

**UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES**

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS: A
CASE STUDY OF THE MANGO PROCESSING PLANT, YILO KROBO.**

BY

ASARE-ANSAH NANA ASI

INSTITUTE OF STATISTICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH



JANUARY, 2023

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON

INSTITUTE OF STATISTICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

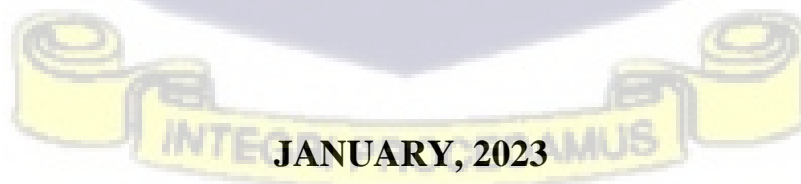
**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS: A
CASE STUDY OF THE MANGO PROCESSING PLANT, YILO KROBO.**

BY

ASARE-ANSAH NANA ASI

(10935134)

**THIS DISSERTATION IS SUBMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF
GHANA, LEGON IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT
FOR THE AWARD OF M.A IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES DEGREE.**



DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my family for their support throughout this journey.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Almighty God through whose guidance and protection made this research a success. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Isaac Osei-Akoto who consistently guided me through to the work.

I also want to thank my colleagues, Esinu, Derrick, Akyea and Oscar for their support.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION.....	ii
DEDICATION.....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
LIST OF TABLES	viii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	ix
ABSTRACT.....	x
CHAPTER ONE	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background to the Study.....	1
1.2 Problem Statement	4
1.3 Research Objectives	7
1.4 Research Questions	7
1.5 Significance of the Study	7
1.6 Organization of the Study	8
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW.....	9
2.0 Introduction	9
2.1 Theoretical Review	9
2.1.1 Arnstein’s Ladder of Participation	9
2.1.2 IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation	11
2.2 Conceptual Review	14
2.2.1 Definitions and Concept of Participation.....	14
2.2.1.1 Benefits of Participation.....	16
2.2.1.2 Factors Influencing Participation	18
2.2.1.3 Challenges of Participation	19
2.2.1.4 Strategies to Enhance Participation.....	21
2.2.2 Community Development.....	22
2.3 Empirical Review	23
2.4 Conceptual Framework	25

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	28
3.0 Introduction	28
3.1 Research Design	28
3.2 Study Area.....	29
3.3 Sampling Size.....	31
3.4 Sampling Technique.....	31
3.5 Data Sources and Collection	31
3.6 Data Analysis	32
3.7 Ethical Consideration	33
CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	34
4.0 Introduction	34
4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents.....	34
4.2 Factors Influencing Participation	35
4.3 Strategies to Enhance Participation.....	40
4.4 Challenges of Participation	43
CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS	47
5.0 Introduction	47
5.1 Summary of Main Findings	47
5.2 Conclusion.....	50
5.3 Recommendations	51
5.4 Suggestions for Future Studies.....	52
REFERENCES.....	53
APPENDIX I	60
APPENDIX II.....	62



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2. 1: Arnstein’s Ladder of Participation 11

Figure 2.2 : IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation 12

Figure 2.3: Diagrammatic Presentation of Conceptual Framework 27

Figure 3.1: Map of Yilo Krobo Municipal.....30



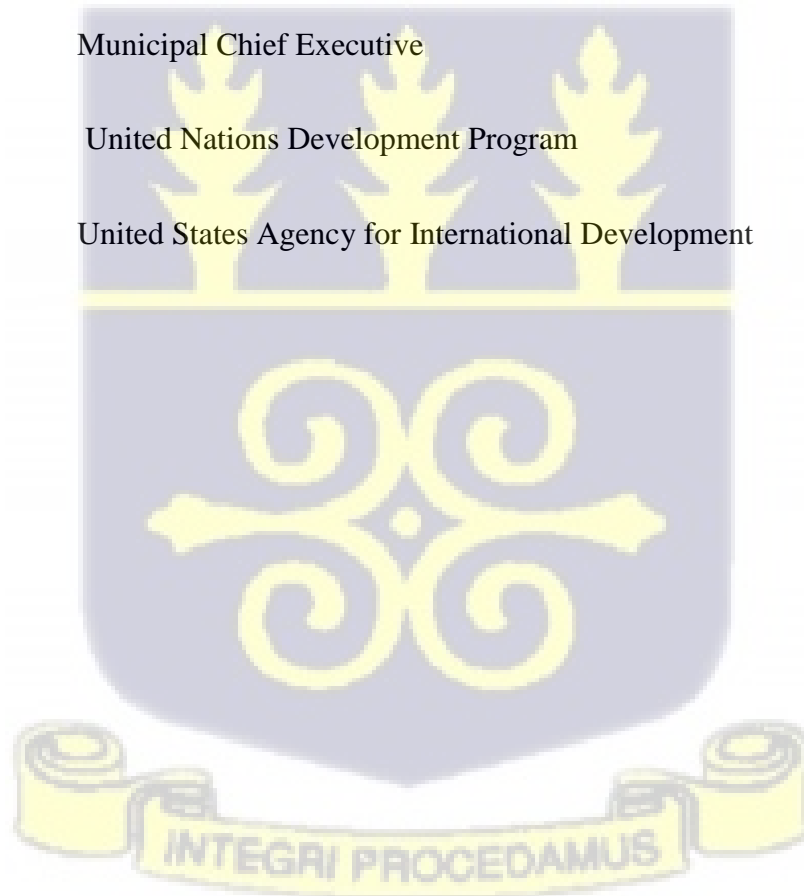
LIST OF TABLES

Table 4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents 35



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CHPS	Community- Based health Planning Services
DFID	Department for International Development
GAD	Gender and Development
GTZ	German Agency for Technical Cooperation
ISSER	Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research
LI	Legislative Instrument
MCE	Municipal Chief Executive
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development



ABSTRACT

Participation as a topical issue has been very challenging to conceptualize because it is usually operationalized depending on the context. As such, this study aimed at exploring the factors that influence participation in development projects, the strategies to enhance participation, and the challenges that emerged from the process. Using the Yilo Krobo Municipal Assembly as a study area and the mango processing plant as the case study, primary data was collected through key informant interviews and secondary data from the Municipal Assembly's internal reports, documents, journals, articles, and books. Key informant interviews were conducted for selected staff of the Assembly who met the selection criteria. In addition, the presiding member, assembly members, and unit committee were also engaged using interviews. The study used a thematic analysis to illustrate overall findings from participant replies and interpret data by inferring from participants' responses about their experiences. The findings of the study established that participation has positive effects on development projects in the municipality. The assembly in its quest to enhance participation has adopted new strategies and mechanisms that encourage community engagement. The findings of the study also revealed that sensitization exercises as an initiative of the assembly enlighten the public on how beneficial the development projects are when implemented. Further, the findings of the study identified political influence and interference, lack of funds, inadequate resources, gender, people's attitude toward change, and cultural practices as major challenges to participation. It is recommended that the assembly should strengthen its key platforms for community engagement programs to empower community members to effectively participate in community development in the Yilo Krobo Municipality. The political leaders in the municipality should initiate development projects that are realistic and seek to address the different needs of all the people in the Municipality.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Community participation has been regularly used in the development discourse. Development is a process that fosters growth and brings about positive changes, encompassing various dimensions including socio-economic, political, and cultural aspects of people's lives. Development is a process that creates growth, and positive change being it the socio-economic, political, and cultural aspects of people. The aim of development is to improve people's living standards and increase sources of income and employment opportunities while preserving the environment. Development is important but does not happen immediately and it involves a change in quality and conditions for that change to be continuous (Society for International Development, 2021).

Development includes participatory and deliberate strategies aimed at improving the good of the public be it political, social, or material requirements (Wilkins, 2008). Participation can mean various things to different individuals in various contexts, but it is not a new concept because participation has been defined by different organizations and scholars. According to the World Bank, participation is a process by which stakeholders are involved, influence, and share power over their development projects, decisions, and resources that affect them (Mubita et al., 2017). Participation has also been defined as an empowering and educational process in which people, in collaboration with each other, identify needs, pool resources, plan, design, implement and evaluate the actions that they choose (Mubita et al., 2017). Despite the numerous and varied definitions, there is a common concept that they all reduce participation to ideas such as people's

involvement or engagement in their development process. This means that people are involved in the development, design, execution, and maintenance of projects that will improve their lives and the lives of others in their communities.

Effective participation should be built on principles that allow involvement at all levels, guarantee all stakeholders can participate, appreciate diversity, ensure voluntary participation, and motivate stakeholders to create their ideas and remedy (Nehru, 2012). The process must ensure the active participation of community members and their influence on the direction and the execution of a development project which is of the essence in project implementation. He opined that information sharing, consultation, decision-making, and initiating action are indicators of community participation. The information sharing indicator implies that the government agencies share information with beneficiaries to equip them to understand and perform their duties better. Consultation as an indicator will assess how beneficiaries' feedback is taken into account by government agencies during the design and implementation of a project. The decision-making means beneficiaries together with project management will make decisions on specific issues which are project related. Lastly, initiating action implies that beneficiaries are proactive and take the initiatives to fast-track their development. The end goal is for citizens to have a say in how their development happens.

Community development ensures communities become more robust and create stronger ties. This is because it is built on principles of inclusion, social justice, empowerment, self-determination, and collective action (Kenny, 2007). Community development strengthens and connects communities by empowering community members who become responsible at every level of a community development program, from the problem identification stage to evaluation.

In the quest to address the roots of inequality, and poverty and achieve community development, there is a need to focus on power redistribution.

The relevance of participation in fostering community development, especially in rural areas cannot be undermined. Recent years have seen a reduction in the amount of funding available from the majority of governments and donor organizations for social development initiatives in metropolitan areas. As community development mechanisms stress self-help, the democratic process, and local leadership in community regeneration, they must consequently work to encourage active community engagement (Barker, 1992). The communities or beneficiaries involved in the work are typically involved in community development efforts, according to (Mwiru, 2015). The bottom-up method of issue-solving that participation employs is a key instrument for assuring community development.

In Ghana, the participation of beneficiaries in local decision-making is receiving a lot of academic interest, especially in relation to community development (Amoako-Atta et al., 2020). Despite the fact that several legal provisions have guaranteed citizens' participation in the decision-making process, there are currently few structures in place to enable effective community participation. For instance, the 1992 Constitution outlines how individuals should interact with the government and participate in decision-making. Citizens may participate in the development planning process at all levels of development under the National Development Planning (System) Act, 1994 (Act 480). Additionally, the Local Government Act of 1993 (Act 462) provides for citizen involvement in local government.

The mango processing plant was established as a response to the abundant mango harvests in the Yilo Krobo and Lower Manya area. The plant serves as a facility dedicated to transforming locally harvested mangoes into various value-added products. This plant aims to enhance

economic growth by utilizing the abundant mango resources of the region, creating employment opportunities, and meeting the market demand for processed mango products. Recognizing the potential for value addition and economic growth, local stakeholders collaborated to create the plant, aiming to harness the region's mango resources and generate employment opportunities while meeting market demand for processed mango products. This study examines the conflict between theory and practice in development programs, particularly at the local level. It will explore how community participation affects development projects using the mango processing plant as a case study.

1.2 Problem Statement

Participation dominates the development discourse and research has demonstrated how community participation affects the projects' likelihood of success or failure (Reeves, 2015). Sustainability is ensured by community development, which also serves as a foundation for the implementation of development programs that take the community's needs into account. Gaventa, (2006) opined that participation provides a call for self-reliance and empowerment of the communities. Collaboration between community members and project implementers, information exchange, and the creation and execution of plans that take into account the views of the community's members establish how relevant participation is. This implies that all stakeholders must be involved in the planning and implementation of any development project in the community. Sustainability is compromised when community members do not actively prioritize development projects implemented in the quest to address their pressing needs (Mayo, 2015).

Participation is a key component of achieving long-term development, and Ghana has been practicing decentralized decision-making for the past three decades, which involves the transfer of decision-making power from the national to the district levels under the Local Government Act 462, 1993 (Constitution of the Republic of Ghana, 1992). Participation has been a process that incorporates public concerns, needs, and values for governmental decision-making. The process places emphasis on how participation is a two-way engagement with the main purpose of making recommended decisions that have public support. Members of the community have a say in the administration and governance of their community (Creighton, 2005).

From the 20th century, local participation principles and methods became the mainstream method of development. Particularly in developing countries, this concept is believed to reduce poverty and ensure sustainable development. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in its Human Development Report highlights the significance of participation as it places people at the center of development (UNDP HDR, 1991). However, the concept of community participation in Ghana seems to be more theoretical and not actually practiced at the local level (Aryeh-Adjei et al., 2014). Despite the government's best efforts to increase involvement, participation remains low in many sections of Ghana. This mostly results in the failure of community-level projects, communities losing interest in these programs, and increasing reliance on government resources. Amoako-Atta (2020), expressed how participation at the local level is mostly challenged by operational and structural barriers, and as a result, most women complained that these projects were not feminine enough and did not build their capacity.

The Yilo Krobo Municipality which was created in 1988 and elevated to municipality status in 2012 by Legislative Instrument (LI) 2051, has seen various developmental projects such as schools, health facilities (for example CHPS compounds), water, and sanitation among others.

Several studies have been conducted to assess community participation in community development in developing countries. Botes and Rensburg (2000) conducted a study on obstacles to community participation in a rural environment in India. The above indicates that several studies have focused on community participation. Little was therefore known about the extent to which community participation influences development and the challenges of community participation in community development thus creating a gap for investigation.

Furthermore, the misalignment between theoretical principles and practical implementation of community participation in development projects poses a critical challenge to the successful realization of intended outcomes. While community participation is widely acknowledged as a fundamental component of inclusive and sustainable development, the translation of this concept into effective practices often encounters obstacles that undermine its potential benefits. The case of the mango processing plant in the Yilo Krobo and Lower Manya area serves as a pertinent example of this disparity.

More so, despite the aspirations of involving local stakeholders, generating employment opportunities, and meeting market demand for processed mango products, the actual execution of the mango processing plant project may face difficulties in engaging the community in a meaningful and impactful way. Issues such as power dynamics, limited resources, conflicting interests, and insufficient mechanisms for transparent decision-making could lead to superficial engagement, resulting in compromised project outcomes.

Also, the disconnect between the theoretical ideals of community participation and the practical challenges encountered in projects like the mango processing plant raises questions about the effectiveness of current strategies and the necessity for innovative approaches that bridge this gap. Understanding the intricacies of this problem is essential for advancing the field of

community development and maximizing the positive impact of development initiatives on local communities. Therefore, this study seeks to examine the role of participation in community development in the Yilo Krobo Municipality using the mango processing plant as a case study.

1.3 Research Objectives

The specific objectives of this study are to:

1. To identify the factors that influence community participation in development projects.
2. To identify the strategies employed to enhance participation in development.
3. To examine the challenges of community participation in development.

1.4 Research Questions

The study seeks to answer the following questions;

1. What are the factors that influence community participation in development projects?
2. What strategies are employed to enhance community participation in development projects?
3. What are the challenges of community participation in development?

1.5 Significance of the Study

Development cannot be achieved in the absence of participatory planning. It is achieved through enhanced local participation in the decision-making process. The goal of any research is to contribute to the advancement of a specific development, method, or goal. This study will add to

existing theoretical knowledge and serve as a base for further studies. It will also contribute to ways of promoting and enhancing participation at the local level. Also, it will educate the community members on the importance and the need to embrace participation.

The study will provide policymakers with practical recommendations to formulate policies to fast-track development and also on the importance of community engagement and the steps that need to be taken to promote local people's participation in development processes. The study will demonstrate that the residents can contribute to their development as well.

1.6 Organization of the Study

The study was organized into five chapters. Chapter one being the introduction to the study highlights the problem statement, research questions, objectives of study, and significance of the study. Chapter Two also presents the review of related literature, theoretical review, empirical review, and conceptual framework. Chapter Three focused on the methodology used to conduct the research. It highlights the study area, research design, data sources, sample size, and method of data analysis. Chapter Four provides the analysis and discussion of the findings of the study. Chapter Five, the final chapter presents the summary of the findings of the study, the conclusion, and the recommendations addressed in this study.



CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter reviews literature focused on the concept of participation in the development discourse, empirical review as well as theories that explain the different levels of participation. The benefits of participation, factors that influence participation, challenges, strategies to enhance participation, and a conceptual framework of participation are discussed in this chapter.

2.1 Theoretical Review

Several theories have been propounded to explain the nature of participation. Some concentrate on the types and how they are practiced. In contrast, others focus on the approaches, mechanisms, and their application in the development process, including strengths and weaknesses. For this study, the two theories which are relevant to the types of participation discussed are; Arnstein's ladder of Participation (1969) and the International Association of Public Participation's (IAP2) Spectrum of Participation.

2.1.1 Arnstein's Ladder of Participation

Arnstein (1969) in her work established eight (8) participation levels which are manipulation, therapy, informing, consultation, placation, partnership, delegated power, and citizen control.

According to Arnstein (1969), the bottom rung of the ladder of manipulation and therapy constitutes non-participation. Participation at lower rungs of the ladder (manipulation and

therapy) does not accurately represent the ultimate goal of participation, but rather have beneficiaries being persuaded to accept proposed actions. Power holders deceive people into believing they have the power to decide how their society develops, this is manipulation. The underlying premise of therapy is that the general public is uninformed and incapable of making informed decisions. As a result, individuals in positions of authority subject the public to education exercises in an effort to heal them and bring them to enlightenment. It is crucial to understand the distinction between genuine citizen power and non-participation, as well as the true motivations behind participatory projects, which are occasionally criticized for not living up to the concept of participation (Mwiru, 2015).

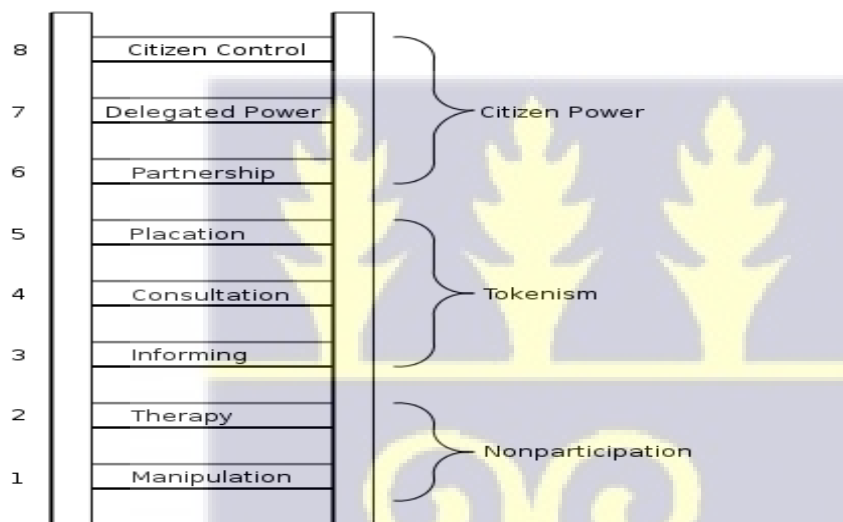
The middle rungs of participation (informing, consultation, and placation) as a process are described as tokenism which allows the marginalized to have a voice and be fed with substantial information but with no opportunity to influence the decision-making process. The marginalized are given the opportunity to voice their ideas when they are included in the effort to apply the rules at this level of participation, but the decision-makers are those in positions of power. There is no assurance that the current situation will change as the power holders are not committed to pursuing meaningful public engagements to influence decision-making.

At the topmost rung of the ladder, the process allows increasing levels of citizen power for decision-making. Arnstein (1969), established that at this level, there should be the redistribution of power between the marginalized public and power holders for participation to be meaningful. Participants who exercise delegated power share decision-making, management, and control with citizens by ceding some of their authority. Citizens are given the majority of seats for decision-making and managerial authority at the ladder's last rung. Citizens currently have the power to

make decisions, run institutions, control all administrative, policy, and organizational matters, and negotiate change terms.

Like any other architecture, the citizen control ladder has its limitations. The framework also has the propensity to interpret lower levels of the ladder as harmful and higher levels as positive when the opposite can be true, failing to appropriately reflect the complexity of power dynamics that play out in the real world in participation (Arnstein, 1969).

Figure 2. 1: Arnstein’s Ladder of Participation



Source: Arnstein, S. (1969, p 217).

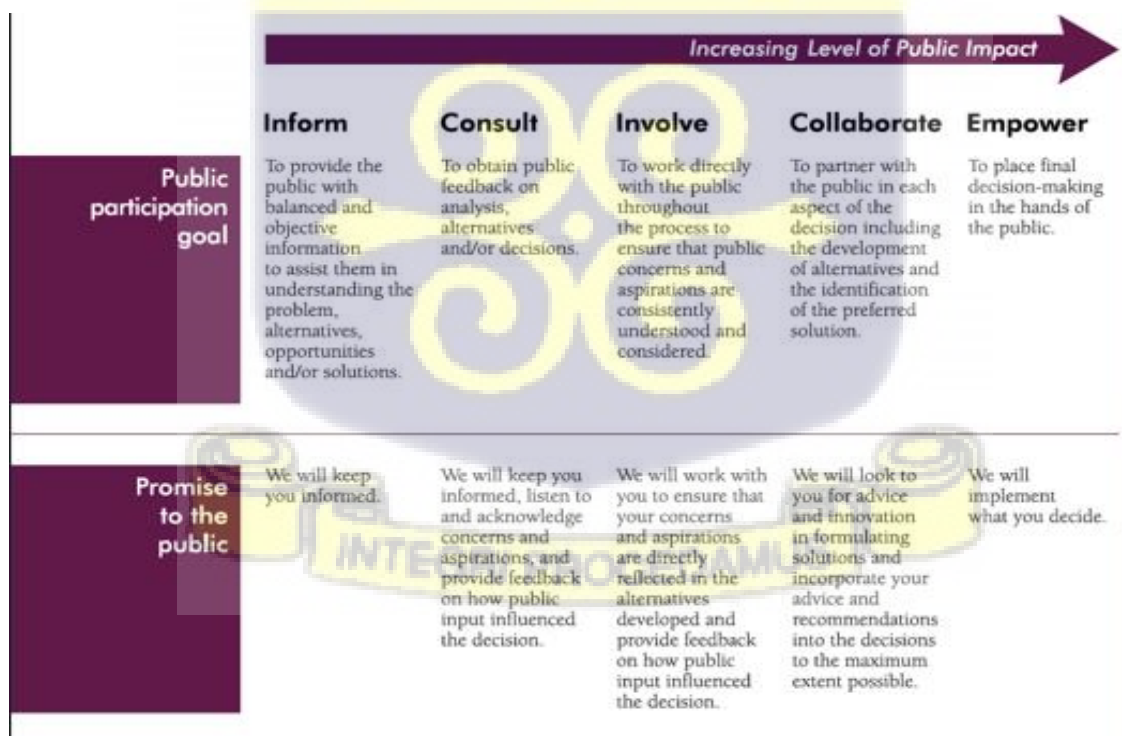
2.1.2 IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

The International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) established several forms of engagement with communities and stakeholders to show how the influence of the general public is growing. The framework outlines five levels of engagement and the objectives are to inform, consult, involve, collaborate and empower (Azizu, 2014). This was created as an indicator of the

public's participation in any participatory process since their influence on decision-making is growing (IAP2 International Federation, 2018).

As an informing process of development, the goal of participation is to guarantee that the public will receive information to help them comprehend the issues, potential solutions, and rationale behind the decisions made to address the problems. The aim is to keep the symmetry of information between the public and implementors (Mosley and Wong, 2021). The public is the intended audience for this process, and the information shared with the public is as fair, accurate, and fact-based as possible. Additionally, the public is kept informed of the justifications for the decisions made by authorities like school administrators, public servants, or elected representatives (IAPA, 2016). However, a process of informing can become problematic when leaders provide data to misrepresent a situation and affect the public's opinion.

Figure 2.2: IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation



Source: IAP2 (2018)

Giving the public a more accurate grasp of the opinions, needs, and priorities of individuals whose decisions may impact consultation processes enhance the results of decision-making processes (IAPP, 2016). For a consultation, the idea is to solicit public input and opinions, which will then be used to examine available options and decision-making solutions (IAP2, 2018). The goal is to show how the public affects decision-making over time by informing the public about what they intend to do and considering their opinions and concerns as feedback. When decision-makers gather public input without considering it, and when significant constituencies or stakeholder groups such as youth are excluded from the process, a consultative approach can become problematic.

In a participatory process, the general public actively works with the decision-makers to ensure that their concerns are regularly considered. The goal is to ensure that the alternatives and solutions consider the public's decisions to gauge their participation in the process and get their input. Members of the public have significant roles throughout an engaging process, from the early phases of issue identification and the formulation of a suggested solution to the final evaluation stage, where participants' remark on what went well and what did not (Nabatchi, 2012)

Collaboration with the public entails working together on every step of the development process, from defining the issue to coming up with potential solutions and selecting the one that works best. The goal is to solicit suggestions and ideas from the public to develop solutions and consider their advice when making decisions (IAP2, 2018). In collaborative processes and partnerships, participants and leaders are treated equally, and participants are subject to some

degree of administrative or decision-making authority from those in positions of power (Mosley and Wong, 2021).

As people can now make decisions for their growth, the public should be empowered to make decisions for themselves (Mosley and Wong, 2021). The goal is to put what the people decide into action. In an empowering process, those in positions of authority may delegate control or decision-making to participants from the public in whole or in part. Instead of institutional leadership or action on a crucial problem, the public may come together to create a decision-making process. A method that gives the people more power over decisions fosters public confidence and gives those who might otherwise face disadvantages access to the resources they need (Nabatchi, 2012).

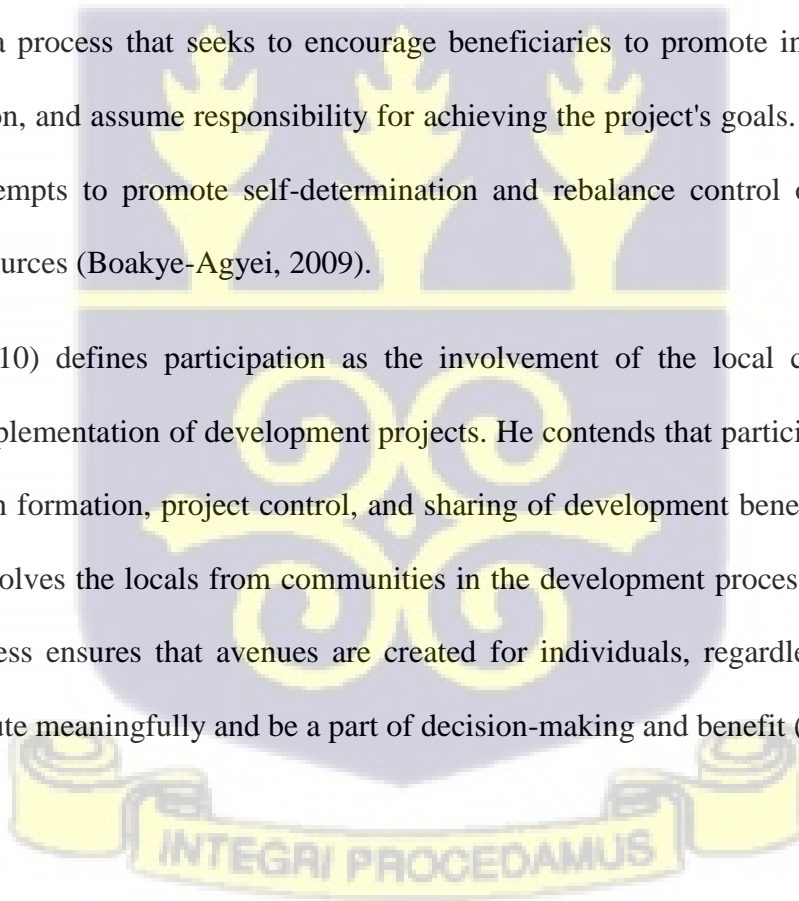
2.2 Conceptual Review

2.2.1 Definitions and Concept of Participation.

Participation like any other social concept is challenging to conceptualize because it is usually operationalized depending on the context (Mohammad, 2010). According to Azizu (2014), there are different definitions by different development scholars based on the area of interest and focus as there are contrasting views. According to the World Bank (1994), participation is a process by which stakeholders modify and share control over development initiatives and resources. This highlights how important participation is for community development. It also implies that the World Bank recognizes the stakeholders but does not factor in the inequalities that influence them, especially those poor and disadvantaged, to participate in decision-making effectively.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) defines participation differently than the definition previously mentioned: "An active engagement of partners and customers in sharing ideas, committing time and resources, making decisions and taking action to bring about the desired development objective" (USAID 1995). The Department for International Development (DFID) defined participation as a strategy that adds a gender perspective to the development process by addressing disparities between men and women throughout society and taking into account the opinions and needs of the underprivileged (Feeney, 2006). This definition highlights how gender is mainstreamed in the participation process for development. According to the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), participation is a process that seeks to encourage beneficiaries to promote initiatives, exercise self-determination, and assume responsibility for achieving the project's goals. This definition of participation attempts to promote self-determination and rebalance control over development projects and resources (Boakye-Agyei, 2009).

Mohammad (2010) defines participation as the involvement of the local community in the planning and implementation of development projects. He contends that participation is essential for effective plan formation, project control, and sharing of development benefits from projects. Participation involves the locals from communities in the development process at the grassroots level. This process ensures that avenues are created for individuals, regardless of their social status to contribute meaningfully and be a part of decision-making and benefit (Parker, 2003).



2.2.1.1 Benefits of Participation

Participation is one of the prerequisites for capacity building and community growth (Barasa, 2013). Participation is an essential ingredient of development and the consensus among major stakeholders is that people everywhere have a basic human right to take part in decisions that affect their lives (Ayee, 2000; Adams, 2003; Cheema, 2005). All parties involved, including the development process, benefit from participation. Community participation is essential to development initiatives' success but goes beyond it (Mwiru, 2015). Communities that actively involve their inhabitants in development are more likely to accomplish their objectives and grow more holistically and beneficially.

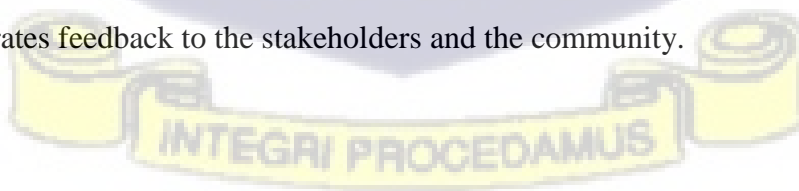
Participation is essential since it promotes sustainability provided projects are well implemented and maintained. People acquire new skills, and positive attitudes, and learn and adapt to take responsibility for their own development (Uphoff, 2000). Participation has the propensity to increase beneficiaries' sense of control and ownership in order to maintain development projects. Participation helps people plan and implement strategies that provide solutions to meet their needs (Samah and Aref, 2009).

Participation enhances self-respect and self-reliance as it reduces dependency among individuals while protecting the interests of all parties involved. Participation encourages people to examine their challenges and develop innovative solutions, which help eliminate the reliance mindset that characterizes much of development work. Because they have a lot of information and experience, this enables them to get and complete their task independently and makes communities aware of the project's implementation. Participation will raise the possibility that funds are allocated and used more effectively to advance development projects (Lancaster, 2002).

Participation ensures that resources are utilized efficiently when people work together towards attaining a particular goal to improve their own lives (Kumar, 2002). Participation will also improve the efficacy of programs because external mechanisms designed to assist the local population are often used to carry out development initiatives. Projects must be more effective due to involvement that allows people a say in creating goals, encourages project administration, and uses local knowledge, expertise, and resources. In the past, numerous initiatives have failed to accomplish their objectives due mainly to a lack of local participation (Mwiru, 2015). To ensure that effectiveness equates with the successful accomplishment of goals, participation might hold.

A small group of people benefits from most government programs and the work of many organizations that oversee or support development projects. Many developing countries only contact a small fraction of the population when providing services. Participation will broaden the audience, bringing more people directly under the effect of development activities, which could boost the attraction to a larger audience (Mwiru, 2015). The community develops a sense of control over the tools and actual goals through participation. They might swiftly spread the new information to neighboring communities, hastening the spread of the novel idea.

Participation builds community capacity to identify problems and develop solutions as well as monitor and evaluate projects. It also measures and analyzes the effect of development initiatives results and generates feedback to the stakeholders and the community.



2.2.1.2 Factors Influencing Participation

Participation emphasizes the extent of involvement of locals in planning, management, and decision-making. Over the years, efforts have been put in place to enhance participation by way of cultivating community social capital and community spirit which will ensure collective participation in development (Zhu, 2015). The success or failure of participation in development is dependent on different factors including but not limited to the following.

The different socio-economic factors that influence people's degree of participation in the planning and implementation of development projects affect their own development. According to Parisi (2012), people with more human capital (e.g., higher education level) and economic resource (e.g., income and occupation) are more likely to be involved in organized community activities. How successful or unsuccessful participation will also depend on the participant's attitude toward it, occupation, and level of education.

Government policies and initiatives in recent years, especially in the Global South, have recognized the value of citizen participation. According to Oakley (1995), there are a number of causes for this development. First off, appeals for more participation have been made in many nations as a result of democratic pressures that have changed internal political systems. Secondly, ongoing economic difficulties have convinced many countries, notably Africa, of the need to bring about more effective popular engagement as a means of mobilizing resources for community development. Thirdly, governments now recognize that in order to effectively manage a nation's natural resource base and prevent unchecked exploitation and degradation, citizens must actively participate in the process.

According to Larson and Lach (2008), people lose interest in participating intensely because it requires time and attention. For the locals to participate, they need to have confidence in their government. The decision to participate might be positively or negatively impacted by the social context. It is generally acknowledged that participant resources, such as time and mobility, affect participation (Smith, 2013). The participation strategies offered must be suitable for the demands of the potential recipients (Coulibaly, 2011). Further, Borazjani et al. (2017) posits that a solid relationship with the local population has positive effects on the willingness to participate in projects, both in terms of supporting them and actively opposing them if they constitute a threat to the community's way of life. The possible immediate effects on rural livelihoods are correlated with positive views.

2.2.1.3 Challenges of Participation

Various reasons hinder the locals from being involved in development projects but are not limited to the following.

Over time, political influence in project selection has increased among local-level development initiatives. A community may need a borehole, but politicians regularly disregard it in the name of their own political and personal interests and shift resources to other projects like creating roads and schools to maintain their positions of power. Because their circumstances have not changed, the beneficiaries eventually do not receive what they require and do not recognize the benefit of participating (Mubita et al., 2017)

One significant barrier to participation is unequal project-related information knowledge. To support the growth of the people, projects are carried out. The design, planning, and execution of

programs should be done by engaging the local community. Beneficiaries of a project have a right to be informed of project-related information, but this right is rarely upheld locally, which discourages people from participating in development initiatives (Mubita et al., 2017). The main issues of community participation in Ghana are wrong meeting times, tasks assigned to the communities by the government beyond their capacity, failure on the part of authorities to share information, and finally, the lackadaisical attitude of the local people which stems from the loss of interest in participating in the planning process (Baku and Agyeman, 2002)

In development discussions, the necessity of project efficiency, as demonstrated by actual results, is a recurring issue. There is an indication that participation will be helpful in terms of improving the living conditions of the impoverished or serving as a tool for social change. Therefore, even while people report more satisfaction with decisions in which they engage, increasing participation does not guarantee proper and predictable outcomes in terms of consequences for a way of life (Mansuri and Rao, 2012).

Women are mostly disadvantaged during community development and are underrepresented on the public participation front (Green and Brock, 2005). According to Bekele (2000), one of the main reasons for the limited participation of women in politics in particular has been the belief that women are inferior to men. The Women in Development approach, which saw women as an addition to the development process, was criticized by the Gender and Development (GAD) approach in the 1980s. The approach highlighted how gender roles and power relations are key to improving women's lives, with 'gender' suggesting a focus on both women and men to promote equity.

In every community, all groups and associations have an uneven distribution of authority, with some members serving as leaders and others as followers. Locally elected leaders often prioritize

their interests over the needs of the beneficiaries when choosing which development projects to launch in their communities (Hogg and Vaughan, 2011). As a result, some locally elected leaders choose initiatives to further their own interests rather than taking the needs of the community into consideration. The decision-making process is frequently influenced by the leader for his own benefit, which has an impact on community development by keeping the beneficiaries in the dark while involving close allies in the project implementation process.

According to Cornwall and Pratt (2011), participation as a strategy lacks empowerment because it is only applied to get data from people, which is the wrong application. Arnstein's claim that what is referred to as participation at the bottom of the participation ladder is non-participation lends credence to this. This is because the locals are mistreated and used to facilitate their support. Therefore, instead of participating, in this scenario, participation is replaced by a public relations exercise for the implementing group (Arnstein, 1969).

2.2.1.4 Strategies to Enhance Participation

Mansuri and Rao (2012) opined that for participation to be successful, the design and implementation of projects must be well-informed by thorough political and social assessments that will allow for an examination of the customs and interpersonal interactions that direct the generation of local knowledge. This will ensure that organizations that support participatory development are aware of the precise circumstances that may affect the participation of marginalized in communities. As a result, national governments and other development organizations will be better able to create practical solutions to participation challenges like those involving domination.

Cornwall (2008) highlighted that putting community involvement initiatives in their larger context is essential for their success. A homogenous approach may not be effective in heterogeneous contexts, defined by different cultural, social, and political systems, due to the complexity and diversity of the surroundings in which various development organizations and agencies operate. According to Cornwall (2008), participation should be regarded as a fundamentally political activity rather than a tool to understand these dynamics. Therefore, participation should be viewed as political as it is influenced by the institutional framework and individual political histories of the participants (Cornwall and Pratt, 2011), which restrict local citizens' empowerment.

The impact of involvement on power networks must be examined to consider differences in power and interest. This will make it possible to prevent the domination of already powerful organizations from growing or ensure that participatory approaches serve only their interests. To promote employee engagement and a readiness to learn, Mansuri and Rao (2012) demand fundamental changes in the organizational structures and incentives of development agencies. According to Arnstein (1969), the locals need to be given authority or control over a project or program and allowed to negotiate terms and manage the managerial parts of development projects.

2.2.2 Community Development

Communities can be characterized by shared traits, such as location, class, race, language, tradition, and culture. According to Sihlongonyane (2001), the term community defies a clear-cut description. Communities can be defined as uniform, egalitarian groupings with shared values. It

can be described based on the premise that the community has a single mentality that exists as an entity. Community participation in development discourse refers to a proactive process whereby beneficiaries have a say and can affect the course of development. The foundation of community-based development is the active involvement of persons from a defined community in project design and implementation (Mansuri and Rao, 2012).

Theron, (2005) opined that community development focuses on how the desired change could manifest in the communities. As a social process that results from citizen engagement, community development has been characterized in reality; one of its primary objectives is to encourage community participation. The community at large is pushed to establish and articulate its own goals, design its course of action for change, and combine its resources in problem-solving through citizen engagement (Mwiru, 2015). In light of this, community participation is essential to community development and exemplifies a grassroots approach to problem-solving. Development should therefore be considered a process that promotes the involvement of local people.

2.3 Empirical Review

This section focuses on research conducted on participation in community development and the main findings of those studies are outlined below.

Quaye (2015) highlighted that community members involved in their development process tend to identify challenges they are facing, provide alternatives for problem-solving, and provide resources including time, labor, and money to ensure the projects implemented to meet their needs and are sustainable. The majority of the local people participate in the planning and

implementation of development projects. The minority who are not involved do not participate because they do not have an interest, it is time-consuming and they do not feel a sense of responsibility toward the community. Also, some social-economic factors like gender, age, culture, education, and occupation of people ascertain the degree of participation in their development. This confirms that participation is the cornerstone of development as there is a strong relationship between project identification and implementation. Therefore, community involvement in local projects has the potential to positively impact the local economy. According to the study, the Assembly actively engaged the public in the project identification process, which raises and maintains the level of engagement throughout the whole project cycle. This will help the community better identify with the projects, take ownership of them, and make them more sustainable.

Azizu (2015) concluded that, although community involvement appeared to be reasonably strong, there is still an opportunity to learn, adopt, and adapt new processes to attain complete participation in the planning and implementation of development projects in the Yilo Krobo Municipality. The study revealed some challenges militating against effective decision-making for development. Poor communication, lack of accountability, incorrect data, a lack of understanding of the value of planning, partisan politics, and bureaucracy are some of these problems. It is emphasized that, as intended by the Local Government Act of 1993, Act 462, and the National Development Planning (Systems) Act of 1994, Act 480, community participation in decision-making and planning is fairly impressive.

Mwiru (2015), found that communities only participated to a limited extent in the development projects in his study, which evaluated the significance of community engagement in development initiatives. Although they contributed labor, time, and supplies to the project,

citizens were not involved in decision-making. The study found that residents' priorities for involvement in development projects were influenced by their level of education and money. In order to create a sense of ownership, promote growth, and boost citizen confidence in their leaders, the study underlined the need to expand community involvement in development projects. According to the study, training local leaders in citizen engagement strategies and fostering better relationships between them and their constituents are key to overcoming participation issues. Community participation is very relevant because it creates awareness among beneficiaries and stakeholders on how resources are being utilized in development projects and shows how important community participation is in development. In this study, the question of how to enhance participation is resolved by considering the capacity of people, incorporating new measures to put in place, and preference to participate.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

The framework conceptualizes how people can be influenced by culture, political and social factors that affect participation in development. To guarantee success in development, participation must be done using the core strategies: informing, consulting, involving, collaborating, and empowering.

Oakley (1995) asserts that cultural factors affect participation in relation to tradition and the attitude of people toward change. It determines the extent to which people can be involved in participation because of their way of life and what they are accustomed to. People have to be conscientious to accept that change is important and one has to be a part of their development by participating. Power relations that affect the structure of the decision-making body do not give

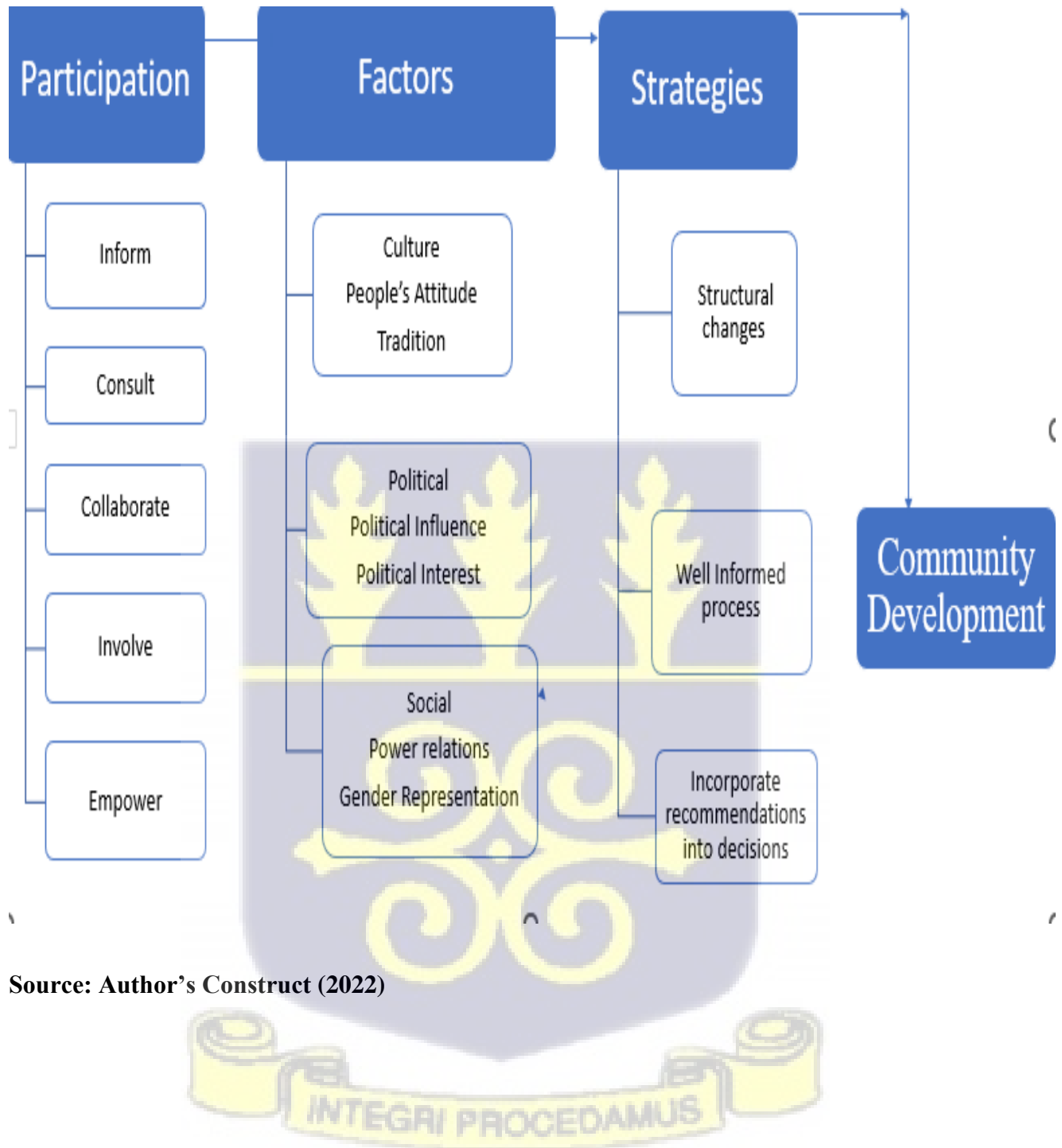
room for women to be represented in public arenas to make decisions. From a gender perspective, women are less likely to participate because they are regarded as subordinates to men.

Political factors such as the political leaders' interests and structure determine whether or not community members will participate in development projects. The interest of leaders above the interest of the community will affect the level of participation. Consulting provides feedback for solutions derived as the opinions of the members are taken into consideration for decision-making. It gives room for their input to influence the decision (IAP, 2018). There would not be the need to participate when the needs of the community are not met after problems have been identified. Participation paves a gateway for community members to have a say in all that is invested in their locality (Mulwa, 2004)

Measures have to be put in place to enhance participation and promote development. Involving the members' means the community would directly work with the power holders and other stakeholders to ensure that their concerns are understood and reflected in the alternatives developed. There should be equal information between all involved in the process to aid decision-making. There is a need to incorporate feedback, advice, and recommendations from the people in the decision-making process as much as possible. This will enable power holders to implement projects birthed out of decisions made by the people. The goal is to create the right environment and platform to empower people to make decisions on their own to fast-track their development process.

Thus, the afore-mentioned factors affect the level of participation and development. For this study, incorporating new mechanisms to enhance participation will pave a way for community members to be a part of their development process to improve their lives in all aspects

Figure 2.3: Diagrammatic Presentation of Conceptual Framework



Source: Author's Construct (2022)

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the methodology of the study which provides an understanding of participation in development. It provides a brief description of the study area, research design, study population, sample size, sampling techniques, data sources, instruments for data collection, and data analysis.

3.1 Research Design

The entire approach to the research process, from the theoretical foundations to data collection and analysis is known as the research design. It serves as a comprehensive manual for how a study will be carried out in order to accomplish its objectives (Msabila and Nalaila, 2013).

A case study design was employed for the study due to the nature of participation and how it affects development in society and also to allow for the simultaneous description of views at any single point in time. The study adopted purposive sampling to engage only respondents who satisfy the criteria for selection. A total of 13 respondents were used for the study from the municipal assembly. They include the planning officers, community development officers, and business advisory officers. They were engaged in in-depth interviews with the help of an interview guide. In addition, the presiding member, 2 assembly members, and the 4-unit committee members were also engaged in key informant interviews because of their role in the municipality. The respondents were selected because they provide relevant information

concerning participation in development in the study area. The approach is employed because it ensures that an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon is reached. The research will focus on a specific place of study, Yilo Krobo Municipal in order to achieve the objectives of the study.

3.2 Study Area

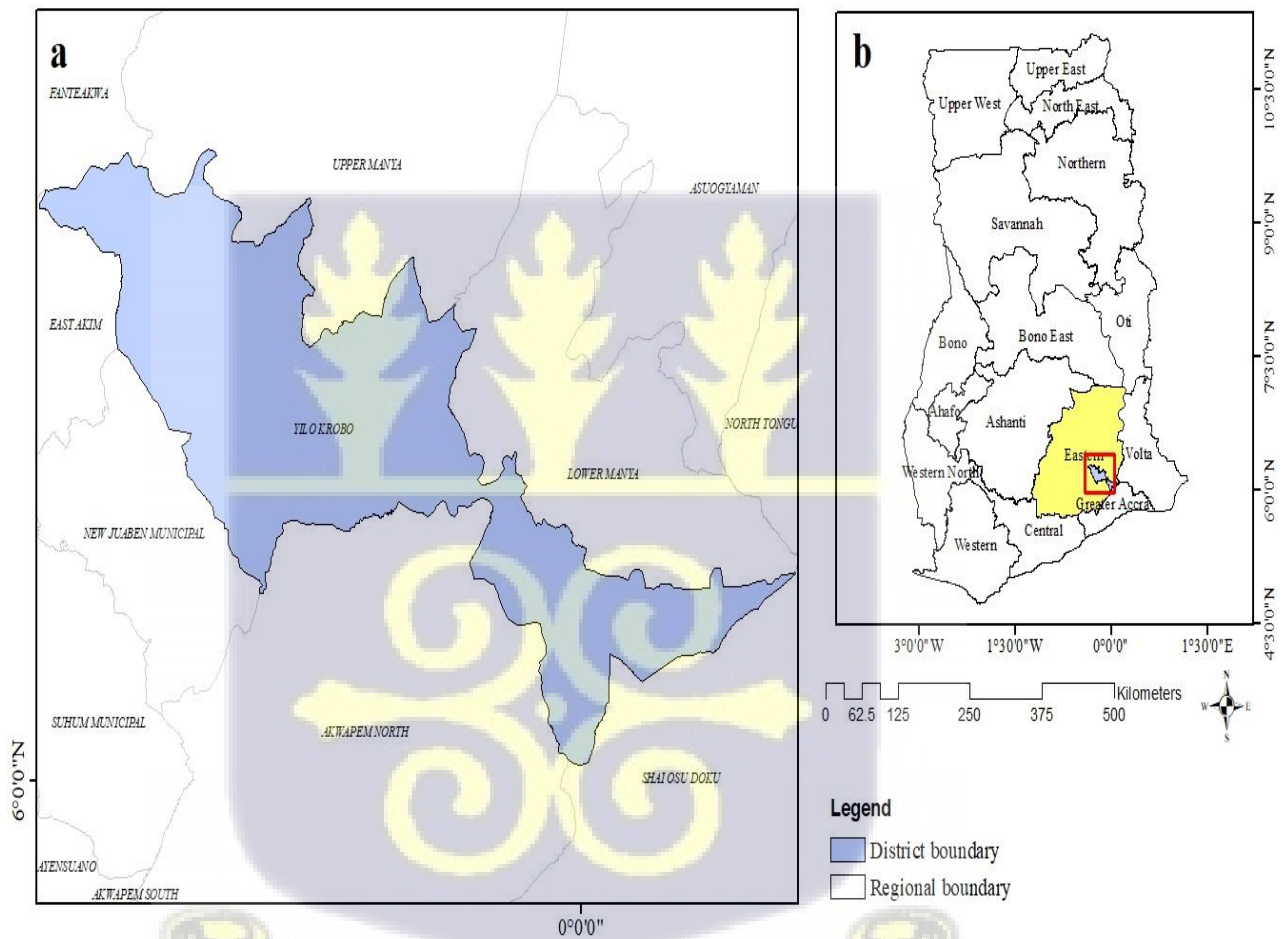
The Yilo Krobo Municipal is situated in Ghana's Eastern Region, between latitudes 60.00'N and 0.00'N, and longitudes 0.00'W and 10.00'W. The municipality has a total population of 87,847 people, with men accounting for 48.2% and women for 51.8 percent, and the population is young (47.4 percent). The Municipality has an estimated area of 805 square kilometers, accounting for 4.2 percent of the Eastern Region's area. Somanya, the Municipal Capital, is 45 kilometers from Koforidua and 50 kilometers from Accra, Ghana's capital (Ghana Statistical Service [GSS], 2010). Somanya is particularly known for its high-quality beads, which are worn by traditional rulers and queens. The municipality is located in the country's semi-deciduous rain forest and coastal savanna zones.

Lower and Upper Manya Krobo Districts to the north and east, respectively, share common boundaries with the Municipality. The Municipality shares a border with the districts of Dangme West and Akwapim North to the south of which the Municipal Chief Executive is the political and administrative leader of the Municipality.

The main economic activities are agriculture, trading, and small-scale industrial operations in the municipality. Agricultural activities employ 58% of the working population, producing primarily staple foods such as maize, cassava, plantain, and cocoyam. Employees from the government make up the majority of the Service Sector. The majority of farmers in the municipality are

involved in the large-scale cultivation of mangoes, which are exported and used locally in their raw state. The main dialect in Yilo Krobo is Dangbe. There are other ethnic groups who have migrated to settle in and these include Ewes, Gas, Akuapems, and Akans. (Ghana Statistical Service [GSS], 2010). Below is a map of the study area

Fig 3.1: Map of Yilo Krobo Municipal



Source: District Shape Files of Ghana (Geomatic Engineering, KNUST)

The municipality has seen various developmental projects such as educational facilities, health facilities (Community- Based health Planning Services Compound (CHPS), 15 boreholes, a

police post, and reconstruction of deplored roads among others initiated by the municipal assembly funded by the District Development Fund.

3.3 Sampling Size

The sample size is drawn from the target population used in the study. The study employed a sample of respondents to assist generate an accurate representation of the population. Research recommends that for a qualitative study, a minimum sample size of 12 to 15 is employed to reach data saturation (Baker and Edwards, 2017; Young et al., 2018), but for the purpose of this study, a sample size of 13 will be sufficient for data collection and analysis. This will ensure that there is an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon in question and make room for lapses that occur. The respondents for the sample size will include, government officers at the municipal assembly, unit committee members, presiding members, and assembly members.

3.4 Sampling Technique

The study employed purposive sampling as the sampling technique. The purposive sampling technique was used to select only respondents because they satisfy the criteria of interest (Siedu, 2006). The respondents were purposely selected from the Municipal assembly, presiding members, assembly members, and unit committee as key informants for the study.

3.5 Data Sources and Collection

The study employs data from primary and secondary sources. Primary data was collected from the field using key informant interviews using an interview guide. The interview with the

government officials from the municipal, presiding member, assembly members, and unit committee members provided primary data for analysis. For the key informant interviews, an interview session was scheduled to meet the respondents at their convenience, and notes were taken during each session.

Secondary data for the study was collected from the Municipal Assembly's annual reports as well as various books, articles, journals and websites. The planning officer provided the assembly's reports to support the study.

3.6 Data Analysis

Qualitative data analysis was used because it seeks to make meaning of research participants' opinions about situations, related patterns, topics, categories, and recurring similarities (Cohen et al., 2017). The interview guide was reviewed for completeness to ensure all questions will be answered appropriately by respondents.

For the interview, after listening to the audio, it was transcribed and converted to word format. The word document was edited after transcription. Major themes were derived from the data in order to process, evaluate and interpret data to completely understand the phenomenon. A thematic analysis was used to illustrate overall findings from participant replies and to interpret data from each of the coded themes by inferring from participants' responses in reference to their experiences. (Cresswell, 2009). This process enabled the researcher to quote relevant statements from the respondents in the analysis.

3.7 Ethical Consideration

To request authorization to conduct the study in the Municipality, the Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER) initially gave a letter of introduction to the Municipal Chief Executive Officer of the Yilo Krobo Municipal Assembly. Copies of the letter were presented to the officials in the Assembly, the presiding member, the assembly members, and unit committee members who were interviewed to inform them of the purpose of the research.

For this study, respondents were informed the research was solely for academic purposes and that they could withdraw their participation if they were uncomfortable. Respondents were assured of confidentiality as their information will not be disclosed to anyone.



CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the results of data collected from the field and analyzed based on respondents' responses and discussions for the findings. The findings were compared to the relevant theories and concepts discussed in the literature review. The results are presented in four sections and each section focuses on one objective of the study. The first section describes the demographic characteristics of the respondents. The findings and discussions on factors that influence participation, strategies to enhance participation, and the challenges of participation in development projects are presented below.

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

This section describes the demographic characteristics of all the respondents that were interviewed. This data provides a demographic profile of respondents based on their age, gender, and occupation. For this study, the total number of respondents interviewed was 13.

The ages of the respondents ranged from 26 years to 55 years, of which 10 of the respondents are males and 3 were females. The respondents who work as government officials at the municipal assembly are 6 and the other 7 respondents are presiding members, assemblyman, and unit committee members. Table 4.1 provides the characteristics of the respondents.

Table 4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Characteristics	Number
Age (years)	
26-35	4
36-45	4
46-55	5
Gender	
Male	10
Female	3
Occupation	
Planning Officer	3
Business Advisory Officer	1
Community Development Officer	1
Presiding Member	1
Assembly Man	2
Unit Committee Member	5

Source: Field Survey, 2022

The findings indicate that underrepresentation of women has a substantial impact on participation dynamics. This disparity translates into restricted opportunities for women to engage, resulting in a narrower spectrum of viewpoints, reduced diversity of ideas, and a lack of inclusive representation. Consequently, this imbalance undermines the active involvement of women in development initiatives and community activities.

4.2 Factors Influencing Participation

In exploring the research question for this section, the study examined the factors that influence community participation in development projects. Findings from the study implied the municipal

assembly has the authority to plan and execute the plans but is mandated to involve communities to identify what they need in terms of their priorities. As an informing process of development, the goal is to ensure that the community receives information to help them understand the rationale behind the decisions made to address their problems. This confirms Mosley and Wong (2021) assertion that for a participatory process, there is a need to keep the symmetry of information between the community and implementers. There are various factors that can influence community members to participate in their own development.

One major factor that influences people to participate in their development is inclusivity and representation. This revolves around the idea that community members should feel that they have a genuine role in shaping the project's direction, making decisions, and influencing outcomes. When communities perceive that their voices matter and that they are integral to the decision-making process, they are more likely to actively engage and contribute to the project. In most cases, community meetings are organized for members to express their views on what their problems as a community is. The needs assessment is done to inform the municipal assembly of the problem of the community in terms of priority to develop a plan to solve it. Feedback is given to the municipal assembly after the community meetings to add to their 4-year development plan. The plan which becomes a working document for the assembly is reviewed, adjusted, and approved by the community represented by the elected assembly members from the community who form the General Assembly. This process grants the community the opportunity to be part of their development process which promotes maintenance culture in the long run which confirms the assertion made by Nabtachi, (2012) that the public actively works with the decision-makers to ensure that their concerns are regularly considered. This view was clearly expressed by one assistant planning officer of the municipal assembly. He stated that:

“We do not sit here and plan for the people, we plan with the people. So, whatever they need, they put it forward to us and we capture in our plans and work with what they bring. It is exactly what they request for but sometimes we have to guide their choice”

“The plan is made by the people and approved by their representatives of the people”

Unlike Parisi (2012) who opines that people with higher education and income are more likely to be involved in organized community activities, the Yilo Krobo community does not experience that but rather the community members are eager to provide the assembly with information on how to improve their community. They fully participate once they are involved from the very beginning as far as the development project is not imposed on them.

The findings revealed that the interest of community members can affect participation. Over the years there has been a decline in the number of members and quality of people who attend community meetings because they have lost interest. The reason is that political leaders make promises and do not fulfill them. It is also considered time-consuming and not rewarding. The members are expected to be rewarded after every meeting they attend because it was so in the beginning when political parties were involved in the organization of the meetings. Based on the fact that the municipal assembly cannot be meeting such requests, the members do not show up for the meetings. This confirms the assertion made by Smith (2013) that participant time and mobility, and resources tend to affect participation. The community members believe that time is money and as such should be given what is due them. This affects the number of people that turn up for these meetings which are centered on how to improve their lives. The unit committee members who are to embark on the home visits have also stopped because it is unrewarding as they expected to receive allowances from the assembly. This affects community participation in

development projects because they expect rewards in the long run. The presiding member of the municipal assembly in his quest to contribute mentioned that:

“The people do not stop participating entirely but way the world is now, they are thinking after the meetings they deserve rewards”

“We try to support them but it is not enough so it is very difficult for us. When you want to do any project, you have to involve them so they that the project is coming to the area and it will benefit them. When people are called, they come up with all sorts of excuses that they are going to market and other places but some people still show up”

Additionally, the study found that the opportunity to do things outside the plans of the assembly when the need arises tends to affect participation. The assembly guides the community to make decisions by outlining the advantages and disadvantages of the choices they make and are educated on the limits of an assembly on what can be done for them.

The assistant planning Officer stated that:

“Normally, it is like listening to a child, you let them mention all they want. There are some alternatives that are a no-no, and will not even be considered, and let the community know that they have to do that on their own. But those that can fall within the plan will be listed and ranked using the score card and the topmost alternative is chosen”

In a case where the plan was to put up a health facility in community A but their school building is destroyed due to a disaster that occurred, the assembly has to change plans. There is a need to educate and conscientize the community members on the new development so that they do not withdraw the support and resources they provide to help the assembly in different ways. During the project implementation, the community members are invited to the site procession together

with the chiefs, electoral members, and committee from the assembly and the contractor is introduced to the community. In the words of an assistant planning officer at the municipal assembly:

“This is the contractor who is going to work in your area and will be here with their workers. They will need places to sleep, they will bring their equipment, they are here so their safety and security is in your hands so treat them well. If you see anything going wrong this is the right channel to use to get it to us. So, when the work starts, the people will know the work is done for the community to benefit”

The community members will be sensitized to understand that the presence of the project implementers will boost their local economy by renting, buying foodstuffs, and living their lives around them. This confirms how a relationship with the local population has positive effects on the willingness to participate in projects, in terms of supporting them and actively opposing them if they constitute a threat to the community’s way of life as opined by Borazjani et al. (2017). When a project is ongoing, the planning unit, assembly members, and some opinion leaders of the community visit the project site to monitor the progress of the project. This fosters a sense of ownership and in the long run, promotes the maintenance culture of the community.

As asserted by Mansuri and Rao (2012), the foundation of community-based development is the active involvement of persons in project design and implementation. The respondents confirmed how involved the community members are in their own development process by actively providing resources in terms of their time, and labor among others. The community members are readily available to support the assembly in taking the initiative to solve some of their problems. The assembly man in his submission mentioned that:

‘In one community, the members pooled resources together to help build another toilet facility because the first one built by assembly was far and could not serve everyone in the community’

‘The community members are readily available to help anytime a development initiative is implemented by NGO’s or individual in the municipality. What they require is that the leaders inform them of how beneficial the project will be to the people and the community at large’.

4.3 Strategies to Enhance Participation

This section presents results on the various strategies the assembly has adopted to enhance participation in their quest to develop their municipality. Findings from the study showed that the assembly adopts a number of mechanisms to empower and improve the participation of community members in their development projects. These mechanisms provide the assembly with the opportunity to employ community engagement programs to enhance participation.

The main strategy adopted by the assembly is that the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) engagement demands the MCE moves around the electoral areas with the planning team and engage the people who in turn show up to voice their problems. This platform requires that the MCE will be there in person to address their needs and in that regard, the community members will be willing to show up and participate in such meetings. The assistant planning officer in his submission stated that:

“When the community is aware the MCE is coming to their area, they all will show up knowing that they can air their views directly to him to solve it”

Town hall meetings are organized to consult and obtain feedback on the plan presented to the community for review. The goal is to obtain public input which will be used to examine available alternatives and decision-making solutions as asserted by the IAP2 (2018). This gives the assembly the opportunity to identify a heterogeneous approach to meet the needs of the community as they are defined by distinct cultural, social, and political systems. This result is similar to Cornwell (2008) who states that there is a need to contextualize development initiatives to succeed. The community members are empowered to make their own decisions which are implemented after the final decision is made. The unit committee in their submission stated:

“What happens is that the assembly man and unit committee call for these mandatory meetings with the community before and after meeting the assembly so that our views are taken for feedback shared with the assembly to add to the assembly’s 4 year working plan”

Presiding member also opined that:

“The assembly takes information from the community before capturing in the composite budget. They are briefed when there is an approval or not. Anytime the assembly receives money, some will be used to fund the project and this means the concerns are materialized into projects to address needs of the community”

The study indicated that the assembly embarks on sensitization exercises and education campaigns as another strategy to educate and conscientize the community on the need to participate. This is one mechanism adopted to enlighten the public on how their availability and willingness to participate and their opinions affect decisions that are made concerning their

development. They engage the media (radio stations), make announcements at the information centers, and organize community meetings to embark on the exercises. The development projects are implemented to benefit the public and as such their input is required. The business advisory officer mentioned that:

“We met the community representatives and discussed the benefits of the mango processing plant initiative. The local people produce to export mangoes and with this new initiative they have to supply raw materials for their production. This will boost our local economy but also give them more work to do. It is a win-win situation after all”

This statement implies that the assembly engaging the community defined the roles they have to play for the mango processing plant. This avenue will create jobs and income and boost their local economy as a community.

The respondents in their submission confirmed that some traditional leaders in the municipality have also implemented development projects with the help of the community members to improve their standard of living. The community members in the quest to support the traditional leaders avail themselves by attending community meetings and providing accommodation for contractors, their laborers, and their time for their development. The assembly man in his submission mentioned that:

‘Recently, one traditional leader took it upon himself to construct roads in his community. The assembly named the streets after him because he spearheaded that development initiative’

4.4 Challenges of Participation

This section presents results on the challenges associated with participation confronting the assembly in their function of bringing development to their communities.

Funding has been identified as one major challenge associated with participation in development. It limits the resources available for organizing of meetings workshops; implementation of projects and other participatory events as far as community participation in their development projects is concerned. Lack of funding for incentives or compensation might discourage community members from dedicating their time to participate, especially if participation requires significant effort. Lack of funding can impede infrastructure development necessary for participatory activities, such as community centers or communication facilities. The assembly's major source of funding is the government which mostly delays. This result indicated that the delay of the funds has had a significant impact on the developmental activities of the municipal. It is not adequate to engage the people to let alone fund all development projects for the communities which affect the execution of the projects. The internally generated funds (IGF) cannot solely be directed towards development projects, as the municipal assembly also allocates resources to various other initiatives such as waste management, social services, and tourism and cultural promotion. This makes engaging community members very difficult as they have certain expectations that cannot be met. Community engagements are not done as often as they should due to the cost involved. The unit committee mentioned that:

“As far as the community is concerned for meetings to be done to their satisfaction, they expect to be refreshed for showing up. The assembly cannot bear that cost involved and it makes it difficult to engage them”

Political influence and interference from both political leaders and assembly members pose a challenge to the municipal assembly which affects community participation as well. Political leaders may attempt to manipulate decision-making processes to advance their own agendas or gain personal benefits, undermining the genuine involvement of community members. Assembly members or political leaders might prioritize projects that align with their interests, sidelining projects that are more relevant to the community's needs. These political leaders make empty promises to the public and after being elected into power are not able to fulfill those promises. Due to this, the community members have no interest to participate because they are of the view that the political leaders will not do their bidding even if they express their opinions regarding their needs. This result is similar to Mubita et al. (2017) who confirm that the living standards of beneficiaries have not changed because they do not receive what they require and for that matter do not recognize the benefit of participating. One assistant planning officer stated that:

“The assembly members have also turned themselves to political leaders at the local level. They make promises and when reality hits them and they are not able to fulfil them, they find it difficult to go explain to the people. People start fighting with them because they were expecting certain projects to be implemented in their communities”

The interference also creates division among the community members. They only participate when it is their party in power and tend to kick against any initiative suggested by the opposition party. This takes the focus on developing the community and turns into a political feud where they take turns to show what they have in store for the community. This slows their development entirely. The presiding member stated in his submission that:

“Sometimes when party A is implementing a project, we see party B kick against it and vice versa. The moment you explain to them the project will benefit all of them in the

community they cooperate but other party officials influence them. We need to let them know that the development will affect the community and it does not have to be political”

The results also revealed that the culture, religion, and mindset of the people can present significant challenges to community participation in development projects and initiatives. These factors shape individuals' values, beliefs, and perceptions, influencing their willingness and ability to engage. Deep-rooted cultural practices might create resistance to change or new ideas, impacting the acceptance of new initiatives. The culture of life of the people in the communities recognizes men as the decision-makers and women are not expected to be vocal during meetings to air their views. This reiterates the assumption of Bekele (2000) that women are subordinates to men and should not be allowed to make decisions. The attitude of the people in the communities towards women confirms how marginalized women are and how less represented they are in the public front. The presiding member of the assembly shared that:

“Part of my area is Zongo and if meetings are organized only men show up because that is their culture. It makes it difficult for women to join in and air their views. Women are not allowed in such meetings”

“Call women on the side and seek their opinions at a different place so we do not disrespect the culture and religion of the communities”

Cultures with strong hierarchical structures might limit open dialogue and discourage individuals from expressing dissenting opinions or contributing to decision-making processes. The study confirmed how challenging it is for women to participate in decision making in most communities because they also buy into the narrative that their role as women does not include decision-making. The goal is to find means to engage women who can equally air their views

and even suggest solutions to improve their living conditions. It is not easy to involve women since their culture and religion are at stake here.



CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents a summary of the findings from the study, the conclusions, and recommendations. The summary focused on the major findings from the study in relation to the research objectives. Also, the conclusions and recommendations are based on the key findings arising from the study.

5.1 Summary of Main Findings

Demographic Characteristics

The analysis of the demographic characteristics of the respondents suggests gender significantly influences community participation in development projects. This study shows that men have participated more in decision-making concerning development projects than women. Women's representation in formal decision-making structures happens to be insignificant in the community which means they are not actively involved in decision-making.

The first objective of the study sought to identify the factors that influence community participation in development projects.

The study revealed that different factors affect the extent to which community members participate in development projects. The study confirmed that the involvement of community members in their development process for decision making affects participation. This guarantees the public receiving information to comprehend issues, choose solutions, and understand why

certain decisions are made. This creates the platform for the community to be a part of their own development; which is indicated in how the farmers in the Yilo Krobo plane are involved in stakeholder engagement meetings concerning how to supply raw materials for the processing plant.

The lack of interest in their development process tends to affect participation. This happens when their expectations are not met when political leaders make promises and are not able to fulfill them. The locals do not recognize the relevance of participating since it does not yield any results. The ability of the assembly to educate the community members on their limitations and what development projects they can undertake for the community affects participation. This informs the community on what species can be addressed since it has to be in line with the plan of the assembly. The community members will comprehend the essence of the projects implemented and how they will benefit.

The second objective of the study sought to identify the strategies employed to enhance participation in development.

The study revealed that a number of mechanisms were adopted to enhance community involvement in development. The assembly falls on community engagement programs as a key strategy to encourage community members to be involved in their development process. The Municipal Chief Executive engagement as one strategy is employed and draws the community members to the engagement meeting where the Municipal Chief Executive is in attendance. The MCE's presence sends a message to the community members that their needs will be addressed directly by the MCE and therefore shows up in their numbers. The assembly man confirmed an increase in attendance of community members for the MCE engagement meetings which implies that this strategy enhances participation in the communities. Organizing mandatory town hall

meetings to engage the community was established as another strategy to enhance participation in the municipality. The rationale behind this meeting is to involve, consult and empower community members to provide alternatives to provide solutions to address their needs. This platform also provides the assembly the opportunity to identify different alternatives to meet the needs of the different people in the communities based on what defines them which include culture, social and political systems. This implied that the community members were empowered to be a part of their development process from the design to the implementation stage.

Additionally, education campaigns and sensitization exercises were undertaken to conscientize community members on the relevance of participation. This strategy is basically to enlighten the community on how their participation affects the decisions that are made concerning their development. It also clears the misconceptions about what the assembly is supposed to provide for the communities as far as development projects are concerned. This strategy improves the sustainability and maintenance culture of the community by fostering a sense of ownership and belonging.

The third objective of the study sought to examine the challenges of community participation in development project

The study revealed that are various obstacles that hinder individuals from engaging effectively in development projects and community initiatives. Inadequate funding and lack of access to resources can restrict participation opportunities. It limits the availability of resources for organizing participatory events and can affect the frequency of these engagements. Cultural traditions and norms might discourage active participation, particularly if certain roles or activities are deemed inappropriate based on gender, age, or social status. It can limit open dialogue and discourage individuals from expressing dissenting opinions or contributing to

decision-making processes. Deep rooted culture can cause resistance to new ideas or practices can hinder community engagement. Language barriers can hinder effective communication and engagement. Political actors may attempt to manipulate decision-making processes to advance their own agendas or gain personal benefits, undermining the genuine involvement of community members. Biases and norms can lead to unequal participation opportunities for women.

5.2 Conclusion

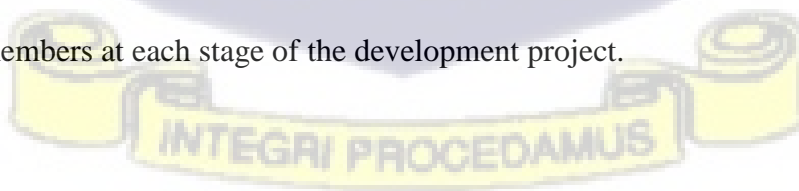
The study sought to investigate community participation in development projects in Yilo Krobo Municipality. The study concluded that community participation affects development. Nevertheless, the process is not yielding the needed results due to financial, political, and socio-cultural constraints. The assembly has embarked on education campaigns for the community on the essence of participating in their own development process as a means to curb the constraints confronting the assembly.

The assembly in its quest to enhance participation has adopted new strategies and mechanisms that encourage community engagement. The data showed that the sensitization exercises as an initiative of the assembly enlighten the public on how beneficial the development projects are when implemented. This confirms how important the relationship between the assembly and the community has a positive influence on their willingness to participate as a community. The study identified political influence and interference, lack of funds, inadequate resources, gender, people's attitude towards change, and cultural practices as major challenges to the potential of participation to improve development in the municipality.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the key findings from the study, the following recommendations are made in the quest to improve community participation in development projects:

- The assembly should embark on education campaigns and sensitization exercises to conscientize the community members on the essence of participation.
- The municipal assembly should strengthen its strategies and mechanisms for community engagement programs to empower members to effectively participate in development.
- The political leaders in the municipality should initiate development projects that are realistic and seek to address the different needs of all the people in the municipality.
- The assembly should consider establishing strategic partnerships with funding agencies, NGOs, and private sector stakeholders to pool resources, leverage expertise to create sustainable financial support for development initiatives.
- The assembly should create the opportunity and platform for women to be represented in the formal decision-making front. They can set a quota for women in leadership at the local level.
- Finally, the Assembly should ensure consistency in participation by community members at each stage of the development project.



5.4 Suggestions for Future Studies

This present study is not excluded from limitations. Firstly, as a result of the qualitative nature of this current study, the precision of the results may be flawed. Therefore, studies can adopt a mixed-method approach such that more insights about this topic can be espoused. Secondly, the findings and conclusions of the present study were limited to only the people of Yilo Krobo, hence, this study may be limited to context bias. As such future studies can include other study areas. Finally, the inclusion and exclusion criteria meant only a small sample size could be considered. However, studies in the future should enhance the breadth of the sample size by interviewing more people to increase the sample size. It would also be helpful to conduct a study on specific on a specific project within the community to assess the participation level of the people in terms of a project that is of interest to them and a project that is not of interest to them.



REFERENCES

- Adams, F. (2003), *Deepening Democracy: Global Governance and Political Reform in Latin America*, Praeger, Westport, CT.
- Ako, J. N. (2017). A study of community and citizen participation in development and policy making in Stockholm, Varmdo and Bortkyrka municipalities in Sweden. *Sweden. Malmo University. Retrieved August, 24, 2020.*
- Amoako-Atta, E. E., Dayour, F. F., & Bonye, S. Z. (2020). Community participation in the management of Wechiau Community Hippo sanctuary, Ghana. *Ghana Journal of Development Studies, 17(1)*, 1-24.
- Arnstein, S. R. (1969). A ladder of citizen participation. *Journal of the American Institute of planners, 35(4)*, 216-224.
- Aryeh-Adjei, A. A., Anang, S. A., & Osei-Adusah, D. (2022). Local Participation in Community-Based Development Projects in Ghana. *International Journal of Social Ecology and Sustainable Development (IJESD), 13(1)*, 1-13.
- Ayee, J.R.A. (2000), —Participation Paper presented at a two-day workshop on Democracy, Poverty and Social Exclusion: Is Democracy, the Missing Link", Organized by DPMF and International IDEA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 15th -16th May.
- Azizu, A. (2014). Stakeholder Participation in Development Planning Process in the Yilo Krobo Municipality (Master's thesis). Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology Kumasi.
- Baku JK, Agyeman DK, 2002. Chapter six on Ghana in "A Transnational View of Basic Education: Issues of Access, Quality and Community Participation in West and Central Africa". Educational Network for West and central Africa (ERNWACA) Research Paper.

- Baker, S., & Edwards, R. (2017). How many qualitative interviews is enough? Expert voices and early career reflections on sampling and cases in qualitative research. *National centre for research methods review paper*.
- Barasa, F & Jelagat, T (2013). Community Participation in Project Planning, Management and Implementation: Building the Foundation for Sustainable Development. *International Journal of Current Research*, 5 (02), pp.398-401
- Barker, J. A. 1992. *Paradigms: The Business of Discovering the Future*. New York: Harper Collins
- Bekele, F. (2000). “The Participation of Women in Political Activities in Africa” In Prah, K. K., and Ahmed, A.G.M. (eds.) *Africa in Transformation*. Addis Ababa: OSSREA 261
- Boakye-Agyei, K. (2009). *Fostering civic engagement: Stakeholder participation in rural projects in Ghana*. George Mason University.
- Borazjani, A., Mosapour, S.; Keykha, A., and Sasouli, M. (2017). Willingness to participation of local communities in the conservation of national parks. *International Journal of Human Capital Urban Management*. 2, pp 69–76
- Botes, L., & van Rensburg, D. (2000). Community participation in development: nine plagues and twelve commandments. *Community Development Journal*, 35(1), 41–58. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/44258817>
- Cheema, G.S. (2005), *Building Democratic Institutions: Governance Reform in Developing*

Countries, Kumarian Press, West Hartford, CT.

Cohen, L., Manion, L., & Morrison, K. (2017). Research design and planning. In *Research Methods in Education* (pp. 173-201). Routledge.

Cornwall, A. (2008). Unpacking 'Participation': models, meanings and practices. *Community Development Journal*, Vol 43(3), Pp 269–28

Cornwall, A., & Pratt, G. (2011). The use and abuse of participatory rural appraisal: reflections from practice. *Agriculture and human values*, 28(2), 263-272.

Creighton, J. L. (2005). *The public participation handbook: Making better decisions through citizen involvement*. John Wiley & Sons.

European Scientific Institute. (2017). The Importance and Limitations of Participation in Development Projects and Programmes. *European Scientific Journal*, 13(5), 238–250. <http://dx.doi.org/10.19044/esj.2017.v13n5p238>

Feeney, M. K. (2006). Mentoring women in the public sector: Expectations and realities. *International Journal of Learning and Change*, 1(4), 381-406.

Gaventa J. (2006) 'Finding the Spaces for Change: A Power Analysis', in Eyben, R., Harris, C. and Pettit, J. Exploring Power for Change, IDS Bulletin 37.6, Brighton: IDS

Ghana Statistical Service, (2010). *2010 Population and Housing Census National Analytical Report*, Accra: GSS

Green, M.C. and Brock, T.C. (2005). Persuasiveness and Narratives. In Green, M.C. and Brock,

- T.C. (eds), *Persuasion: Psychological Insights and Perspectives* (2nd edn), pp. 117–42.
London: Sage
- Kenny, S. (2007). *Developing Communities for the Future* (3rd ed.). South Melbourne:
Thompson
- Kumar, S. (2002). *Methods for community participation: a complete guide for practitioners*.
- Larson, K. L., & Lach, D. (2008). Participants and non-participants of place-based groups: An assessment of attitudes and implications for public participation in water resource management. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 88(4), 817-830.
- Lancaster, T. (2002). *Setting Community Health Programs: A practical Manual for Use in Developing Countries*. London: Macmillan Press Limited
- Mansuri, G., & Rao, V. (2013). Can participation be induced? Some evidence from developing countries. *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, 16(2), 284-304.
- Mansuri, G., & Rao, V. (2012). Community-based and-driven development: A critical review. *The World Bank Research Observer*, 19(1), 1-39.
- Mayo, A. W., & Nkiwane, L. (2015). The role of community participation on cost recovery and sustainability of rural water supply projects in Hai District, Tanzania. *Journal of Environmental Science and Water Resources*, 2(11), 388-395.
- Mohammad, S.N. (2010). *Peoples' Participation in Development Projects at Grass-root Level:*

A Case Study of Alampur and Jagannathpur Union Parishad. Master's Thesis, North South University.

Mosley, J. E., & Wong, J. (2021). Decision-making in collaborative governance networks:

Pathways to input and throughput legitimacy. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 31(2), 328-345.

Msabila, D. T., & Nalaila, S. G. (2013). Research proposal and Dissertation writing: Principles and practice. *Dar es Salaam: Nyambari Nyangwine Publishers*.

Mubita, A., Libati, M., & Mulonda, M. (2017). The importance and limitations of participation in development projects and programmes. *European scientific journal*, 13(5), 238-251.

Mwiru, M. (2015). *The importance of community participation in development projects at local level: A case of Dodoma municipal council* (Doctoral dissertation, Mzumbe University).

Mulwa, F. W. (2004). *Managing Community-based Development: Unmasking the Mystery of Participatory Development*. P. Olivex.

Nabatchi, T. (2012). Putting the “public” back in public values research: Designing participation to identify and respond to values. *Public Administration Review*, 72(5), 699-708.

Nehru, V. (2012). The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank: Should Asia Have Both? ADBI Working Paper 385. Asian Development Bank Institute.

Quaye, E. (2015). Participation in Urban Community Development: Case Study of Ga East Municipality.

Uphoff, N. (2000). Understanding social capital: learning from. *Social capital: A multifaceted*

perspective, 215.

Oakley, P. (1995). *People's participation in development projects* (Vol. 7). Oxford: Intrac.

Parisi, C., & Mouritsen, J. (2012). Problematizing the Relationship between the Concepts of Intellectual Capital and Sustainable Development. Paper presented at 8th Interdisciplinary Workshop on "Intangibles, Intellectual Capital & Extra-Financial Information. France

Reeves, L. S. (2015). Visualizing participatory development communication in social change processes: Challenging the notion that visual research methods are inherently participatory. *International Journal of Communication*, 9, 20.

Samah, A. A., & Aref, F. (2009). People's participation in community development: A case study in a planned village settlement in Malaysia. *World Rural Observations*, 1(2), 45-54.

Sihlongonyane, M. F. (2009). "Community Development" as a Buzz-Word. *Development in Practice*, 19(2), 136–147. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27752032>

Smith, J. W., Leahy, J. E., Anderson, D. H., & Davenport, M. A. (2013). Community/agency trust and public involvement in resource planning. *Society & Natural Resources*, 26(4), 452-471.

Theron, F. (2005). *Public Participation as a micro-level development strategy*. Pretoria: J.L.van Schaik Publisher.

Vaughan, G. M., & Hogg, M. A. (2011). *Social psychology* (6th ed.). Frenchs Forest, NSW: Pearson Australia.

Wilkins, K. (2008). “Development Communication,” in W. Donsbach (ed) *The International Encyclopaedia of Communication*. London: Wiley-Blackwell

Zhu, Y. (2015). Toward Community Engagement: Can the Built Environment Help? Grassroots Participation and Communal Space in Chinese Urban Communities. *Habitat International*, Vol. 46, pp. 44 – 53



APPENDIX I

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

INSTITUTE FOR STATISTICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH (ISSER)

RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Respondent,

This questionnaire is designed to assist the researcher to make an objective assessment on “*Community Participation in Development Projects: A case study of the Mango Processing Plant, Yilo Krobo*”. This exercise is essentially academic. Your response is of utmost importance and as such your answers would be treated with the utmost confidentiality. Thank you.

**Interview Guide for Planning Officers, Community Development Officer and
Business Advisory Officer**

This academic exercise is aimed at gathering information for a dissertation in Development Studies at the University of Ghana. The study seeks to examine participation in community development projects in the Yilo Krobo Municipal Assembly in the Eastern Region of Ghana. All responses will be treated as purely confidential and will be used only for academic purpose.

Part 1: Biodata

1. Name of Institution:
2. Position of Respondent:
3. Age:
4. Sex:

Part 2: examining factors influencing participation.

1. How does the department invite and involve community members in development projects? (Design, planning and implementation)

2. To what extent are the opinions of the citizens considered and integrated in the decision-making process??
3. How does citizen participation affect development projects?
4. How does the assembly determine projects critical to development of the community?
5. What factors affect the extent of participation of community members?

Part 3: Strategies to enhance participation

6. Does the assembly have the capacity to empower community members to participate?
7. How has your department helped to enhance participation?
8. What mechanisms are adapted to improve community participation?

Part 4: Challenges of Participation

9. What are the challenges associated with participation in community development?



APPENDIX II

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

INSTITUTE FOR STATISTICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH (ISSER)

RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Respondent,

This questionnaire is designed to assist the researcher to make an objective assessment on “*Community Participation in Development Projects: A case study of the Mango Processing Plant, Yilo Krobo*”. This exercise is essentially academic. Your response is of utmost importance and as such your answers would be treated with the utmost confidentiality. Thank you.

Interview Guide for Presiding Member, Unit Committee and Assembly Members

This academic exercise is aimed at gathering information for a dissertation in Development Studies at the University of Ghana. The study seeks to examine participation in community development projects in the Yilo Krobo Municipal Assembly in the Eastern Region of Ghana. All your responses will be treated as purely confidential and will be used only for academic purpose

Part 1: Biodata

1. Name of Respondent:
2. Position of Respondent:
3. Age:
4. Sex:



Part 2: Strategies that enhance participation.

1. What role does the committee play to improve community participation in development projects?
2. What factors influences the extent to which citizens participate in development projects?
3. To what extent are the opinions of the citizens considered and integrated in the decision-making process?
4. What are the outcomes from participation in development process

Part 3: Challenges of participation

5. What are the challenges associated with participation in community development?
6. What factors hinder the effective involvement of community members in participation?
7. What challenges are encountered in initiating and maintaining projects?
8. What measures can be instituted to reduce the challenges encountered?

