyi & Moi, 2021) citizens generally lack knowledge about the county budgeting process although a sizeable number attended county budget forums (Ndiao, 2022; Nyaga, 2022).

Stakeholder engagement strategies, public participation frameworks, and community demographic features all have a substantial impact on county-level participation in program-based budgeting (Mutwiri, 2016). Effective engagement techniques increase inclusivity and transparency, which fosters trust and collaboration between governments and citizens. Well-structured public participation frameworks make processes more accessible, coordinated, and equal (Kithinji, 2017). However, demographic criteria such as education level, wealth inequality, and geographic location all have an impact on people's ability to engage meaningfully (IBP, 2022; Ndiao, 2022). Marginalized groups have been excluded due to

limited access to information or insufficient representation, resulting in skewed resource allocation and compromising the equality aims of program-based budgeting (Mbithi et al., 2019).

Muranga County is among the counties cited for poor score in transparency and accountability in program-budgeting processes alongside (IBP, 2022; Trócaire Kenya, 2019; Nkirrimpa & Muna, 2023). It is critical to enhance the capacity of county governments to improve stakeholders' involvement in program-based budgeting (Trócaire Kenya, 2019). By identifying the challenges impeding public participation in program-based budgeting, the current study will highlight the best-practices and strategies for effective public participation. The current study fills the gaps identified in relation to public participation, specifically in program-based budgeting among the Kenya's 47 county governments (IBP, 2022; Mbithi et al., 2019; Kandie, 2020; Rono, 2018). The capacity of counties to conduct public participation and the public ability to participate would help bring out the challenges and opportunities in enhancing participatory budgeting outcomes.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

#### **1.3.1 General Objectives of the Study**

The study general objective was to examine the determinants public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County Government.

#### **1.3.2 Specific Objectives**

The study sought to achieve the following objectives:

- 1) To establish how the stakeholders' engagement strategies affects public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County Governments.

- 2) To assess the influence of public participation framework on public participation on program-based budgeting in Muranga County Governments.
- 3) To examine the influence of communities' demographic characteristics on public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County Governments.
- 4) To explore suggestions for enhancing public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County Governments.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

This study attempted to answer the following questions:

- 1) How do stakeholders' engagement strategies contribute to public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County Governments?
- 2) How does public participation framework affect influence public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County Governments?
- 3) How do communities' demographic characteristics of budget stakeholders affect in Muranga County Governments?
- 4) What are suggestions for enhancing public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County Governments?

#### **1.5 Justification of the study**

The authors of Kenya's 2010 constitution introduced devolution to guide or restore power to local communities. With devolution, communities gained the ability to check and balance the division of powers. As a result, the new constitution empowers citizens/the public to handle their own affairs. It is therefore vital to mention that public participation in various government-based activities, such as budgeting, is one manner by which residents can control

their local affairs. As a result, it is critical to perform a study to evaluate the many issues connected with public engagement in program-based budgeting.

Kenya's county governments have been in place for more than ten years. This signifies that the locals have been involved in the management of their local issues for the full ten-year period. However, because Kenyans are unfamiliar with decentralized forms of governance, this entire period might be regarded as one of transition, appraisal, and adoption. Furthermore, an examination of the last ten years reveals that public participation in the country and among the numerous county governments remains low and poorly organized. Furthermore, based on a ten-year study, it is clear that public participation remains low and little advertised. Thus, this study will form a powerful basis in understanding what makes public participation across the various counties in Kenya inefficient.

### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

This study could help governments and the general public, particularly scholars, identify areas that require increased funding, attention, and effort. It would provide exact information on areas for improvement to various governments, guiding their operations. The findings emphasise the importance of community knowledge, demographics, behavioural characteristics, and economic concerns in promoting public engagement in the County Integrated Development Planning Process. This study would contribute to the current body of knowledge on public engagement in the county's integrated development planning process and lay the groundwork for future research. As a result, government resources (input) will ensure successful public participation in the county's development planning process.

### **1.6.1 Researchers and Scholars**

The study's findings are predicted to be very useful to scholars and researchers working on the theme of public participation in budgeting and its linkages to service delivery in Kenya's devolved system of governance. The findings are likely to support and enhance theories and models on participatory budgeting, public engagement, and accountability.

### **1.5.2 Members of the Public**

The findings of the study will be of great value to the general public as it points out gaps and challenges in budgeting public participation in Kenya. The findings may aid future devolution discourses as well as benefit the public by demonstrating their role in pressing for accountability from leaders. In addition, the public will derive significant benefits out of this research as they will understand the challenges that might hinder them in their quest for public participation and hence find ways to overcome them.

### **1.6.3 County and National Governments**

The performance of counties across the country is critical in developing and maintaining public confidence. From the research recommendations, the various county governments will get an insight on what need to be done to overcome the challenges that may be prevailing in their counties regarding public participation. This means that the findings of the study will be generalized to reflect what other counties needs to do to overcome the existing challenges.

The research also provides a depository for successful and efficient public participation in program-based budgeting in local governments, including county governments. Furthermore, the findings of this study are likely to help to enhanced service delivery, transparency, and accountability in counties, among other things, given the expectation of strong county economies. The national government may use the findings to develop strategic initiatives to improve devolution and service delivery to citizens.

### **1.7 Scope of the Study**

This study explored of the factors associated with public participation in program-based budgeting. Therefore, the research involved collecting and analyzing data on various participants in select counties to identify the challenges that hinders them from effectively engaging in public participation. Furthermore, the study examined the barriers to involvement in budget draughting processes. The study's contextual scope was limited to the 47 counties created by Kenya's constitution, with a focus on Murang'a County Government.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the review of literature which contains the theoretical review, empirical review, conceptual framework and the operationalization of variables. In the theoretical review, the chapter presents the allocative efficiency theory and new public management theory which are the theories that underpins the study.

#### **2.2 Theoretical Review**

This section provides a review of the three theories that will underpin the study. These include the New Public Management Theory, Resource-Based Theory and the Agency Theory.

##### **2.2.1 New Public Management Theory**

The study will use the New Public Management Theory, which is used to manage a variety of government services and organizations. The notion can be applied to operations at both the municipal and national levels of government. Academics in the United Kingdom and Australia first proposed the concept in the 1980s. The New Public Management Theory (NPM) as propounded by Christopher Hood, defines citizens as customers, and public officials in these government bodies as public managers. Thus, the fundamental purpose of this strategy is to improve the working relationships between public service administrators and citizens. Recognize that the success of interactions/relationships between public service management and citizens is contingent on a functioning democracy.

Farjad et al. (2015) investigated the impact of New Public Management theory and citizen public participation on various public initiatives. Farjad et al. (2015) distributed a questionnaire to 300 respondents in this study. According to the research findings, the New Public Management paradigm has a good impact on public participation.

The NPM theory in public participation allows members of the public to express their opinions. Thus, the availability and application of NPM theory in public participations allows citizens to participate in topics relating to diverse public policies. As a result, the government must offer residents with information that allows them to make educated judgments about planning and resource allocation. As a result, public authorities must be open, establish credible and well-structured systems for public involvement, and ensure that public input is included into final budgets. participation that can improve public service. Furthermore, Osborne (2006) stated that the people should be educated on planning and budgeting, as well as have a basic education to understand the rigors of planning and budgeting. This idea was used in this study to explain how efficient governance of public participation structures might promote public engagement and thereby public service.

The New Public Management (NPM) paradigm focusses on efficiency, accountability, and the importance of citizen participation in public service delivery. In the context of public engagement in program-based budgeting within selected Kenyan county governments, NPM posits that, for decentralized decision-making and the use of performance indicators to increase transparency. However, ineffective stakeholder engagement channels, restricted access to information, and bureaucratic opposition impede effective participation. By aligning with NPM principles, the study emphasizes the need of county governments implementing techniques that encourage active citizen participation and guarantee that budgeting processes are responsive to community needs, improving accountability and service delivery. NPM is a crucial theoretical foundation in this study as it provides a benchmark for assessing the effectiveness of county leadership in budget policy development and the management of the programs so established.

However, some scholars have critiqued the TQM arguments which need to be addressed (Luthra et al., 2022). Despite the fact that organizations have observed actual gains from applying TQM, the method has several drawbacks (Cousins, 2002). TQM, according to Balamurugan (2021), facilitates a new organizational approach centered on process optimization and continual customer satisfaction. TQM is both expensive and time consuming to execute because it necessitates trained, knowledgeable, and capable workers. Furthermore, cutting-edge machinery, infrastructural modifications, and an up-to-date database would be required. All of these criteria are not free. TQM necessitates a business's long-term intellectual and financial resources. TQM is also a continuous improvement system. If an organization becomes lax at any point during the implementation process, the entire effort may be wasted. Workers may resort to their previous practices as a result, which would be a disadvantage (Luthra et al., 2022).

### **2.2.1 Resource-Based Theory**

The study will also apply the Resource-Based Theory (RBT), which explains how county resources might be used to achieve excellence in the budgetary process (Ujwary-Gil & Potoczek, 2019). The theory was first postulated by Jay B. Barney and has been applied to strategic management and project management to hypothesize how resources may be used to provide a company with a competitive advantage over competitors. Maintaining a competitive advantage requires long-term advantages through difficult-to-copy qualities (Mateev & Nightingale, 2020).

The precursor of RBT was the 'Theory of the Firm' until the 1980s, when Jay Barney offered a new paradigm in strategic management and strategic planning with his new model on "Firm Resources and Sustained Competitive Advantage" (Alvarez & Barney, 2017).

According to the concept, strategic resources give a company a considerable advantage in generating competitive advantages over competitors. This could thus help the concerned firm achieve larger profits (Barney, J. B. 1991). Penrose (2009) proposed the theory first, with the proposal of a model on efficient management, diversification strategy, and productive opportunities model of resources in companies. The resource-based approach is primarily internal, stating that each organization has unique resource features that can be capitalized on in order to better understand strategy options and performance (Henry, 2021). This indicates that management prioritizes above-average returns on distinctive assets and competencies over market share or national dominance. RBT currently contends that a company's inventory and deployment of physical and intangible assets determines whether or not it has a sustainable competitive advantage (SCA). Resource-based management entails a) identifying the firm's resources; b) determining whether they are highly valuable, rare, unique, and non-substitutable; and c) defending wealth and strengthening weak ones (Robertson & Caldart, 2009).

Talent, proprietary processes, R&D, knowledge bases, structure, raw materials, brands, financial and other assets, information, value and supply networks, and the company itself are all owned and deployed by every organization (Barney, 1991). It is critical to determine which of these should be used to create a competitive advantage. It should also be one-of-a-kind, impossible to recreate, and not pre-emptible by others without significant effort and expenditure. Because it is so specialized, it is economically scarce. This implies that the recognized, various beneficial resources cannot be completely replicated or swapped without significant effort (Hoopes et al., 2003).

As a result, human resources may be an important basis for effective individual coaching and leadership (Christos, 2022). The theory also suggests constructive coaching based on four questions about the individual worker's resources: a) What are his most valuable possessions? b) How restricted are the resources of his reference peer group? c) Are these reference groups having difficulty getting this key resource? d) Does the employee make the best use of his resources and derive the most economic value from them? Resource-based analysis and discussion benefit both the individual and the organization when employed on a regular basis (Ujwary-Gil & Potoczek, 2019).

In the context of this study, Kenya consists of 47 counties that, although all officially recognized as county governments, have varied resources at their disposal, act differently to meet distinct needs of the Kenyan people, and perform differently. Any business that wishes to attain remarkable performance must be able to build and use an effective combination of the aforementioned resources. In the context of budget execution by Kenyan city counties, this helps stakeholders in policy, budget staff, county leadership, economic planners, project implementers, and other areas to comprehend how existing resources may be used to improve organizational performance.

The theory asserts that an organization's distinct resources and skills drive its competitive edge and overall performance. RBT examines the impact of intrinsic resources—such as human capital, institutional frameworks, and community engagement mechanisms—on effective stakeholder involvement in the context of public participation in program-based budgeting within selected Kenyan county administrations (Hyden, 2021, p. 22). Inadequate resource allocation, poor skills building, and a lack of transparency can all impede the most effective use of these resources, hurting participatory budgeting procedures and governance

outcomes. Thus, RBT provides a foundational perspective for analyzing and addressing the impediments to effective public participation in budgeting programs. In the present study, RBT was useful in examining the influence of resource scarcity and mobilization, which is an important aspect in budget-making process.

The resource-based theory has nevertheless been criticized by some experts. Two things are at the center of the critiques: first, definitions are supposed to be comprehensive; second, there is disagreement on the definition of the unit of analysis (Truijens, 2003). Language like "capabilities," "assets," "resources," and "competences" is used inconsistently, according to Truijens (2003). He draws this distinction not from empirical generalization but from formal logic. Instead than depending on pre-existing asset categories based on random selection, he believes it is preferable to explore the criteria that assets must meet in order to provide a competitive advantage. According to Stone (2007), there have been few attempts to change the underlying RBV architectures. RBV lecturers have been criticized of employing excessively broad criteria.

### **2.2. 2 Agency Theory**

Another theory to be used in the proposed study is the Agency theory which is one the most influential governance theories in both commercial and public sectors (Guthrie et al., 2005). First coined by Ross and Mitnick in 1973, Jensen (1976) then the model, which was based on the work of Berle and Means (1932). The theory proposes that the separation of a company's owners (principal owners) and management (agent) might lead to agency problems. The existence of asymmetric information between the owner and manager and hence, the company's management (agent) is prone to moral hazard and adverse selection. Management teams have a commitment to enhance shareholder value by improving the performance of the

entities they lead (Krafczyk, 2000). However, managers, have a vested interest in maximizing their own well-being. The convergence of various parties' interests frequently results in a dilemma known as the agency problem.

Even while managers receive remunerations for their efforts, the change in their wealth is much smaller when compared to changes in the prosperity of shareholders or owners (Fich et al., 2021). There is a mismatch between the performance of the organizations and the returns on the managers. Agency theory plays an important role in governance, particularly in supplying knowledge after an occurrence, a role known as the post-decision role. This function is frequently related with the accountability aspect, in which an agent reports on past events to the principal (Hasuike, 2018).

According to Angwin (2007), because the contract that governs the interaction between the principal and agent is being examined, the emphasis in this theory is on identifying the most efficient contract. Agency theory is founded on three assumptions, namely: 1) Human nature assumptions suggests that humans are selfish, have limited rationality, and are risk averse, 2) Organizational assumptions which point at the occurrence of disputes among organization members, efficiency as a production goal, and the existence of asymmetric information between principals and agents, and 3) Information assumptions where information is viewed as a commodity that can be exchanged (Parks,& Conlon, 1995).

The agency problem arises from managers' incapacity or unwillingness to increase shareholder value (Sminia, 2017). The idea of principal-agent interaction is expanded to include studies on manager-worker, employer-employee, and superior-subordinate relationships. For the sake of this study, the agents were thought to be politicians, bureaucrats, and policy makers, while the principals were the voters and citizens. Kenyan people choose

politicians and leaders, place them in positions of authority, and give them the ability to make decisions. It is expected of the leaders to make choices and create policies aimed at boosting the wealth of the populace and putting these plans into action to raise living standards. Occasionally, a conflict of interest occurs when individuals in positions of authority are chosen or elected, but their personal interests and financial gain take precedence over those of the constituents they are tasked with representing. A robust implementation structure, policy design, and ongoing oversight of decision-making processes can all help resolve this conflict of interest.

Agency Theory investigates the interaction between principals (stakeholders) and agents (government officials), as well as the inherent conflicts that result from competing interests. This theory, applied to public participation in program-based budgeting in selected Kenyan county governments, shows the difficulties of aligning citizens' interests with those of bureaucratic agents (Kirika, 2017). Factors such as information asymmetry, a lack of accountability, and insufficient incentives can intensify these conflicts, resulting in lower public trust and engagement. By addressing agency problems, county governments can improve transparency and collaborative budgeting procedures, increasing citizen involvement and accountability in fiscal decision-making.

### **2.3 Empirical Review**

This section presents the review of past studies on challenges to public participation in program-based budgeting. This section's review of previous studies is divided into sections based on the study objectives. This section includes sections on the incorporation of constituents into democratic discourse, structure governance, socioeconomic conditions in

communities, and abuse of participatory structures by some community members and opportunists, as well as their impact on public participation in program-based budgeting.

### **2.3.1 Public Participation in Program-Based Budgeting**

Program-based budgeting (PBB) as a strategic financial plan is used by governments agencies to distribute financial resources to specified projects with defined results (Musungu, 2023). It encourages openness, accountability, and efficiency by tying budgetary allocations to performance measures and measurable goals. PBB necessitates extensive stakeholder participation, particularly citizen involvement, to ensure that programs match local priorities and needs. This strategy is consistent with Kenya's Public Finance Management Act (2012), which requires counties to use outcome-based financial planning.

Program-based budgeting facilitates Participatory Budgeting and monitoring, which holds programs responsible. The steps of the budget cycle most commonly linked with participatory budgeting are budget formulation, setup, engagement, discussion, approval, and oversight. Following that, at public meetings, participants deliberate, bargain, and vote on recommendations. They also allocate funding to initiatives that must be included in the budget. Finally, elected officials approve and implement the projected budget. This involves the legislature or municipal assembly. Finally, as part of the monitoring system, citizen-led committees are formed to monitor budget execution and report on it throughout the fiscal year.

Participatory Budgeting has been adopted in approximately 350 municipalities in Brazil (Ardigó 2019). Municipalities throughout the country have implemented electronic voting on budget proposals to enhance access to through mobile 'Digital Inclusion Centres' using electronic voting systems to overcome participation barriers. In Estonia, a comparable

initiative was developed, allowing citizens to vote on budgets almost entirely through digital platforms (Ardigó 2019).

In Mozambique, while Nylén (2014) supports participatory budgeting, the process has been reserved for individuals with strong political connections and financial means. Participatory governance has never had the complete support of Nigeria's ruling class because the ruling class sees it as a threat to their collective interests. Budgeting is viewed as the exclusive domain of the executive branch of government in the country, particularly when it comes to budget development and implementation, with the legislative contributing only during the approval and audit stages. Citizens are only allowed to engage in the process during the approval stage, during public hearings at the National Assembly.

Although Kenya's legislative framework supports participatory budgeting, low participation rates are one of the process's obstacles (IBP, 2022). Undoubtedly one of the world's most progressive constitutions, Kenya's new constitution was ratified in 2010 (Government Press, 2010). As a result, the importance of public participation cannot be exaggerated beyond the scope and limitations of the constitution. Though Kenya has a long history of direct engagement in government through devolved funding such as the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and Local Authority Service Delivery Action Plans (LASDAP), the concept of stakeholder participation is not new to the country. Even in a decentralized system of government, where individuals actively participate in the governance of local units, lengthy reform struggles have failed to result in true participatory democratic practices (Mwaura, Rotich, & Majany, 2018).

### **2.3.1.1 Enablers of Public Participation**

Public participation in the budget process is dependent on the accessibility and availability of budget-related information (Muthamia, 2021). The absence of access to such information prevents the public and civil society stakeholders from making meaningful contributions to budget deliberations and making sound decisions. According to studies conducted by the International Budget Partnership (IBP), many countries do not even make their governments' budget suggestions public. As a result, campaigns to enhance transparency and access to budget information are typically the first measures made by civil society in its efforts to increase public participation in the budget process (Pampel, 2022).

Political will is also a necessary condition for meaningful public participation in decision-making processes (Tonon, 2022). Mechanisms of participation are unlikely to produce desired results if individuals in charge are opposed to or reluctant to delegate decision-making power. Because budget formulation strategies like Participatory Budgeting involve governments sharing the responsibility to spend funds with individuals, some level of official backing is essential for their effectiveness (Ardigó 2019). Appropriate legal demands can also help to define and improve an environment that promotes public interaction.

Participatory decision-making processes are effective when they follow national or local legal frameworks (Novitz & Pieraccini, 2020). Furthermore, these initiatives must preserve existing representative democratic systems and bureaucratic rules rather than undermine them. Financial and non-financial resources make participation in the budget process easier and more sustainable. Governments and other organizing parties, for example, should help guarantee that venues and channels are widely accessible and well-organized to encourage inclusive participation by investing appropriately in participatory programs,

technology, and infrastructure. Stakeholders such as civil society are frequently viewed as critical interlocutors in ensuring that people are included in the process, even while public finances are important tools for governments to use in making such decisions (TI, 2022; Vronskaya & Gomzyakova, 2022).

Accordingly, EPA (2022) identifies five areas for public involvement: Public engagement is critical to ensuring that the public's concerns are considered at all stages of the decision-making process, particularly when developing decision criteria and options. Additional tactics include: ii) educating the public by disseminating information to help them understand needs, issues, options, and solutions; iii) soliciting feedback from the public on potential decisions or solutions; iv) collaborating with the public to develop options and decision criteria to ensure that the best course of action is chosen; and v) empowering the public by giving them the final say in decisions.

### **2.3.1.2 Challenges facing Public Participation**

Although public interaction is actively encouraged, there is a gap between what is done in practice and what is specified in the legal framework (IBP, 2023). Individuals have different ideas of what defines an effective interaction. Although counties must encourage public engagement, they confront obstacles such as how to involve marginalized communities, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions. Njiiri, Were, and Muturi (2021) argue that precise norms and minimum requirements, as well as civic education and outreach, must be established to increase participation.

Other recommended initiatives include counties allocating funds for outreach and public consultations, implementing feedback mechanisms, and strengthening public officials' capacity to facilitate public consultations and give clearly understandable information. The

governors of Nairobi, Embu, Kiambu, Kirinyaga, Wajir, and Kericho were impeached for violating the County Governments Act of 2012 and the Public Finance Management Act of 2012 (Oruta, 2020).

Implementing public participation projects is not easy, despite the fact that the global drive to increase public engagement holds significant promise and long-term advantages (Rono et al., 2018). When the problem is more delicate, there is a lower possibility of reaching an agreement. According to Rono et al. (2018), because participation planning is viewed as a time-consuming procedure, the government is reluctant to use a participatory strategy. Officials are also fighting for control of projects as a result of political supremacy battles. Officials are frequently unresponsive and fail to recognize the value of citizens' perspectives. Incentives and skills are also lacking among project employees to encourage them to take a participatory approach.

Mbithi et al. (2019) have indicated that insufficient abilities in public participation may also contribute to ineffective public participation. A few more problems include a lack of resources, the misuse of participation institutions by opportunists and community leaders, the exclusion of the community from decision-making processes, and the reliability of public participation organizations. Furthermore, ward committees are being used as forums, and there is not enough support in terms of logistics to enable the public to attend public participation forums.

County administrations have also largely failed to engage the public in budgetary decisions. County governments are required to publish simpler, 'popular' versions of draft budgets to encourage citizen participation, but none have done so (Wangui Kimani et al., 2021). Counties are also expected to form a County Budget and Economic Forum (CBEF) to

engage the public and gather feedback on local issues, however this obligation has never been completed.

There is a gender gap in public participation (Smitha and Sulaja, 2022). Women are rarely included in budget negotiations since it is assumed that men comprehend the issues better. County governments have yet to take action to promote women's engagement or educate the public on the importance of expanding participation by both men and women (SDG Kenya Forum, June 14, 2019). County governments, on the other hand, frequently urge women to engage in specific forums, such as those focusing on funding for women and youth or women's empowerment. Kisumu and Kirinyaga counties, on the other hand, have made great strides in gathering gender-disaggregated data to assist policymaking and creating frameworks to ensure that county budgets and plans are gender responsive.

The Kenya County Budget Transparency (CBTS) Survey Report for 2022 required four quarterly budget implementation reports, of which only eight counties completed them (IBP, 2022). Counties were depriving the public of an opportunity to discover how their spending is meeting its objectives by refusing to disclose these reports. Openness about the budget is essential to promoting communication between the public and the government (IBP, 2023).

The capacity of the public to comprehend budgetary data has grown recently. In some regions of the country, the attempt to open public money and create substantial opportunity for involvement is paying off. Transparency index ratings range from 0 in four counties (Isiolo, Kajiado, Migori, and Wajir) to 78 out of 100 in West Pokot County, per the IBP (2022) study. Kenya's most transparent county was determined to be West Pokot County. In terms of budget transparency, the counties of Makueni (75), Kwale (74), Kitui (69), and Nyeri (69) are in the top five.

### **2.3.1.3 Public Participation and Accountability**

Financial accountability requires managing public resources by informing stakeholders and assisting in decision-making on the allocation of limited resources such as money, personnel, space, time, and equipment (Ardigó, 2019). Aside from being vital tools for effective budget management, accountability, transparency, predictability, and participation are recognised as the four pillars of good governance due to their intrinsic importance. All accountability approaches include four components: information, discussion and debate, citizen action, and government response, all of which are relevant to the most essential principles and best practices mentioned in the literature. Every accountability system should attempt to close the information gap between individuals and governments (Ardigo, 2019).

Best practices and general guidelines for local government accountability initiatives. Adopting local accountability measures can be a challenging challenge for those who are trying to close the gap between local governments and their residents. Local realities make it difficult to duplicate effective systems and decide which kind of mechanism would be best for a particular municipality to use, or, on the other hand, what kinds of extra-governmental accountability mechanisms would be more suitable in a certain situation.

Arinaitwe (2021) looked into financial accountability measures in Ugandan local governments, with an emphasis on the Kabale District. According to the study, service delivery is the most commonly used financial accountability tool, followed by financial reporting, expense control, and budgeting. According to the research, service delivery is the most widely used strategy of financial responsibility, even if the district's local budget appeared to be equivocal in terms of representing local people's goals. The paper makes several recommendations for the local government, including making sure that the district's budget represents community preferences, paying salaries and wages in line with the district's

approved budget, making sure that development expenditures are always in line with the approved budget, and standardizing the method of financial reporting, especially with regard to liabilities.

### **2.3.2 Stakeholders' Engagement Strategies**

Involving stakeholders promotes the development of problems, remediation strategies, and goals that are both desirable and attainable (Mwaura, Rotich, & Majany, 2018). Different stakeholders make different choices at different stages of the budget cycle. During the budget formation stage, the national executive arm of government, or its equivalent at the local level, drafts the budget plan. Because they are the primary stakeholders and are aware of the social, political, economic, and environmental challenges in their community, citizens must be consulted at all stages of budget planning. To achieve the desired outcomes, though, appropriate public participation strategies must be applied (Kipyegon and Wanjare, 2017).

Kituyi and Moi (2021) used Trans Nzoia County as a case study to examine the elements that influence public engagement in budget-making in Kenya's devolved administrations. The study's findings indicate that only 29% of the county's population is aware of public involvement. It also indicated that the county's public engagement rate in the budget-making process was a paltry 7%, and that the majority of inhabitants had a negative attitude towards participatory budgeting, believing it was of little help to the county's development.

Ndiao (2022) investigated 'Public Participation in the Budget Process During the Covid-19 Pandemic'. The study evaluated the issues and tactics used by Kiambu and Kajiado counties by sampling a volunteer group of county government officials as well as members of the general public. The study's findings indicate that the COVID-19 restrictions and other public health guidelines had a negative impact on participant attendance,

representation/inclusion, meeting cost and size, meeting duration, participant mobilization, forum moderation/facilitation, and participant access to information. The study also discovered that the two counties had used a variety of tactics to engage the public, including increased use of social media, requests for written memoranda from the general public, the use of local administrators, the use of online platforms, and the use of video-conferencing platforms.

Nyaga (2022) examined the Embu County Government's effectiveness in public finance management and public participation. The County administration invited the public to public participation forums using print media, social media (Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp), print media (newspapers and displays in public spaces), and phone calls (both landline and mobile). The leaders of the PP want individuals to participate in forums where everyone can share their thoughts. Malemane and Nel-Sanders (2021) assert that stakeholder management strategies are significant in two ways. To address people's concerns, the first step is to create a plan; the second is to figure out how to put that plan into action. As a result, stakeholder involvement begins with problem identification rather than implementation.

Stakeholder management and engagement are two of the most important elements of an effective project delivery process, yet they are often viewed as optional extras or tasks that may be carried out in the course of regular company operations (APM 2015). The benefits and outcomes that project managers produce provoke reactions from others. Respondents will only be those who sincerely want to help. Johnson, Jones, and Reitano quantify the utilization of survey results from 294 US senior budget and finance officers (2021). With the exception of the neighborhood associations, stakeholder groups positively relate to the use of citizen committees in the public budgeting process, according to stakeholder networks and inclusive public engagement methods.

The local government budget process involves several partners. According to Johnson et al. (2021), local administrations can use public involvement mechanisms like neighborhood meetings and citizen committees to engage stakeholder groups and networks. These findings highlight concerns regarding the various approaches to public engagement that governments could adopt to incorporate more stakeholders in the public budgeting process. Public participation in Kenya's budgetary review and implementation processes improved the budget preparation process for Mombasa County Kandie (2020). The majority of counties have not yet developed specific plans to ensure that all stakeholders involved in the budget cycle are represented at all levels, which may result in waste and theft of public funds (Kithinji, 2017).

### **2.3.3 Public Participation Framework**

The constitution of Kenya considers citizen interaction a fundamental component of Kenya's governmental structure (Njiiri & Muturi, 2021). Public involvement is recognized as one of our national ideals and principles of government in Article 10 of the Kenyan Constitution. Moreover, devolution aims to "enhance people's participation in the exercise of State powers and in making decisions affecting them," according to Article 174(c). The Republic of Kenya (2010) mandates that procedures for resident participation be integrated into national laws that oversee and manage cities and metropolitan areas. This is mandated under Article 184 (1) (c). Thus, it is impossible to overstate the importance of public participation (Kandie, 2020).

The Constitution allows the state to exercise its power and make decisions by using both direct and indirect public participation in the formation of public policy (Article 232). Article 10 of the Kenyan Constitution recognizes public involvement as one of our national objectives and guiding principles of governance (Trocaire Kenya, 2019). Additional legal foundations for public participation include the Urban Areas and Cities Act of 2011, the Public

Finance Management Act of 2012 (PFMA), and the County Government Act of 2012. County administrations are able to implement the public involvement provisions included in these acts.

There are measures in place to ensure public participation, which fall under the categories of vote and voice. Voting is the process by which voters choose representatives from their local community (IBP, 2023). Surveys, petition signings in support of specific government acts or policies, public hearings, town hall meetings, hotlines, and elections, as well as public forums, management committees, and participatory planning and budgeting forums, are among the most popular venues for public engagement. Nonetheless, many barriers to participation remain in place.

Malipula (2022) investigated the participation of Tanzanian citizens in the budgeting and planning procedures of local governments. The majority of Kibaha residents are not aware of their council's planning or budgeting procedures, let alone have the opportunity to participate in them informally, the report claims, and there is little opportunity for local involvement in KTC. In a similar vein, there are few methods and groups that effectively involve the community in monitoring and evaluating development initiatives.

According to Peterson (2012), public participation in budgeting has numerous advantages that should serve as a motivator to encourage the practice. Peterson (2012) discovered many problems in adopting citizen involvement in planning and budgeting in a study on Oregon, USA. Given the current political and planning structures, planners who want to include all voices in planning while keeping their positions face a mountain of problems. For example, developing participation structures and procedures that embrace and appeal to the entire public proved difficult. In Kenya, Manyala (2021) posits that there is a significant

relationship between service delivery in the counties in Kenya and political relations and public.

Public Participation structures have a substantial impact on public engagement in Kenya's county government budgeting processes (Rona et al., 2018). Effective participation frameworks provide transparency, inclusivity, and accountability, allowing citizens to participate meaningfully in budget creation and allocation. However, Trócaire Kenya (2019) notes that in many counties, government is often centralized, limiting the flow of information and decision-making to a few individuals and undermining public participation. Furthermore, limited institutional capacity and inadequate coordination across county departments impede citizen engagement. Political intervention and opaque processes further limit true participation, resulting in budgets that fail to reflect community objectives (Wamugu, & Ogollah, 2017).

Strengthening governance structures by decentralizing decision-making, increasing institutional capacity, and encouraging transparency is critical for increasing public engagement and ensuring that county budgets effectively meet the requirements of all stakeholders. The Transparency International (2021) states that political will, budget transparency, operational and legal frameworks, and civic space are all embodied in participation metrics. The participatory process, outreach and awareness, inclusiveness and access, and accountability are the criteria used to evaluate participation in practice.

#### **2.3.4 Stakeholders' Demographic Characteristics**

Demographic factors that influence public participation in budgeting include income, education, age, gender, and poverty level (Chen & Hu, 2022). The most important socioeconomic factor affecting public engagement is education. The study indicated that gender and level of education were the two demographic factors that had the largest influence

on community engagement, with women participating more (Hassan, Ong'ayo, & Osore, 2019).

Studies have been determined that gender, reading proficiency, age, and occupation are all significant determinants of budgeting involvement (IBP, 2022). For example, individuals with higher income levels and those who have previously participated in participatory processes are more likely to participate in the future than the rest of the population, as they effectively represent the "active community" (Hayrapetyan, 2019).

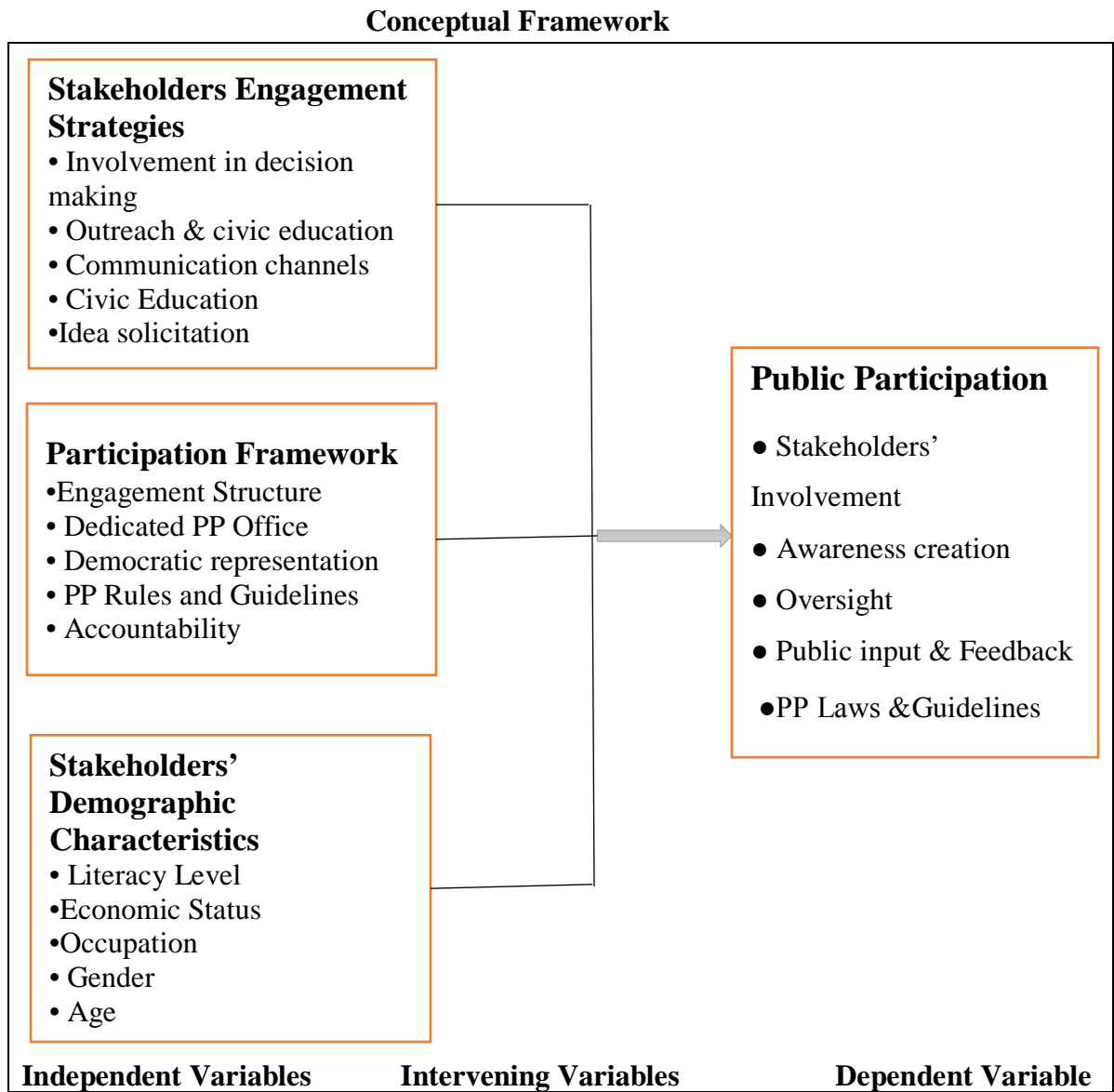
Kilewo and Frumence (2015) discovered that members of the public do not always have the time or financial resources to engage in public budgeting proceedings. Furthermore, certain citizens' socioeconomic level studied the factors that hampered public engagement in the design, budgeting, and implementation of comprehensive council health programs (CCHP) in Tanzania's Manyoni District. The study's findings found that community participation was hampered by education, poverty, and the public's lack of technical competence in comprehending and making sense of budget procedures, reports, and regulations.

Kenyan counties approve their supplemental spending plans prior to executing their main spending plans (Kimani, 2020). In order to pay their budgets, the counties anticipate receiving an equal proportion of grants, both unconditional and conditional, as well as money from local sources. Each county designates economic sectors, or ministries, to carry out the task of providing services that satisfy the demands of the populace. Legislation created these economic sectors, which differ by county, in response to popular demands that local governments are supposed to fulfil. According to Johnson et al. (2021), behavioural and economic variables affect how much the general public participates in the county's integrated development planning process.

## **2.5 Conceptual Framework**

A conceptual framework describes a representation of the association that exist between the study variables. The role of conceptual framework in research is to describe the study process and mapping out how the entire research will help in drawing coherent conclusion. Thus, based on this research, the conceptual framework describes the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variables. The dependent variables in research are the predictor or the expected cause. These values do not depend on that of another variable. In this study, the independent variables comprise of stakeholders 'engagement, structures of governance, and the demographic characteristics of the citizens. On the other hand, the dependent variable is the expected effect or response and, in this case, they constitute pf the public participation in program-based budgeting.

**FIGURE 1**



Source: Researcher (2024)

## 2.6 Operationalization framework

Operationalization framework describes the process through a researcher precisely spells out how a particular concept was measured. There are four types of measures used in research that is nominal, ordinal interval and ratio.

**TABLE 1**  
**Operationalization Table**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Type of variable</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Approach Analysis</b>	<b>Scale of Measurement</b>
<b>Public participation in program-based budgeting</b>	Dependent variable	-Stakeholders' involvement -Awareness creation -Engagement fora -Budget Publicity -Public empowerment	Descriptive statistics	-Ordinal <b>- Ordinal</b>
<b>Stakeholders' Engagement Strategies</b>	Independent variable	-Budgeting and public -Clear decision making -Outreach/ inclusive -Communication channels -Civic Education -PP Resource/ Budget	Descriptive statistics	Nominal
<b>Public Participation Framework</b>	Independent variable	-Inclusivity and consultations -Value for PP - Composition of committees -Democratic values/rules -Accountability	Descriptive statistics	Nominal
<b>Demographic Characteristics</b>	Independent variable	-Literacy -Financial Status -Occupation -Gender and age	Descriptive statistics	Nominal Ordinal

Source: Author (2023)

## **2.7 Summary of Literature Review and Identified Gap**

There is still a paucity of literature discussing the prospects and difficulties for public participation among county governments in Kenya, despite the substantial amount of research on participatory budgeting and public participation in budgeting. The importance of non-governmental actors in enhancing accountability and openness in governance has been shown by several studies, yet their contribution is rarely acknowledged. Furthermore, there hasn't been much attention paid to the efficiency of the current structure for public engagement in the literature review.

Ten years since the onset of devolution in Kenya, there have been indications that public opinion is divided on the achievements of the units in delivery of services. The majority of studies have concentrated on service delivery (Ardigó, 2019; IBP,2022; Nkirrimpa & Muna, 2023; Mbithi et al., 2019). Other engaged on the attendant benefits of devolution (Kituyi & Moi, 2021; Kandie 2020). The researchers found that citizen participation enhances accountability and participatory budgeting indexes (Kituyi & Moi, 2021; de Sosya 2022; IBP, 2023; TI, 2021; Ardigó, 2019; Arinaitwe, 2021; Kipyego, 2017).

The reviewed studies focused on citizen participation other jurisdictions where municipalities lack proper structures to autonomously carry out devolution services (Malipula, 2022; Marzuki, 2015; Tzeng, 2014; Manyala, 2021; Malipula, 2022; Marzuki, 2015; Tzeng, 2014; Manyala, 2021). Other studies looked at one county without generalized focus such as Mugambi and Theuri (2014), Kandie (2020), Njiiri et al (2021), Kwena (2013), Muchunu (2015), Kituyi and Moi (2021), Mutwiri (2016), Ndiao (2022), Nyaga (2022), and Mugambi and Theuri (2014).

Despite encompassing all 47 Kenyan counties, Manyala (2021) investigated the impact of intergovernmental relations on service delivery in multi-level county governance systems.

The factors included the impact of public participation on intergovernmental relations, as well as administrative, budgetary, political, and economic relations on county service delivery. Instead, then highlighting the importance of public participation as a critical link in service delivery, the study used it as a moderating variable.

A study by Kipyego and Wanjare (2017) in Nandi County discovered that organized budget participation resulted in improved service delivery. Locally, studies by TI, 2021; TrOcaire Kenya, 2021; IBP, 2023) on the nature of citizen participation on decentralized service delivery in Kenya and on the effects of citizen participation on the budget preparation process concluded that there is a high positive correlation between public participation and improved efficiency and performance of the devolved governance systems. Other counties in Kenya have been cited for low levels of communities' stakeholders' participation in program-budgeting, among them Muranga, Isiolo and Narok (IBP, 2022; Trócaire Kenya, 2019; Nkirrimpa & Muna, 2023).

## **2.8 Chapter Summary**

Chapter Two introduced concepts and definitions of various constructs such as accountability, budgeting, public participation, stakeholders' engagement, governance structures, demographic characteristics, and challenges facing PP among the counties in Kenya. The chapter examined the various theories for explaining the independent and dependent variables. The chapter also introduces the conceptual framework, which diagrammatically depicts the independent variables and the specific constituents that influence each variable. The chapter further investigated the conceptualization of independent and dependent variables by examining the links between the two groups of variables. The relationships between the

variables were identified, and a conceptual framework was hypothesized, with pertinent gaps clarified.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter describes the research design that the researcher used in carrying out the investigation. It is divided into the following sections: research design, study area, target population, sample size and sampling technique, data collection instruments, data collection procedure, data analysis, validity and reliability, and ethical concerns. The study was carried out in Murang'a County.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

The research utilized quantitative research designs and descriptive research methods based on the nature of the data required. Cooper and Schindler (2006) define research design as a method of measuring and analyzing collected data in order to achieve the research objective. Descriptive (Percentages, Means, Standard deviations) and inferential statistics (regression analysis) were conducted through Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25. As a result, this form of research design will allow for the measurement of numerous data without impacting it.

Creswell (2013) defines a descriptive research design as one that provides for accurate expression of the study units while not interfering with the study environment. This form of design allows the researcher to do an in-depth investigation of the study units, offering more details that precisely describe the study units to the study. Similarly, Thomas (2011) highlighted that in the social sciences and business, a descriptive research design is critical because it provides a full breakdown of the existing state of affairs, which can provide substantial evidence for decision-making. The design aids in deeper exploration of the

phenomenon being studied, highlighting the key aspects relating to the research question (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). The researcher therefore used the descriptive research design to facilitate in establishing the factors determining participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County.

### **3.3 Target population**

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) a target population is the group the researcher wants to study. The study populations were all the adult residents of Muranga County who are consumers of services by Muranga County Government. The units of observation were adults from all households in Murang'a County, with an adult population of 586,126 persons (Murang'a CIDP, 2018-2022; Isiolo CIDP, 2018-2022; Narok CIDP, 2018-2022). The researcher interviewed respondents selected from households in each ward such as to have a representative sample. The target population for this study involved comprising of adults (18 years old and above) who had resided in the county for at least five years.

### **3.4 Sample and Sampling Procedure**

According to Bryman (2016), a sample in research is necessary since it allows the researcher to get there faster and deal with a more manageable population. The sample is a subset of the target population that the researcher intends to study in order to generalize about the target population (Portney, 2020). To ensure that the selected sample comprises an equitable number of demographic categories, the study employed both extreme case purposive and stratified/quota selection. Stratified random sampling and purposive sampling were used to select the Wards, while systematic random sampling was used to pick the household respondents. Purposive Sampling is a non-probability sampling strategy used to choose members of a population who have distinctive qualities and information that the researcher

would find beneficial. On the other hand, by Gay and Diehl (1992), point out that the purpose of stratified (quota) sampling is to ensure that the study sample is representative of the population as a whole across the sub-groups.

The sample for the study was calculated using the sample calculation formula shown below by Coolican (2004). A significance level of 5% was chosen in the formula to provide a balance between type I and type II errors.

$$n = N \div [1 + N(e)^2]$$

N= Study population

n= Sample size

e= Error margin (0.05)

Using the formula, a sample size of 395 was selected. This was distributed to the population as indicated.

$$n = N \div [1 + N(e)^2]$$

N=population

n= sample size

e= error margin (0.05)

thus: N=1,108,938

$$= 1108938 \div [1 + 1108938(0.05)^2]$$

$$= 395$$

Therefore, n (sample size) = 395

From the 395 sample to be collected, it was distributed using stratified quota sampling technique based on the population of each of Muranga's 7 wards as shown in Table 2.

**TABLE 2**  
**Quota Sampling Procedure**

<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Number of Adult Population (Voters) =X</b>	<b>Proportionate sample size (X/586126) X395</b>
Kangema Constituency	48,730	33
Mathioya Constituency	54,940	38
Kiharu Constituency	111,260	75
Kigumo Constituency	78,481	53
Maragua Constituency	96,078	65
Gatanga Constituency	96,004	64
Kandara Constituency	98,633	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>587,126</b>	<b>395 (Sample size)</b>

Source: Source: Centre for affordable housing Finance in Africa (2019)

### **3.5 Instrumentation**

Two data collection instruments used in the study, namely; Structured Questionnaire and Interview Guide.

#### **3.5.1 Structured Questionnaire**

In this study, data was gathered using a structured questionnaire method. A structured questionnaire is a form with questions that research participants must answer. According to Gillham (2008), the benefits of employing a structured questionnaire include the availability of standardized responses, efficiency, and ease of data processing. The questionnaire was designed in response to a thorough empirical, theoretical, and empirical literature review on

the challenges of public engagement in program-based budgeting. The questionnaire was divided into five pieces. The first portion included questions designed to gather basic information about the participants as well as public participation in program-based budgeting. The other four sections of the questionnaire comprised items sought to address each of the three independent variables. All the sections in the questionnaire had questions rated on a five-point scale and one open question. Questionnaires are a common type of research instrument, and they consist of a set of questions or other forms of prompts designed to elicit answers from respondents about a certain topic (Bryman, 2016).

The questionnaire comprised both closed and open ended questions so as to elicit detailed responses, with five-point *Likert* scale. This allowed the research participants to read the statements and choose the best appropriate response based on the scale. Care was given in designing the questionnaire to ensure that the items are clear, concise, and hence require little effort from the participants in submitting their responses. Oppenheim (2000) emphasized the significance of successful questionnaire design when he stated that a well-designed questionnaire with clear and unambiguous items can increase response rate.

### **3.5.2 Interview Guide**

The County Officials and Key Informants Interview Guide was used to collect thorough data from county and national government officials who are knowledgeable about budgeting and public engagement. An interview guide is a list of planned questions used by researchers to assist in the in-depth exploration of a specific topic during an interview (Rwegoshora, 2016). Questions about public participation and the role of county government in encouraging openness, accountability, and public engagement included in the guide. The instrument was semi-structured in order to allow the researcher to collect comprehensive data on the subject

under study from respondents. An interview guide enabled a researcher to monitor the interviewee's body language and make on-the-spot decisions about extra probing on the objectives/topic under consideration (Gravetter & Forzano, 2018, p. 52).

### **3.5.3 Key Informant Interviews (KII)**

Key Informant Interviews (KII) were employed by the researcher to gather crucial information regarding public involvement in program-based budgeting. This required holding in-depth interviews with important informants who supplied vital details regarding the objectives of the study. At the CGM, KIIs were performed on one purposefully sampled official. The KII questions in the study were created with particular goals in mind. The open-ended questions covered a broad range of topics, such as the dynamics of public participation, the understanding of public participation rules and procedures by county authorities, and the efficacy of the current structures, among other things.

### **3.6 Data Collection Procedure**

The data collection process commenced as soon as the questionnaire had been collected. Before beginning the exercise, permission was obtained from both the KCA University and the Murang'a County Commissioner's Office. After permission was granted, the questionnaire was physically administered to the selected participants at their schools, workplaces, or places of business utilizing the drop-and-pick-later approach. A date for the collection of completed questionnaires was agreed upon with each respondent. To ensure that participants reply to the questionnaires, personal visits or phone was employed as reminders. Drop and pick method was used by the researcher to collect the data whereby filled questionnaires was personally collected from the respondents from their premises. The collection of filled questionnaires

continued until all the questionnaires are collected or until a reasonable response rate was achieved, whereby 300 out of 395 instruments were filled and returned.

### **3.6.1 Pilot Study**

Pilot studies aid in gathering preliminary data with view to improve research techniques and guide the planning of a larger-scale study (Kothari, 2004). To ensure that the created questionnaire is valid and dependable for obtaining the necessary data, a pilot test was conducted. A pilot study was carried out by the researcher in nearby counties. The efficiency and reliability of the instrument were evaluated based on the results of the pilot test. The pilot research participants were included in the study population but was not chosen for the main study. Respondents who took part in the pretest were asked to provide feedback on the questionnaire's design and content. Their responses were utilized to improve the questionnaire. Recommendations from the supervisor, experts, and panel members were considered when creating the final questionnaire for data collection.

Cronbach alpha was employed to evaluate the reliability of the questionnaire. Cronbach's alpha is the most appropriate measure of internal consistency for examining how respondents answer the questionnaire's questions. Kurpius and Stafford (2006) state that the alpha can be used to evaluate the items' dependability in getting the necessary data from responders in a questionnaire with a lot of Likert questions. In assessing reliability, Cronbach alpha of 0.7 or greater indicates that the items are dependable, but alpha less than 0.7 indicates that certain items should be changed or deleted (Kurpius & Stafford, 2006). The reliability findings shown in Table 4 demonstrated the instrument's dependability. The researcher came to the conclusion that the instrument was dependable and had a reasonable degree of internal consistency based on the alpha values, which varied between 0.717 and 0.801 (Table 3).

**TABLE 3**

**Reliability Test Results**

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Cronbach's Alpha</b>
Public Participation in PBB	0.717
Stakeholders' Engagement Strategies	0.705
PP Framework	0.801
Demographic Characteristics	0.723

**3.6.2 Ethical Consideration**

The study adhered to a number of ethical criteria, including confidentiality, informed consent, and research approval. In accordance with informed consent, the researcher ensured that permission is obtained from research participants after they have been clearly informed of the significance of the study and their right to withdraw participation at any moment during the process. To obtain consent, the researcher fully briefed research participants about the study processes, the use of their input, and the goal of the study. As a result, the researcher respected the right of each targeted respondent who declines to offer consent (Coolican, 2004).

The researcher also ensure that participants' confidentiality is respected. The information submitted by respondents was kept in strict secrecy. Furthermore, the researcher ensured that respondents did not to include any personal information that can be used to identify them in the questionnaire. The questionnaire only contained general demographic information and other information pertinent to the study. Finally, the research followed the research approval process and criteria. The research began the study only after receiving approval from KCA University as well as the National Council for Science and Technology

(NACOSTI) for permission to conduct the study and the local administrative authorities in the three counties.

### **3.7 Data Analysis**

Data analysis is the process of analyzing, cleansing, converting, coding, and modeling data in order to obtain research goals (Babbie, 2011). Data analysis commenced after all or a sufficient number of completed questionnaires had been collected. The questionnaires were scrutinized in order to determine which ones had been completely filled out and are suitable for inclusion in the study. After that, the data was coded, and the raw data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics was used to provide a snapshot of the data distribution and to uncover patterns.

Inferential statistics (factor analysis, correlation, and regression) was able to extract additional meaning from the data and help answer the study objectives. To ascertain whether the variables under investigation have a linear connection, the researcher performed correlation analysis. Regression analysis, on the other hand, was employed to look at how the challenges affected public participation in program-based budgeting. To ascertain whether a set of factors taken as a whole may predict a certain dependent variable, multiple regression is utilized (Coolican, 2018). Maiti (2022) opined that multiple regression is applicable where the number of independent variables is more than one.

The following was the regression model used;

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

Where, Y= Public participation in program-based budgeting

B0 = Constant

X2 = Governance Structures

Bi = Independent Variable Coefficients

X3 = Demographic characteristics

X1 = Stakeholders' Engagement Strategies

$\varepsilon$  = Error term

The results of the descriptive and inferential analysis were presented using pie-charts, tables and graphs.

### **3.8 Diagnostic Tests**

Before performing regression analysis, the data was tested for normality. According to Cooper and Schindler (2011), normalcy is the requirement that response variables be broadly distributed around the scores of the distributed dependent variables. The researcher used the test for *Multi-collinearity* and *Normality Test*.

#### **3.8.1 Multi-collinearity Test**

Multi-collinearity occurs when two different variables measure the same thing which may hinder in getting the result for explanatory variable on public participation in Program-based Budgeting. To make sure that the selected variables for the study are free from multi-collinearity, the study tested multi-collinearity by using the method of VIF (Variance Inflation Factor). Correlation coefficients for the independent variables should be less than 0.8, otherwise a spurious relationship exists and one of the variables should be dropped. To test for *multi-collinearity*, VIF values were computed. A value between 1 and 10 indicates that there is no multi-collinearity; otherwise, a condition of multi-collinearity is present and one of the independent variables were dropped.

### **3.8.2 Normality Test**

According to Cooper and Schindler (2011), normalcy is the requirement that response variables be broadly distributed around the scores of the distributed dependent variables. To confirm the data's normality, the researcher used Kolmogorov-Smirnova and Shapiro-Wilk tests. The null hypothesis was rejected if the significant value (p-value) is greater than 0.05, indicating that the data are regularly distributed.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS OF THE FINDINGS

#### 4.1 Introduction

The study's findings are examined in this chapter. The chapter conducts a methodical analysis of the data while concentrating on the research goals to ascertain the determinants of public participation in program-based budgeting in Murang'a County Government. The results are reported as a summary of the respondents' responses to the survey's questions. The researcher uses tables to present the data and descriptive statistics to examine the data.

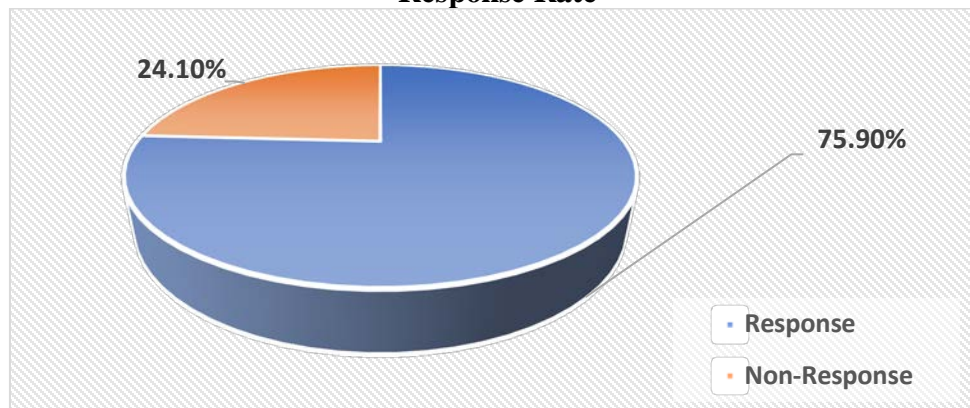
#### 4.2 Presentation of Research Findings

##### 4.2.1 Response rate

Out of the 395 questionnaires that were distributed, 300 were properly filled out and returned, accounting for 75.90% of the total. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), 50% of a sample's data must be acceptable for the research to proceed, hence 75.9% was more than acceptable for the researcher to continue with the data analysis. Figure 2 provides an illustration of the response rate.

**FIGURE 2**

**Response Rate**



### 4.3 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

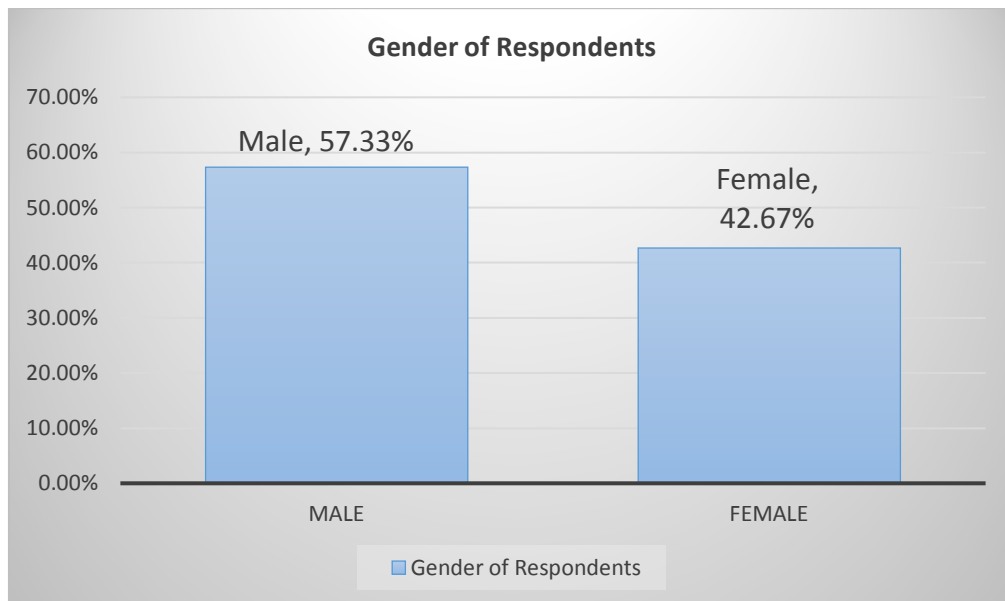
#### 4.3.1 Gender of Respondents

The gender distribution of the respondents was assessed and tabulated. Out of the 300 respondents, 57.33% (172) indicated that they were male, while 42.67% the respondents were female. The result is tabulated in Table 4 and Figure 3.

**TABLE 4**  
**Distribution of Respondent's Gender**

Gender	Frequency	Percent %
Male	172	44 %
Female	128	66%
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Figure 3: Gender Distribution of Respondents**



### 4.3.2 Age Distribution of Respondents

Respondents were asked about their ages in categories of intervals of ten. The chart below shows that a majority of respondents were in the 41-45 age bracket (26%). It shows distributed response age group with those below 30 years and above 50 years contributing to least of responses 4.7% and 6% respectively). The results were analyzed in Table 5 and Figure 4.

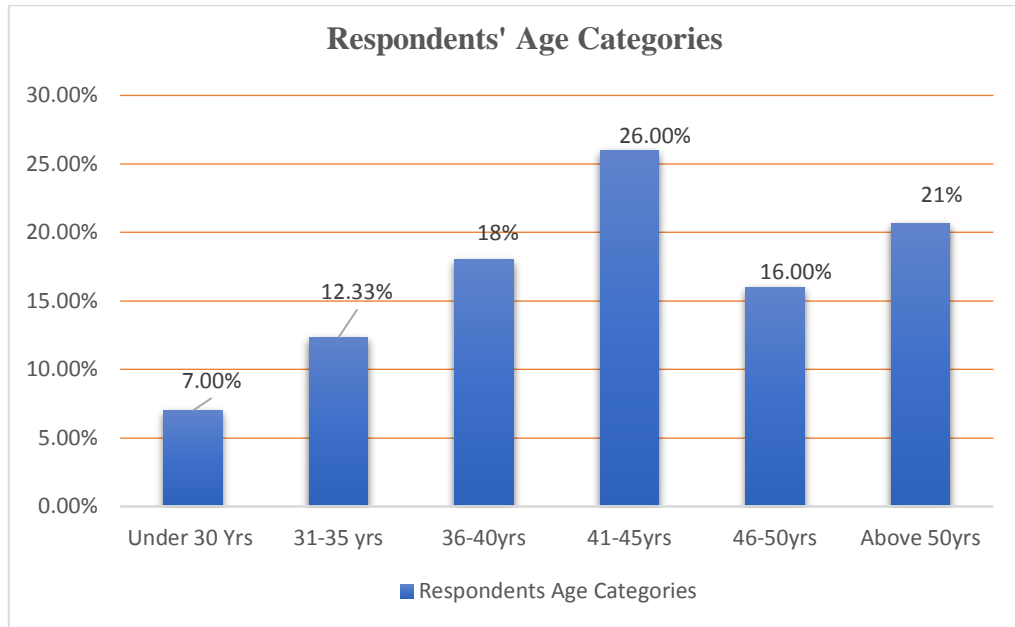
**TABLE 5**  
**Distribution of respondents by Age Bracket**

Age bracket	Frequency	Percent
<30 years	21	7%
31-35 years	37	12.3%
36-40 years	54	18%
41-45 years	78	26.0%
46-50 years	48	16%
Above 50 years	62	20.67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100%</b>

According to the data shown in Table 4.3, the majority of all probed respondents, were between the ages of 41 and 45, followed by 50 years and above (21%), 36-40, (18%), 31-35(12.33%), and Under 30 years 4 (7%). The counties can therefore be said to have majority of the population above 40 years.

**FIGURE 4**

**Respondents' Age Categories**



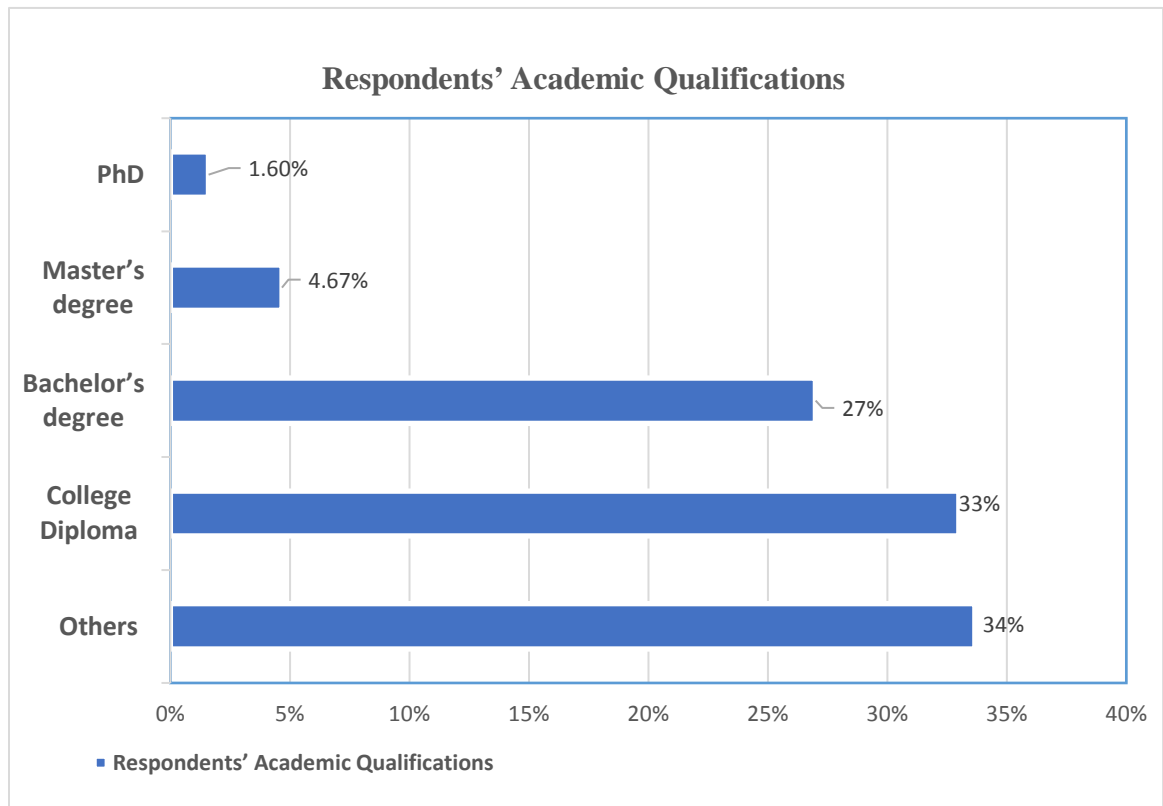
**4.3.3 Respondents' Academic Qualifications**

The respondents' educational background is crucial because it may be used to gauge their general knowledge on public participation in budget-making process. Figure 5 and Table 7 illustrates the results. The majority of respondents (33.7%) had no college diploma while 33% said their greatest level of education was a college diploma. Another 27% had bachelor's degree followed by respondents with a master's degree at 14%. This suggests that the majority of respondents have post-secondary education as shown in the Table 6 and Figure 5.

**TABLE 6****Academic qualification of the respondents**

<b>What is your highest professional qualification?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
College Diploma	99	33%
Bachelor's degree	81	27%
Master's degree	14	4.67%
PhD	5	1.67%
Others	101	33.67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100%</b>

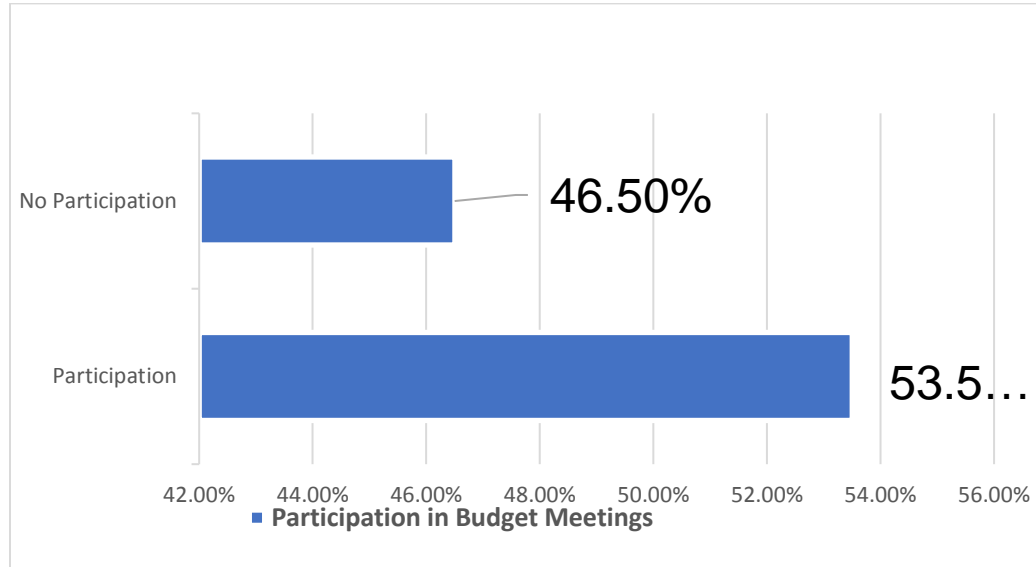
**FIGURE 5**  
**Respondents' Academic Qualification**



**4.3.4 Participation in Budget public Participation**

In relation to the participation of the respondents in budget public participation fora, respondents were asked if they had participated in these meetings for the past five years. In relation to this, 53.5% of the respondents said they had attended at least one budget forum, while 46.5% had not. It was therefore established that the majority of residents in the three counties had not participated in budget meetings as shown in Figure 6.

**FIGURE 6**  
**Participation in Budget Meetings**



Further, on whether the participants were satisfied with the outcome of the Public Participation meetings, 76 (25.3%) added that they were satisfied, 138 (46%) said they were not satisfied while 28.7% said they were not sure.

**4.5 Stakeholders’ Engagement Strategies**

Under this objective of the study, respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with various statements relating to stakeholders’ engagement strategies employed in public participation during the annual budgeting cycles. The respondents were requested to rate the engagement strategies by respective counties. Table 5 displays the results.

The study used a 1-5 likert, where 1-strongly disagree and 5-Strongly agree, the respondents asked to indicate their agreement level to the statements Stakeholders’ Engagement Strategies. Results are indicated in Table 7 below;

**TABLE 7****Budget Stakeholders' Engagement Strategies**

<b>Stakeholders' Engagement Strategies</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree (1)</b>	<b>Disagree (2)</b>	<b>Neutral (3)</b>	<b>Agree (4)</b>	<b>Strongly Agree (5)</b>
There is open sharing of ideas and proposals during budget planning	30.67% (92)	33.67% (101)	16.33% (49)	15.67% (47)	3.67% (11)
The public can submit objections and proposed amendments	29.67% (89)	30.67% (92)	19% (57)	12% (36)	8.67% (26)
Communication on budget issues is effective	5.33% (16)	44.33% (133)	18% (54)	21.67% (65)	10.33% (31)
The county conducts civic education and publicity relating to budget	5.33% (16)	32.33% (97)	19.33% (58)	25.33% (76)	17.67% (53)
There is proper consultation btw county government and the citizens	1% (30)	34.67% (104)	23.67% (71)	18.67% (56)	13% (39)
The citizens own the meetings during PP	32% (96)	27.33% (82)	0	20.33% (61)	20.33% (61)
The county government employees and management are accessible on budget matters	4% (12)	12% (36)	2% (6)	42.33% (127)	39.67% (119)

Results in Table 7 shows that the respondents were largely in divided on whether stakeholders' engagement strategies are effective (Mean=3.429). They also disagree on whether there is open sharing of ideas and proposals during budget planning with 30.67% (strongly disagreed) and 33.67% (disagree). Further, there was negation of the comment that the public can submit objections and proposed amendments where 29.67% (strongly disagreed) 30.67% (disagreed). Further, the respondents opined that the county communication on budget issues is not effective (44.33%). On whether the county conducts civic education and publicity relating to budget he majority supported with 44.33% agreeing and 17.67% strongly agreeing.

During the public participation for a, citizens felt they didn't own the meetings 32% (Strongly Disagree) and 27.33% (Disagree). On the other hand, the county government employees and management are accessible on budget matters 42.33% (Agree) 39.67% (strongly agree). These findings demonstrated that the respondents were aware of the important role of the different stakeholders' engagement strategies in program-budgeting process but were not satisfied with the strategies put in place to engage the stakeholders.

On the strategies should the county government could use to improve on stakeholders' engagement during public budgeting participation, civic education to the public about budgeting and accountability was the most cited way to improve participation. From Key Informant Interview, the interviewee opined that the county government should implement a variety of techniques to increase stakeholder engagement during public budgeting. The KII View on techniques to increase stakeholder engagement noted thus;

*“Experts suggested that a collaboration between the county government and civil society organizations can lead to more effective engagement. They also suggested using digital platforms and social media to increase outreach, particularly in rural areas, and implementing continuous civic education to provide individuals with the knowledge and skills they need to engage effectively....”*

There was agreement among the majority of participants that the county has various strategies to improve participation in various program budget initiatives. Several studies support these findings. For instance, Ndiao (2022) discovered that counties had used a variety of tactics to engage the public, including increased use of social media, requests for written

memoranda from the general public, the use of local administrators, the use of online platforms, and the use of video-conferencing platforms..

#### 4.6 Influence of Public Participation Framework

In an attempt to establish how program budget participation framework affected public participation in program-based budgeting, respondents were asked to indicate their levels of agreement or disagreement on the various question under the Likert scale as shown in Table 8.

**TABLE 8**  
**Effect of Participation Framework on Public Participation**

<b>Effect of Participation Framework on Public Participation</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree (1)</b>	<b>Disagree (2)</b>	<b>Neutral (3)</b>	<b>Agree (4)</b>	<b>Strongly Agree (5)</b>
There is a dedicated legal PP office	(0)	26.3% (79)	3% (9)	42% (126)	12% (36)
Inclusive and consultative pp protocols	11% (33)	10.67% (32)	5.33% (16)	47.67% (143)	25.33% (76)
Smooth and clear procedures for public participation	4% (12)	52% (156)	14.33% (43)	26.67% (80)	3% (9)
Administrative system enables effective public participation process	5% (15)	35.67% (107)	23.33% (70)	22.33% (67)	13.67% (41)
Reporting Mechanism for tracking issues	4% (12)	36.33% (109)	25% (75)	21.33% (64)	13.33% (40)
Clear Reporting lines for disseminating data	4.33% (13)	37.33% (112)	23.33% (70)	20.67% (62)	14.33% (43)
County Officers take responsibility for issues	17% (51)	25.67% (77)	3% (9)	43% (129)	11.33% (34)

Results in Table 8 above show that the respondents agreed public participation framework is effective (Mean=3.0910). The respondents (64%) agreed that there is a dedicated legal PP office PP office. Further, the respondents disagreed on whether there were smooth and clear

procedures for public participation, 52% disagreed compared with 30% who agreed. On whether the administrative system enabled effective public participation process, 40.6% did not view it so compared to 36% who agreed. Also, the respondents strongly disagreed that there was adequate reporting mechanism for tracking issues (37.33%) but agreed (43%) that the respondents County Officers take responsibility for issues (3.061). The findings noted that the respondents were aware of the important role of the PP framework in program-budgeting protocol but were not satisfied with the measures put in place as PP framework to aid in participation in program-based budgeting.

The findings did not tally with other studies that have blamed poor PP frameworks for low participation. For instance, voting processes in most devolved units as a public involvement procedure could not be described as entirely competent or fair (IBP, 2022). Also, Rono et al. (2018) found that public participation structures have a substantial impact on public engagement in Kenya's county government budgeting processes.

#### **4.7 Effects of Communities Demographic Characteristics**

The researcher sought information on how communities' demographic characteristics affect public participation in program-based budgeting. Using the Likert scale, the respondents were asked to tick against each question accordingly and the results are shown in the Table 9.

**TABLE 9**

**Effect of Communities' Demographic Characteristics on Budget PP**

<b>Effect of Communities' Demographic Characteristics on Budget PP</b>	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)
Low literacy levels among local communities have decreased public participation in budgeting	11.33% (34)	25.67% (77)	3% (9)	43% (129)	11.33% (34)
Level of income determines participation in budgeting forums	27.33% (82)	39.67% (119)	(0)	18.33% (55)	14.67% (44)
Men are more active in public participation compared to women	32.67% (98)	27% (81)	(0)	21.33% (64)	19% (57)
Occupation affects peoples' availability during budget public participation meetings	34% (102)	44% (132)	1% (3)	8% (24)	13% (39)
Younger persons have little or no information in public participation during budgeting cycles	12% (36)	17.67% (53)	(0)	29.67% (89)	40.33% (121)
Public participation meetings take too much time and money affecting attendance of people.	36.67% (110)	28% (84)	1.33 (4)	24.67% (74)	9.33% (28)
Religion affects the ability of people to participate in public participation in the county	32.33% (97)	27.33% (82)	(0)	21.67% (65)	18.67% (56)

As shown in Results in Table 9 the respondents viewed that communities' demographic characteristics did not significantly affect PP in program-based budgeting (Mean=3.388). However, the 54% of the respondents believed that low literacy levels among local communities decreased public participation in budgeting. Further, 66% of the respondents disagreed that level of income determines participation in budgeting forums, while 59.7% did not think that men are more active in public participation compared to women compared to

30.30% who voiced contrary opinion. On the other hand, up to 78% of the respondents also disagreed that occupation affects peoples' availability during budget public participation meetings compared to 21% who agreed. However, majority of the respondents (70%) agreed that younger persons have little or no information in public participation during budgeting cycles, 64.7%. Lastly, 32.33% strongly disagreed and another 27.3% disagreed, that religion affects the ability of people to participate in public participation in the county (Mean=2.671).

#### 4.7.1 Influence of Literacy Level on Participation

Respondents were further asked to rate the influence of literacy level on public participation in program-based budgeting at the county. As shown in the Table 10 and Figure 7 the majority disagreed 49.5% and a further 36.2% strongly disagreeing. It was thus clear that the research did not find literacy level as having significant influence on public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County.

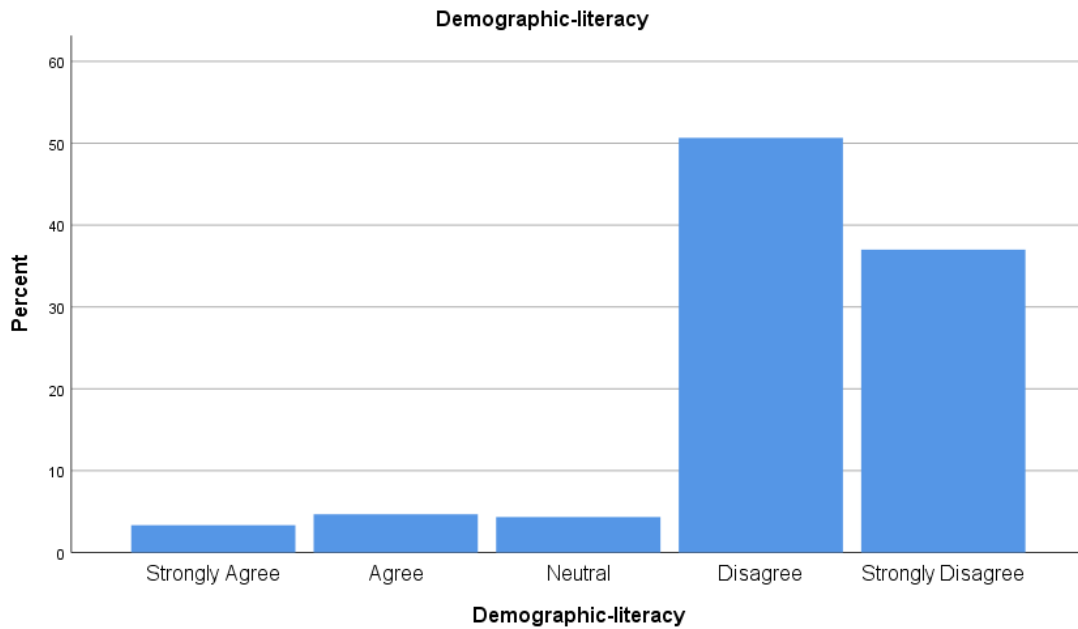
**TABLE 10**

**Influence of Literacy Level on Participation**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	10	3.3	3.3
<b>Agree</b>	14	4.6	4.7
<b>Neutral</b>	13	4.	4.3
<b>Disagree</b>	152	49.5	50.7
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	111	36.2	37.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**FIGURE 7**

**Influence of Literacy Level on Participation**



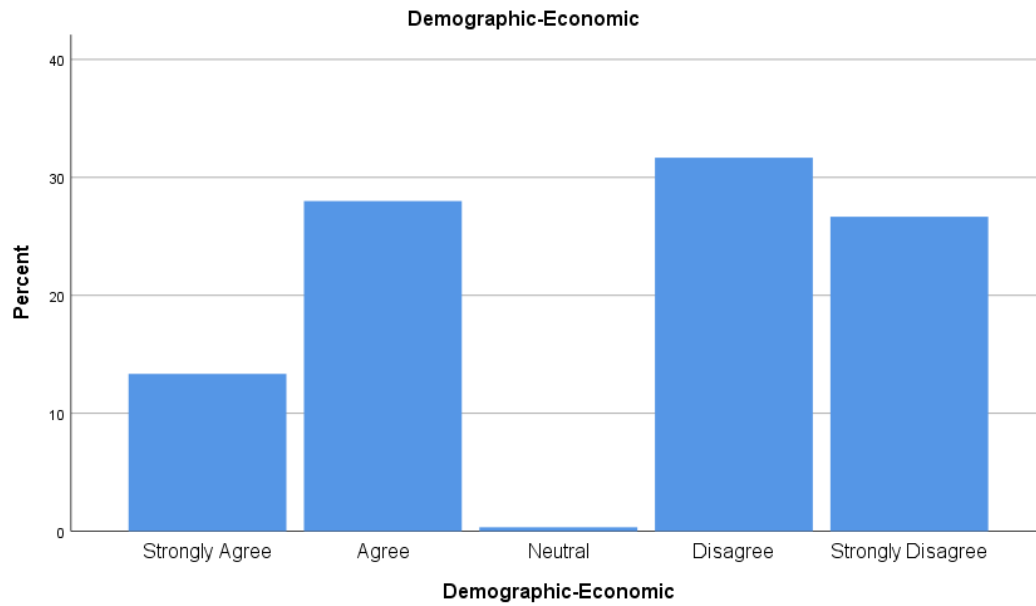
**4.7.2 Influence of Economic Status on Participation**

Respondents were asked to rate the influence of economic status on public participation in program-based budgeting at the county. As shown in the Table 11 and Figure 8, the majority disagreed 95% and a further 80% strongly disagreeing. It was thus clear that the research did not find economic status as having significant influence on public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County.

**TABLE 11**  
**Economic Status on Participation**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	40	13.3	13.3
<b>Agree</b>	84	28.0	41.3
<b>Neutral</b>	1	.3	41.7
<b>Disagree</b>	95	31.7	73.3
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	80	26.7	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

**FIGURE 8**  
**Influence of Economic Status on Participation**



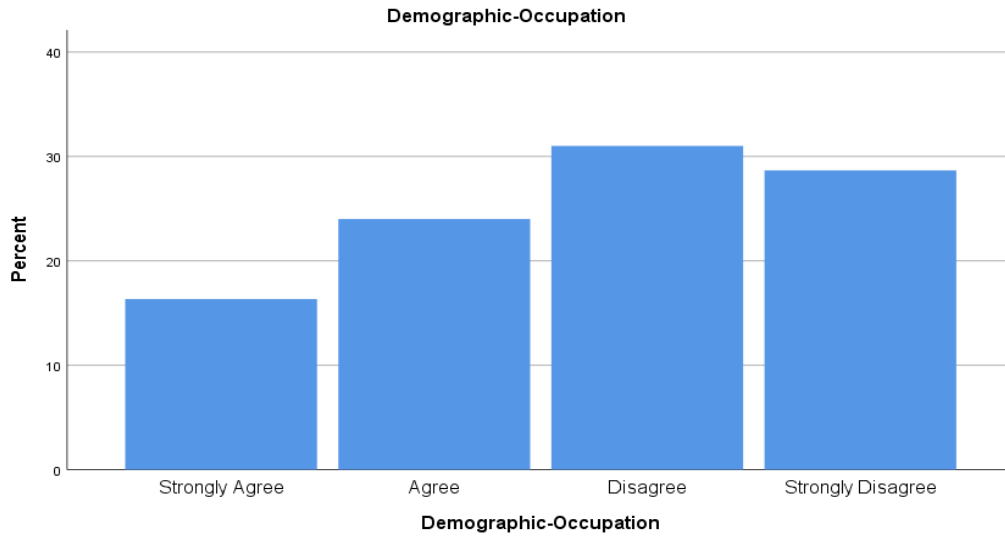
### 4.7.3 Influence of Occupation on Participation

Respondents were asked to rate the influence of economic status on public participation in program-based budgeting at the county. As shown in the Table 12 and Figure 9, the majority disagreed (31%) and a further 28.7% strongly disagreeing. From these findings, it was concluded that Muranga residents did not believe that occupation strongly influence public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County.

**TABLE 12**  
**Influence of Occupation Level on Participation**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	49	16.3	16.3
<b>Agree</b>	72	24.0	40.3
<b>Disagree</b>	93	31.0	71.3
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	86	28.7	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

**FIGURE 9**  
**Influence of Occupation on Participation**



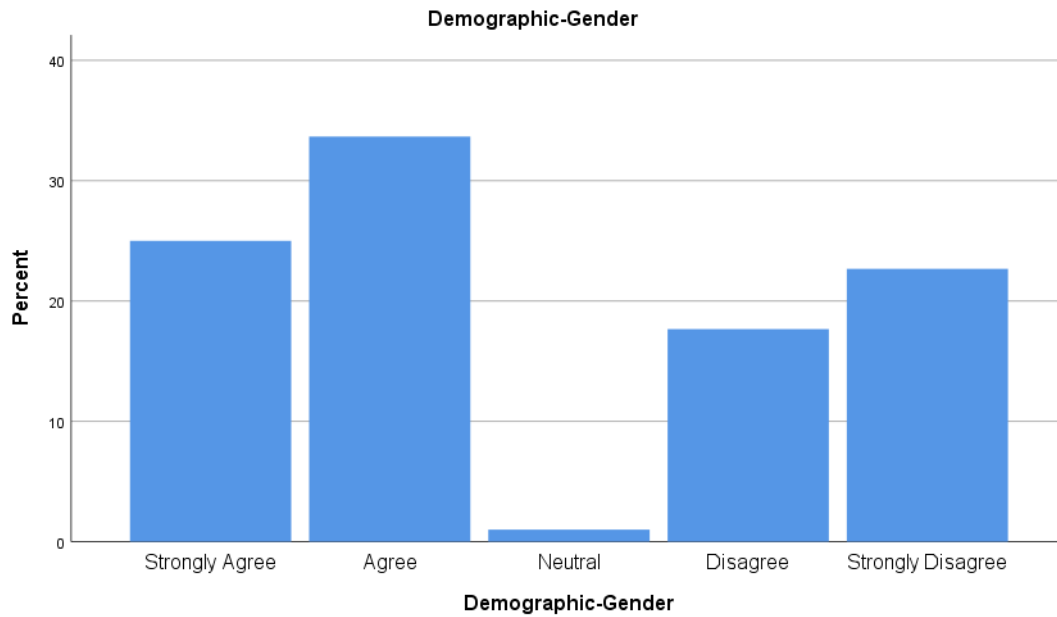
**4.7.3 Influence of Gender on Participation**

To deduce the influence of gender on participation, respondents were asked to rate the extent to which gender on public participation in program-based budgeting at the county. As shown in the Table 13, the majority disagreed (33.7%) agreed. It was thus clear that the residents believed that gender had significant influence on public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County.

**TABLE 13**  
**Influence of Gender on Participation**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	75	25.0	25.0
<b>Agree</b>	101	33.7	58.7
<b>Neutral</b>	3	1.0	59.7
<b>Disagree</b>	53	17.7	77.3
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	68	22.7	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

**FIGURE 10**  
**Influence of Gender Level on Participation**



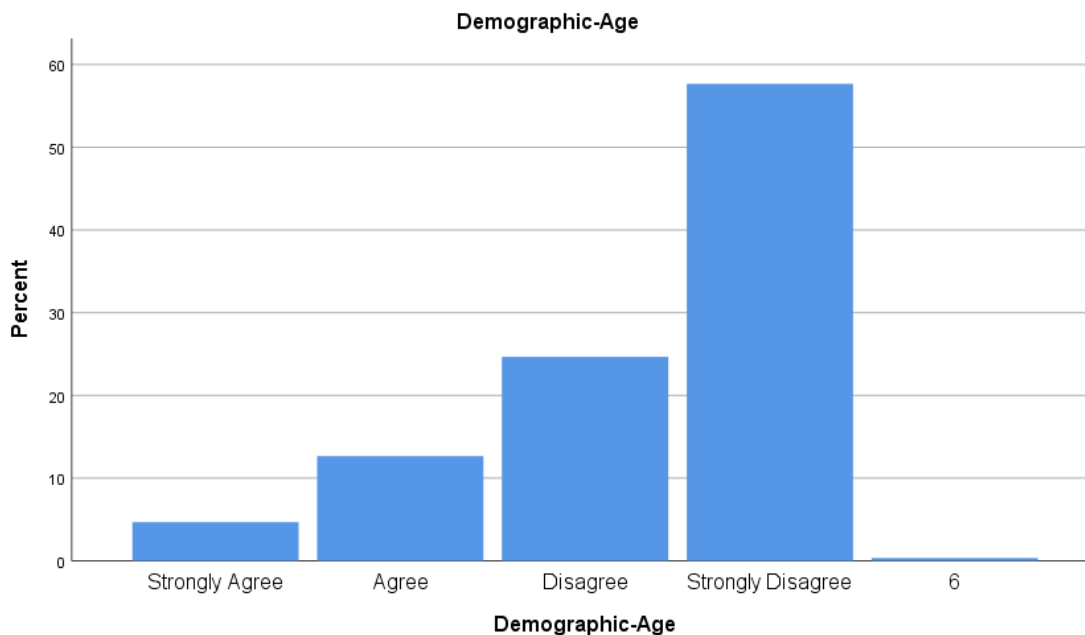
### 4.7.3 Influence of Age on Participation

Respondents were asked to rate the influence of age on public participation in program-based budgeting at the county. As shown in the Table 14 and Figure 11, the majority disagreed (57.7%) strongly disagreed. It was thus clear that the research did not find age to have significant influence on public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County.

**TABLE 14**  
**Influence of Age Level on Participation**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	14	4.7	4.7
<b>Agree</b>	38	12.7	17.3
<b>Neutral</b>	1	0.3	22.3
<b>Disagree</b>	74	24.7	47
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	173	57.7	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

**FIGURE 11**  
**Influence of Age on Participation**



The results show that the respondents appreciated the role of demographic characteristics on participation in program-based budgeting. Demographic factors that influence public participation in the budget making process which comprise of income, educational and age, gender and poverty level (Chen & Hu, 2022; Mutwiri (2016)). Kilewo and Frumence (2015) discovered that members of the public do not always have the time or financial resources to engage in public budgeting proceedings. The finding supported observation by Hassan et al (2019) who found that demographic characteristics such as gender and level of education significantly influenced community participation, with women showing greater participation. Troicare Kenya (2020) also noted that factors such as gender, literacy level, occupation, and age have also been listed as important determinants of participation in budgeting process.

#### 4.8 Effects of Public Participation in Program-Based Budgeting

The researcher sought information on how effective the county had been in implementing public participation in program-based budgeting. The results are shown in the Table 15.

**TABLE 15**  
**Public Participation in Program-Based Budgeting**

<b>Public Participation in Program-Based Budgeting</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree (1)</b>	<b>Disagree (2)</b>	<b>Neutral (3)</b>	<b>Agree (4)</b>	<b>Strongly Agree (5)</b>
Stakeholders are involved throughout budget cycle	18.67% (56)	24.33% (73)	3.33% (10)	41.67% (125)	12% (36)
The county carries out proper sensitization on budget to raise awareness	12% (36)	12.33% (37)	4.67% (14)	47% (141)	24% (72)
There is openness and transparency to facilitate oversight	28.33% (85)	38% (114)	(0)	18.67% (56)	15% (45)
Communities are encouraged to ask questions and give views on budget	3.57% (11)	52.67% (158)	14.33% (43)	27% (81)	2.3% (7)
Stakeholders understand all the steps taken during budgeting cycles	4.67% (14)	35.33% (106)	23.67% (71)	22.67% (68)	13.67% (41)
There is good protocol for receiving public inputs and feedback	4% (12)	35.33% (106)	23.67% (71)	22.67% (68)	13.67% (41)
There is law and guideline duly followed during the budget cycle	4% (12)	36% (108)	24.67% (74)	22% (66)	13.33% (40)

As shown in results in Table 9 the respondents were asked to rate the PP processes by Murang'a County government. They also pointed out that stakeholders were properly involved throughout budget cycle with 53.67% in agreement. The respondents also opined that the county carries out proper sensitization on budget to raise awareness where 71% agreed. However, 66.33% did not believe that there was openness and transparency to facilitate

oversight compared to 33.67% who agreed. Also, 56% did not agree that communities are encouraged to ask questions and give views on budget. Opinion was divided on whether stakeholders were able to understand all the steps taken during budgeting cycles, and on whether there was a good protocol for receiving public inputs and feedback.

#### **4.9 Enhancing Public Participation in Program Budgeting**

The researcher sought suggestions from the Key Informants on ways of increasing the effectiveness of public participation in the counties. Among the suggested ways of improving Public Participation in Program Budgeting in Muranga County. A number of suggestions were made which are summarized in Table 16.

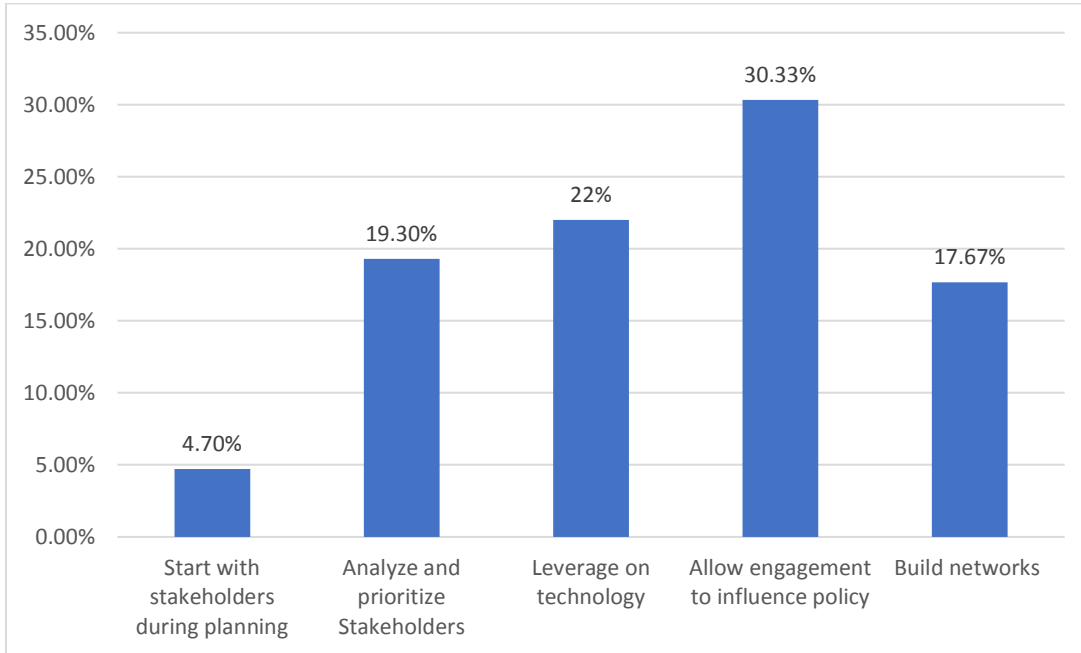
**TABLE 16**

**Suggested Strategies to Enhance Participation**

<b>Suggested Strategies to Enhance Participation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Start with stakeholders during planning	14	4.7%
Analyze and prioritize Stakeholders	58	19.3%
Enhance accessible to information and venues	66	22%
Leverage on technology-blend Digital and Face-to-Face	91	30.33%
Allow engagement to influence policy	53	17.67%
Build networks through common interest groups	18	6%
Total	300	100%

The suggested strategies include; Start with stakeholders during planning; Analyze and prioritize Stakeholders; Enhance accessible to information and venues; Leverage on technology-blend Digital and Face-to-Face; Allow engagement to influence policy; and Build networks through common interest group. Figure 12 further illustrates the five main strategies as pointed out.

**FIGURE 12**  
**Suggested Strategies to Enhance Participation**



#### **4.10 Regression Analysis**

The study conducted an analysis to determine the correlation between public participation in program-based budgeting on one hand, and stakeholders' engagement strategies, participation framework and stakeholders' demographic characteristics on the other. The extent to which independent variables (stakeholders' engagement strategies, participation framework and demographic characteristics) have an impact on public participation. Regression analysis aids in determining the link between the study's key variables. Regression was utilized in the current study to examine the association between the independent variables.

#### 4.10.1 Regression Model Summary

The researcher sought to determine the extent to which independent variables (stakeholders' engagement strategies, participation framework and demographic characteristics) affected public participation in program-based budgeting in county government of Murang'a. The model Summary used ANOVA and Regression coefficients as shown in Table 17.

**TABLE 17**  
**Regression Model summary**

Model	R	R <sup>2</sup>	Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.27409 <sup>a</sup>	.075126	.07137	.55370

a. Predictors: (Constant), Demographic, PP Framework, Stakeholder Engagement

According to the model description, multiple correlation coefficients (R) are a determinant of the relationship between public involvement (Y) and the three independent variables (X1, X2, and X3). The regression summary shows R = 0.27409, indicating a moderate to significant correlation. Overall, the p-value is 0.05 or below (5%). This shows that the regression model's overall results were significant at the 95% level of confidence. It also implied that the independent factors under consideration had a moderate impact on public engagement in Muranga County's program-based budgeting.

By squaring R, we recognize the value of the coefficients of multiple determinations (R<sup>2</sup>). This measure makes it possible to determine the total of explained variance in Y from the three independent variables on a percentage range of 0 – 100. The independent factors (Stakeholder Engagement Strategies, PP Framework, and Demographic Characteristics)

explained only 7.5% of variation in public participation in program-based budgeting, is explained by collective change in the independent variables as measured by R<sup>2</sup>. This implies that other factors not investigated in this study contribute 92.5% of the beneficiaries' livelihoods. As a result, more research should be performed to determine the other factors that influence public engagement in program-based budgeting in the County that were not the focus of this study.

#### 4.10.2 Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

The significance of the regression model was determined by the study's usage of the ANOVA test. The F-ratio in ANOVA is used to establish if or not R<sup>2</sup> may possibly have arisen out of chance. The F-ratio computed in the ANOVA table computes the possibility of chance straying from a straight line. As shown in Table 18, the ANOVA analysis results showed that there was a statistically but insignificant relationship between the independent variables (Stakeholders' Engagement Strategies, PP Framework, and Demographic Characteristics) and the dependent variable (public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County).

**TABLE 18**

#### **Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)**

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	.898	3	.299	.959	.412 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	92.355	296	.312		
	Total	93.253	299			

a. Dependent Variable: Public participation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Demographic, PP Framework, Stakeholder Engagement

The submitted data revealed a statistically not significant overall equation (F= 0.959, p<.0.412). At the 95% confidence level, the variation was found to be not significant in

predicting public engagement in Muranga County program-based budgeting. For each independent variable in the equation, the researcher was interested in its standardized beta and t-test statistic's level of significance. A p-value < 0.05 indicates statistical significance. The overall ANOVA results indicate that the model was significant at F= 0.959 at 0.05 or 5% level of significant which was above 0.05 hence the model was therefore not fit since significance value is 0.412 and it is more than 0.05.

#### 4.10.3 Coefficients of Determination

The coefficient of regression was conducted to determine the level of influence of the independent variables on the dependent variable. The analysis showed that the linear regression model as in Table 19;

**TABLE 19**

**Multiple regression Analysis**

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error			
1 (Constant)	3.502	.327		10.717	.000
Stakeholder Engagement	-.094	.059	-.095	-1.607	.109
PP Framework	-.035	.070	-.028	-.491	.623
Demographic Characteristics	.008	.053	.009	.153	.878

.a. Dependent Variable: PP in PB Budgeting  
Source: Researcher (2024)

From the model summary, the multiple correlation coefficients (R) is a determinant of

the association between the determinants of Public participation in program-based budgeting (Y) and the three independent variables (X1, X2, and X3). The constant for the model is 3.584 which indicate that the value of public participation if all the independent variables were zero. Stakeholders' Engagement Strategies had a regression coefficient of  $\beta = -0.094$  ( $t = -1.607$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ), which was deemed to be statistically significant at 0.109, as indicated in Table 13. Participation Framework had regression coefficient of  $\beta = -0.035$  was determined to be statistically significant at 0.623 ( $t = -0.491$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Regression coefficient for Demographic Characteristics was  $\beta = 0.008$ , ( $t = 0.153$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) which was deemed to be not statistically significant at 0.878,

This showed that a reduction in PP in program-based budgeting by -0.094 units was caused by a change in 1 unit of stakeholder engagement. PP Framework was also not statistically significant with a regression coefficient of  $\beta = -0.095$  at 0.000 significance level. As a result, a unit change in Stakeholder Engagement Strategies would decrease public participation in Muranga County's program-based budgeting by 0.095 (or 9.5%). A unit increase in the Public Participation Framework increases the amount of public participation in program-based budgeting by -0.035. In contrast, a unit change in Demographic Characteristics has a 0.008 effect on public participation in county program-based budgeting.

Using the regression model,

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \varepsilon \dots\dots\dots (i)$$

Where, Y= Public participation in program-based budgeting

B0 = Constant

X2 = PP Framework

Bi = Independent Variable Coefficients

X3 = Demographic characteristics

X1 = Stakeholders' Engagement

$\varepsilon$  = Error margin

Strategies

A regression model from the coefficient results produced the equation of Multiple Linear Regression model as follows;

$$Y = 3.502 - 0.094X_1 - 0.035X_2 + 0.008X_3 + \varepsilon$$

Hence, the independent variables are weak determinants of public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County. The study concluded that the three factors had weak effect on public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County. Demographic characteristics had the strongest effect ( $\beta = 0.008$ ) followed by PP Framework ( $\beta = -0.035$ ), and stakeholders' engagement ( $\beta = -0.094$ ). Only Stakeholder Engagement had a statistically significant effect on public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County.

#### 4.10.4 Diagnostic Tests

A multi-collinearity test was performed on the data obtained. Before running a linear regression model, regression diagnostics is used to assess the model to establish if its fitted model has errors that could affect the model's accuracy. In order to determine the linearity and

constant variance between Stakeholders' Engagement Strategies, PP Framework, Demographic Characteristics and Public participation in Program-based Budgeting in Murang'a County, the study set out to examine these changes using Normality test and the test of multi-collinearity.

#### 4.10.5 Test of Normality

As shown in Table 20 the results for the Kolmogorov-Smirnov<sup>a</sup> and Shapiro Wilk tests employed in the determination of normality in the distribution of the data. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov<sup>a</sup> shows that the p-value for all variables was less than (0.05), and therefore the null hypotheses rejected and therefore the data normally distributed. The results showed that the data not normally distributed;

**TABLE 20**  
**Tests of Normality**

	Kolmogorov-Smirnov <sup>a</sup>			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	Df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.
Stakeholders' Engagement Strategies	.480	297	.000	.506	297	.000
PP Framework	.265	297	.000	.846	297	.000
Demographic Characteristics	.121	297	.000	.946	297	.000
PP in PB Budgeting	.137	297	.000	.928	297	.000

a. Lilliefors Significance Correction

#### 4.10.5 Test of Multi-Collinearity

Multi-collinearity occurs when two different variables measure the same thing which may hinder in getting the result for explanatory variable on public participation in Program-based Budgeting. To make sure that the selected variables for the study are free from multi-

collinearity, the study tested multi-collinearity by using the method of VIF (Variance Inflation Factor). The variance inflation factors (VIF) whose critical value is 5 were used in this test. A predictor variable was not highly linearly connected to another predictor variable when the VIF of that predictor variable is less than 5. Multi-collinearity is evident when the VIF value exceeds 5. Table 21 lists the conclusions.

**TABLE 21**  
**Test for multi-collinearity**

Variable	VIF	1/VIF
Stakeholders' Engagement Strategies	1.039	0.962
PP Framework	1.003	0.997
Demographic Characteristics	1.036	0.965
Mean VIF	1.0026	

The data on Table 15 show that the mean VIF was 1.0026. Stakeholders' Engagement strategies had the highest VIF (1.039) and PP Framework had the lowest (1.003) among the study's predictor elements. No variable had a VIF of less than 0.1, indicating that there were no closely linked variables, which could result in skewed and incorrect results.

#### **4.11 Discussion of the Findings**

In line with the four study questions, the following was the summarized discussion of the findings:

##### **4.11.1 How has Stakeholders' Engagement Strategies affected PP in Program-Based Budgeting in Murang'a County Government?**

The finding was that stakeholders' engagement strategies are moderately effective (Mean=3.429, SD= 0.5634). They also agree that the public has the latitude to submit objections and proposed amendments (Mean=3.317). Stakeholders' Engagement Strategies

had a regression coefficient of  $\beta = -0.094$  ( $t = 1.607$ ,  $p < 0.109$ ). This implied that with other factors held constant, a unit change in stakeholders' engagement strategies caused reduction of 9.4% of change in public participation in program-based budgeting.

There was agreement among the majority of participants that the county has various strategies to improve participation in various program budget initiatives. This is supported by Ndiao (2022) who discovered that the two counties had used a variety of tactics to engage the public, including increased use of social media, requests for written memoranda from the general public, the use of local administrators, the use of online platforms, and the use of video-conferencing platforms. Also, Kithinji (2017) noted that most counties are yet to develop any specific strategies to ensure that all stakeholders are involved in all stages of the budget cycle leading to wastage and embezzlement of public resources. Mutwiri (2016) further observed that counties made use of local radio and television stations, posters, door-to-door solicitations, partnerships with neighborhood mosques and churches, and the county website.

#### **4.11.2 How has Public Participation Framework affected PP in Program-Based Budgeting in Murang'a County Government?**

The second question in the study was to on how public participation framework affected PP in Program-Based Budgeting in Murang'a County Government. The respondents were indifferent on whether public participation framework is effective (Mean=3.0913, SD=0.4573) with regression coefficient of  $\beta = -0.035$  ( $t = -0.491$ ,  $p < 0.623$ ). The respondents were also divided on whether there is a dedicated legal PP office (Mean=3.667) and that there is a dedicated legal PP office (Mean=3.0633). However, the respondents agreed that reporting Mechanism for tracking issues (Mean=4.0367) but disagreed that there were clear reporting lines for disseminating data participation process (Mean=3.033). The findings noted that the

respondents were aware of the important role of the PP framework in program-budgeting protocol but were not satisfied with the measures put in place as PP framework to aid in participation in program-based budgeting.

While Article 10 of the Kenyan Constitution recognizes public involvement as one of our national objectives and guiding principles of governance, most counties including Muranga, have not adhered to most provisions under the Public Finance Management Act of 2012 (PFMA), and the County Government Act of 2012 which sets criteria for public participation framework during budgeting. Rono et al. (2018), the Governor of the County governance has the primary responsibility of facilitating and documenting public participation in county governance. This is also supported by Trocaire Kenya (2019), who noted that in many counties, government is often centralized, limiting the flow of information and decision-making to a few individuals and undermining public participation. Furthermore, limited institutional capacity and inadequate coordination across county departments impede citizen engagement. Political intervention and opaque processes further limit true participation, resulting in budgets that fail to reflect community objectives (Wamugu, & Ogollah, 2017).

#### **4.11.3 How does Demographic Characteristics affect Public Participation in Program-Based Budgeting in Murang'a County Government?**

The third question in the study attempted to reveal the effects of communities' demographic characteristics on public participation in program-based budgeting in Murang'a County Government. The respondents were indifferent that communities' demographic characteristics did not affect PP in program-based budgeting (Mean=3.3880, SD=0.6191). The majority of participants opined that younger persons have little or no information in public participation during budgeting cycles (Mean=4.190). They also indicated that low literacy levels among

local communities have decreased public participation in budgeting (Mean=4.133). Demographic characteristics had the strongest effect on the regression model ( $\beta= 0.008$ ,  $t= 0.153$ ,  $P<0.878$ ).

The findings appear to agree with (Mutwiri, 2016) who posited that that gender, literacy level, age, and occupation are all significant determinants of budgeting involvement. The study's finding however differs with Hassan et al (2019), on the fact that gender and level of education were the two demographic factors that had the largest influence on community engagement, with women participating more. However, Kilewo and Frumence (2015) agrees that members of the public do not always have the time or financial resources to engage in public budgeting proceedings.

#### **4.11.4 How can public participation in program-based budgeting be enhanced in Murang'a County Government?**

The last question in the study sought to suggest strategies for enhancing public participation in program-based budgeting in Murang'a County Government. The respondents were divided on whether public participation in PBB was effective (Mean=3.095, SD=0.5585). Among the strategies and measures suggested by informants include: Experts suggested that a collaboration between the county government and civil society organizations can lead to more effective engagement. They also suggested using digital platforms and social media to increase outreach, particularly in rural areas, and implementing continuous civic education to provide individuals with the knowledge and skills they need to engage effectively.

On the other hand, respondents suggested engagement of stakeholders from planning; analyze and prioritize stakeholders; enhancing accessible to information and venues;

leveraging on technology-blend digital and face-to-face; allowing engagement to influence policy; and building networks through common interest group. The literature reviewed supported closely related measures. For instance, Nyaga (2022) investigated public participation and public financial management performance in the Embu County Government. The County government used print media, social media (WhatsApp, Facebook, and Twitter), print media (newspapers and displays in public places), and phone calls (both mobile and landline) to invite the public-to-public participation forums. Most counties have yet to adopt specific strategies to ensure that all stakeholders are involved throughout the budget cycle, resulting in waste and misappropriation of public resources (Kithinji, 2017).

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

The chapter provides an overview of the research findings that were covered in Chapter Four. The chapter highlights the summary, conclusion and study recommendations regard to the variables investigated. The study purposed to establish the determinants of public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County. Specifically, the study sought to establish the influence of Stakeholders' Engagement Strategies, PP Framework, and Demographic Characteristics on public participation in program-based budgeting in Murang'a County Government. The study also suggests sways of enhancing public participation in program-based budgeting in the county.

#### **5.2 Summary of Findings**

On demographic background of the participants, the majority (26%), were between the ages of 41 and 45, followed by 50 years and above (21%), 36-40, (18%), 31-35(12.33%), and Under 30 years 4 (7%). On the other hand, the majority of respondents (33.7%) had no college diploma while 33% said their greatest level of education was a college diploma. Another 27% had bachelor's degree followed by respondents with a master's degree at 14%. This suggests that the majority of respondents have post-secondary education. In relation to participation in program-based budgeting, 53.5% of the respondents said they had attended at least one budget forum, while 46.5% had not attended any such meeting.

### **5.2.1 Influence of Stakeholders' Engagement Strategies**

The study established that the respondents agreed that stakeholders' engagement strategies are effective (Mean=3.429). Stakeholders' Engagement Strategies had a regression coefficient of  $\beta = -0.094$  ( $t = -1.607$ ,  $p < 0.109$ ) implying a negative correlation with public participation in program-based budgeting. This implied that a unit change in stakeholders' engagement strategies caused a 12.5% reduction in public participation in program-based budgeting. While most of the questions under this variable had low score, there was agreement that the county government employees and management are accessible on budget matters (Mean=4.01640).

These findings demonstrated that the respondents were aware of the important role of the different stakeholders' engagement strategies in program-budgeting process but were not satisfied with the strategies put in place to engage the stakeholders. On which strategies the county government could use to improve on stakeholders' engagement during public budgeting participation, civic education to the public about budgeting and accountability was the most cited way to improve participation. There was agreement among the majority of participants that the county has various strategies to improve participation in various program budget initiatives.

### **5.2.2 Influence of Public Participation Framework**

The finding on Public Participation Framework shows that respondents agreed public participation framework is effective (Mean=3.0887). Notably, the respondents agreed that reporting Mechanism for tracking issues (Mean=4.0367) but disagreed that there were clear reporting lines for disseminating data participation process (Mean=3.033). The respondents agreed that PP Framework were effective (Mean=3.6817) and regression coefficient of  $\beta = 0.159$

was determined to be statistically significant at 0.000 ( $t = 3.589$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). A unit change in public participation framework caused 15.9% change in public participation in program-based budgeting. The findings noted that the respondents were aware of the important role of the PP framework in program-budgeting protocol. The findings did not tally with other studies that have blamed poor PP frameworks for low participation. For instance, voting processes in most devolved units as a public involvement procedure could not be described as entirely competent or fair (IBP, 2022).

The findings noted that the respondents were aware of the important role of the PP framework in program-budgeting protocol. The findings did not tally with other studies that have blamed poor PP frameworks for low participation. For instance, voting processes in most devolved units as a public involvement procedure could not be described as entirely competent or fair (IBP, 2022). Trocaire Kenya (2019) added that centralized decision-making processes and inadequate coordination across county departments impede citizen engagement.

### **5.2.3 Influence of Demographic Characteristics**

The study determined that communities' demographic characteristics did not significantly affect Public Participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County (Mean=3.388). However, the respondents believed that low literacy levels among local communities decreased public participation in budgeting (Mean=4.0511). Demographic Characteristics has a 0.007 effect on public participation in county program-based budgeting ( $t = 0.115$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). A unit change in communities' demographic characteristics caused 0.7% change in public participation in program-based budgeting. This implies a mild positive effect on participation in budget among in the county. It is therefore the conclusion of the study that demographic

characteristics of the county's residence may not be an important factor in public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County. Indeed, Mutwiri (2016) noted that factors such as gender, literacy level, occupation, and age have also been listed as important determinants of participation in budgeting process sometimes having a negative effect on participation.

#### **5.2.4 Suggestions for Enhancing Public Participation**

A number of suggestions were made on enhancing include public participation in program-based budgeting. These include; Starting with stakeholders during planning, Analyzing and prioritizing stakeholders. Improving accessibility to information and locations. Leveraging technology by blending digital and face-to-face Allow engagement to affect policy, and creating networks through common interest groups.

The expert interviewed suggested that a collaboration between the county government and civil society organizations can lead to more effective engagement. They also suggested using digital platforms and social media to increase outreach, particularly in rural areas, and implementing continuous civic education to provide individuals with the knowledge and skills they need to engage effectively.

Addressing the political question which plays significant role in public participation during budgeting process is crucial to enhancing peoples' participation. Mugambi and Theuri (2014) suggested that, while the country accepted public involvement as required by the law, the process was ineffective because to political meddling from both elected and nominated political leaders.

### 5.3 Conclusion

The study examined the determinants public participation in program-based budgeting in Muranga County. The influence of Stakeholders' Engagement Strategies, Public Participation Framework, and Demographic Characteristics on public participation in program-based budgeting of Muranga County were assessed. The county scored poorly on all the four questions focused, as the demonstrated with the questions sought, whereby stakeholders' engagement strategies scored better than the other two independent variables. In relation to the participation of the respondents in budget public participation majority of the resident in Muranga County were aware about budgeting process and could identify a program-based budget.

The three variables showed slight correlation with public participation in program-based budgeting but only accounted for only 7.5%. Demographic Characteristics had the strongest effect ( $\beta= 0.008$ ) followed by Public Participation Framework ( $\beta= -0.035$ ), and Stakeholders' engagement strategies ( $\beta= -0.094$ ). It is the conclusion of this study that Stakeholders' Engagement Strategies, Public Participation Framework, and Demographic Characteristics have varied mild influence on Public Participation in program-based budgeting. Although the County Government of Muranga has various strategies to engage the residents on its respective program-based budgeting processes, there is need to improve on Stakeholders' Engagement Strategies, Public Participation Framework and accountability to enhance the public participation in the county budgeting processes.

#### **5.4 Limitations of the Study**

The Establishing a causal relationship between stakeholders' engagement strategies, participation framework, and demographic characteristics on public participation in program-based budgeting was challenging. Financial and time constraints limited the scope of the study to one county and this means the findings may not be generalized to other counties. Several factors that were beyond the scope of this study, such as macroeconomic conditions significantly impacted participation by residents of Muranga in budget processes could also be important determinants. The study was also limited by the fact that the national government is a core player in budget-making process yet the research scope was limited to Muranga County. Further, there was little access to most of the data from the county that were of great importance to the study. The researcher utilized the available data and collaborated with the information provided by the respondents to draw conclusions.

#### **5.5 Recommendations**

In light of the low score given on the four areas the study focused, there is a need for the County Government of Muranga to improve its public participation framework to address the concerns raised. The study recommends that the County Government of Muranga should prioritize on enhancing its program-budgeting framework since it gives the citizens necessary information about budget and offers platform for improved results and accountability. On the other hand, the national Government should guide counties on budgeting processes to sensitize the citizens on the need to participate in the budgeting cycle. The county also needs to leverage on technology by digitizing its public participation platforms as suggested by experts.

## **5.6 Areas for Further Studies**

Despite the fact that the issue of public participation in program-based budgeting is common in Kenya, the study focused on just one county. Other researchers can then broaden the scope to include other counties to investigate whether citizen perception, information availability, and citizen perception influence participation in program-based budgeting and other governance programs. Further, the study only focused on three factors, namely, Stakeholders' Engagement Strategies, Public Participation Framework, and Demographic Characteristics. There is need to identify other factors impinging upon public participation in program-based budgeting is common in Kenya.

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## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX I

#### LETTER OF INTRODUCTION TO RESPONDENTS

**Purity Wawira Njagi,**

KCA University,

Department of Educational Administration and Planning,

P.O. Box 56808-00200,

NAIROBI.

Date.....

To: .....

Dear Respondent,

**Re: Invitation to participate in Research Project**

My name is Purity Njagi, a postgraduate student at KCAUniversity (REG. No:.....), pursuing a Master's of Science Degree (Finance and Accounting option). I am undertaking a research on **“Determinants of Public Participation in Program-Based Budgeting in Muranga County, Kenya”**, and you have been selected for the purpose of undertaking the study.

The purpose of this letter is to humbly request you to participate in the study by filling the attached questionnaires. All the information collected will be used only for the purposes of the study only and will be treated with strictly confidentiality. Please tick or fill in the blank spaces as required.

Your contribution will contribute greatly to the development of this study. Your cooperation and support in this study will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Purity Njagi

**APPENDIX II:  
QUESTIONNAIRE**

This questionnaire is designed to gather information on **“Determinants of public participation in program-based budgeting in county governments in Muranga County, Kenya”**. You are kindly requested to tick (√) the appropriate response or respond as indicated. Please **DO NOT** put your name or any other form of identification. Your identity will be confidential and the information will only be used for the purpose of this study. Please respond to all items.

**SECTION I: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA**

Please indicate the correct option by inserting a tick ( ) in appropriate space provided

1.	What is your gender? Female [ ] (b)Male [ ]
2.	What is your age in years? a) Under 30 [ ] b)31 – 35 [ ] c) 36 – 40 [ ] d) 41 – 45 [ ] e) 46 – 50 [ ] f) Over 50 [ ]
3.	What is your highest professional qualification? a) PGDE [ ] b) B.Ed [ ] c) Masters [ ] d) PhD [ ] e) Other.....
4 a)	Have you ever participated in County Budget Public Participation meeting /forum/? Yes [ ] b) No [ ]
b)	Were you satisfied with the outcome of the Public Participation meeting /forum[in 5 a)] Reasons .....

**SECTION II: BUDGET STAKEHOLDERS’ ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

6. The table below is intended to seek information about the challenges facing public participation in project-based budgeting. Using the ~~given~~ scale, please tick against each question accordingly.

**Scale:** Strongly Disagree (1), I Disagree (2), Neutral (3), I Agree (4) I Strongly Agree (5)

	Comment	1	2	3	4	5
i	There is open sharing of ideas and proposals during budget planning.					
ii	The public can submit objections and proposed amendments					
iii	Communication on budget issues is effective					

iv	The county conducts civic education and publicity relating to budget					
v	There is proper consultation btw county government and the citizens					
vi	The citizens own the meetings during PP					
vii	The county government employees and management are accessible on budget matters					

**SECTION III: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FRAMEWORK**

7.The table below is intended to seek information about how governance structures affect public participation in project-based budgeting. Using the Likert scale, please tick against each question accordingly.

**Scale:** Strongly Disagree (1), I Disagree (2), Neutral (3), I Agree (4) I Strongly Agree (5)

	<b>Comment</b>	1	2	3	4	5
i	There is a dedicated legal PP office					
ii	Inclusive and consultative pp protocols					
iii	Smooth and clear procedures for public participation					
iv	Administrative system enable effective public participation process					
v	Reporting Mechanism for tracking issues					
vi	Clear Reporting lines for disseminating data					
vii	County Officers take responsibility for issues					

**SECTION V: COMMUNITIES DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS**

8.The table below is intended to seek information about how communities’ demographic characteristics affect public participation in project-based budgeting. Using the Likert scale, please tick against each question accordingly.

**Scale:** Strongly Disagree (1), I Disagree (2), Neutral (3), I Agree (4) I Strongly Agree (5)

	<b>Comment</b>	1	2	3	4	5
i	Low levels education among local communities have decreased public participation in budgeting					
ii	Level of income determines participation in budgeting forums					

iii	Men are more active in public participation compared to women					
iv	Occupation affects peoples' availability during budget public participation meetings					
v	Younger persons have little or no interest in public participation during budgeting cycles					
vi	Public participation meetings take too much time and affects attendance of people.					
vii	Religion affects the ability of people to participate in public participation in the county					
vii	Influence of Literacy Level on Participation					
viii	Influence of Economic Status on Participation					
Ix	Influence of Occupation on Participation					
x	Influence of Age on Participation					

**SECTION VI: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM-BASED BUDGETING**

8.The table below is intended to seek information about how communities' demographic characteristics affect public participation in project-based budgeting. Using the Likert scale, please tick against each question accordingly.

**Scale:** Strongly Disagree (1), I Disagree (2), Neutral (3), I Agree (4) I Strongly Agree (5)

	<b>Comment</b>	1	2	3	4	5
i	Stakeholders are involved throughout budget cycle					
ii	The county carries out proper sensitization on budget to raise awareness					
iii	There is openness and transparency to facilitate oversight					
iv	Communities are encouraged to ask questions and give views on budget					

v	Stakeholders understand all the steps taken during budgeting cycles					
vi	There is good protocol for receiving public inputs and feedback					
vii	There is law and guideline duly followed during the budget cycle					

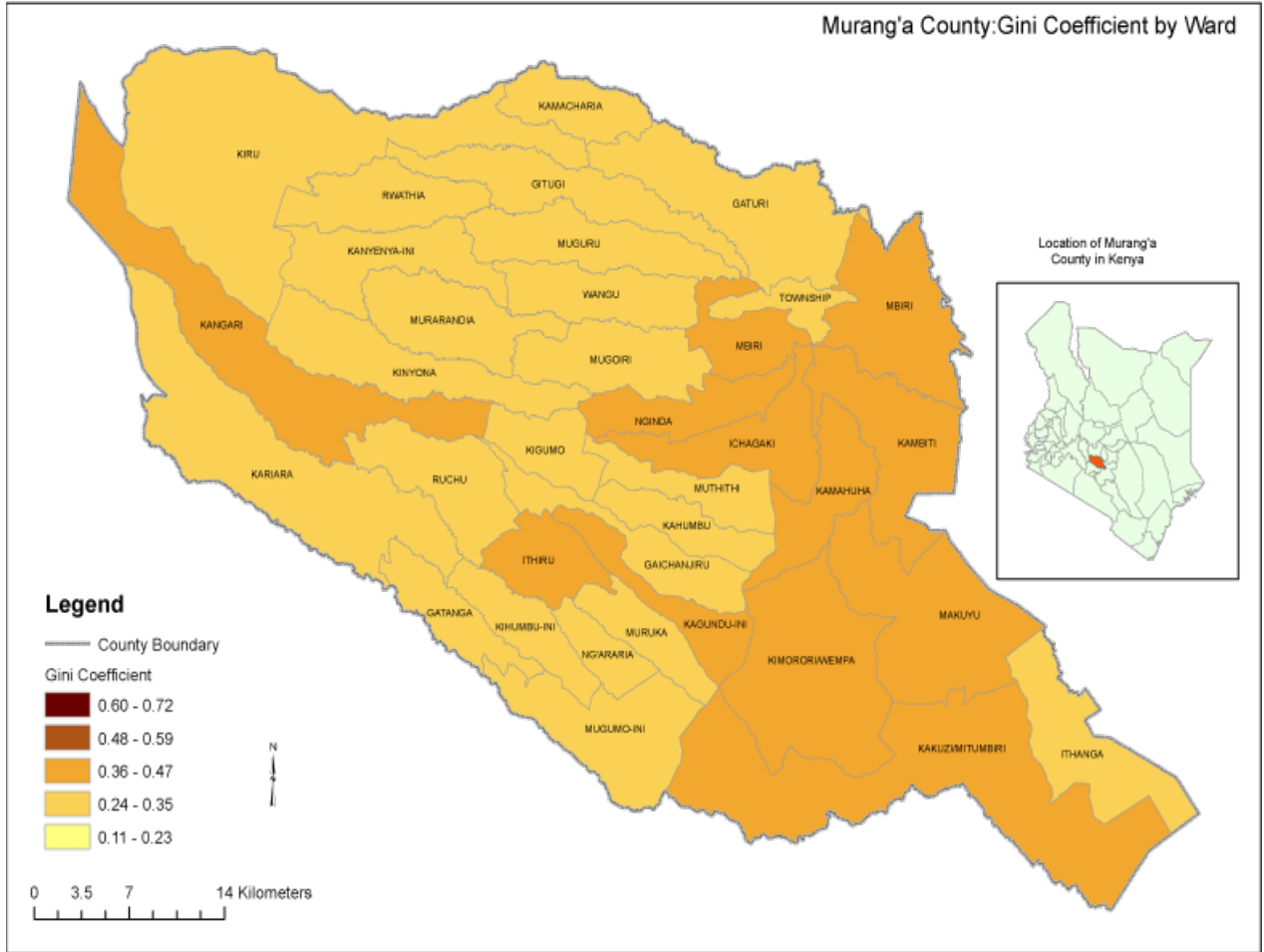
### APPENDIX III

#### INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR KEY INFORMANTS

<b>After brief Introduction and consent;</b>	
<b>Seek respondents' information on the following areas:</b>	
1)	How long have you participated in public participation in your county?
2)	What are the main challenges facing counties in implementing public participation in program-based budgeting?
3)	How can the county government improve on public participation in budgeting?
4)	How can the county government improve on public participation in budgeting?
5)	What strategies should the county government use to improve on governance structures during public budgeting participation?

### APPENDIX III

### MURANG'A COUNTY WARD BOUNDARIES



Source: Murang'a County Assembly website