

**CONTRIBUTION OF COUNTY ASSEMBLIES TO ENHANCING
DEVOLVED GOVERNANCE:
A CASE OF KWALE COUNTY ASSEMBLY, KENYA**

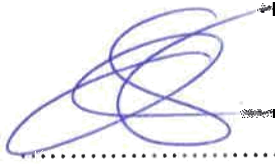
SAIDI KASSIM MWATSAVWA

**A Research Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the
Requirements for The Award of the Degree of Master of Science
in Governance Peace and Security in the Department of
Governance, Peace and Security Studies, School of Humanities
and Social Sciences of Africa Nazarene University**

May 2021

DECLARATION

I declare that this research thesis is my original work and that it has not been presented in any other university for examination.



.....

Saidi Kassim Mwatsavwa

18J03DMGP019



.....

Date

Supervisors' Declaration

This research thesis was conducted under our supervision and is submitted with our approval as the university supervisors.



.....

Dr. Simon Muthomi, PhD.



.....

Date



.....

Dr. Joseph Mutungi, PhD.



.....

Date

Africa Nazarene University

Nairobi, Kenya

DEDICATION

I dedicate my research thesis to my family. A special gratitude to my loving spouse Mwanamisi Mwamasare whose words of encouragement gave me the motivation to continue with my graduate education even when the odds seemed stacked against me. My parents Kassim Mwatsavwa and Mwanaisha Juma, my child Aisha, my sisters Mwanasha and Fauzia all who supported me morally and financially throughout the process.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First I wish to thank the Lord Almighty for His providence that has enabled me start and successfully finish my Master's degree. Secondly I express my unreserved gratitude to my supervisors Dr. Simon Muthomi and Dr. Joseph Mutungi, both of who have been my supervisors during the thesis writing journey, for their invaluable input, countless hours of reflecting, reading, encouraging, and most of all patience throughout the entire process. Thanks to the panel members and the examiners of my document for they were more than generous with their expertise and precious time. A special thanks to the entire management Africa Nazarene University for the effort they have put in to avail resources and create an enabling learning environment for me and other students of the university. Thank you Dr. Emily Okuto for the exemplary leadership of the Governance, Peace and Security department and for being readily available and helpful to us students of your department. Your availability, motivation, and insightful advice to us students of your department made my study at ANU an enjoyable experience.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	ii
DEDICATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF TABLES	viii
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
ABSTRACT	x
OPERATIONALIZATION OF TERMS	xi
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	xii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
<u>1.1 Introduction</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>1.2 Background of the Study</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>1.3 Statement of the Problem</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>1.4 Purpose of the Study</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>1.5 Objectives of the Study</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>1.5.1 General Objective</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>1.5.2 Specific Objectives</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>1.6 Research Questions</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>1.7 Significance of the Study</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>1.8 Scope of the Study</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>1.9 Delimitation of the Study</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>1.10 Limitations of the Study</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>1.11 Assumptions of the Study</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>1.12 Theoretical Framework</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>1.12.1 Agency Theory</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>1.13 Conceptual Framework</u>	<u>14</u>
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	16
<u>2.1 Introduction</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>2.2 Empirical Review</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>2.2.1 Nature of Strategies Used by the County Assembly in Enhancing Devolved Governance</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>2.2.2 Efficacy of the Strategies Employed by the County Assembly in Enhancing Devolved Governance</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>2.2.3 Challenges Faced by the County Assembly in Enhancing Devolved Governance</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>2.3 Summary and Research Gaps</u>	<u>26</u>

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	28
3.1 Introduction	28
3.2 Research Design.....	28
3.3 Research Site	29
3.4 Target Population	30
3.6 Data Collection	32
3.6.1 Data Collection Instruments	32
3.6.2 Pilot Testing of Research Instruments	33
3.6.3 Instrument Reliability	34
3.6.4 Instrument Validity	34
3.6.5 Data Collection Procedure	35
3.7 Data Analysis	35
3.8 Legal and Ethical Considerations	36
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS.....	37
4.1 Introduction	37
4.2 Response Rate and Respondents' Demographic Profile	37
4.2.1 Response Rate	37
4.2.2 Gender of Respondents	37
4.2.3 Age Bracket	38
4.2.4 Duration of Residence in Kwale County.....	39
4.2.5 Employment Status	40
4.3 Presentation of Research Analysis and Findings	41
4.3.1 Nature of Strategies Used by the County Assembly in Enhancing Devolved Governance.....	41
4.3.2 Efficacy of the Strategies Employed by the County Assembly in Enhancing Devolved Governance	48
4.3.3 Challenges Faced by the County Assembly in Enhancing Devolved Governance.....	52
CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSIONS, SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	59
5.1 Introduction	59
5.2 Discussions	59
5.2.1 Nature of Strategies Used by the County Assembly in Enhancing Devolved Governance.....	59
5.2.2 Efficacy of the Strategies Employed by the County Assembly in Enhancing Devolved Governance	61
5.2.3 Challenges Faced by the County Assembly in Enhancing Devolved Governance.....	63
5.3 Summary of Main Findings	65

<u>5.4 Conclusions</u>	<u>66</u>
<u>5.5 Recommendations</u>	<u>66</u>
<u>5.6 Areas for Further Research</u>	<u>67</u>
REFERENCES	69
APPENDICES	75
<u>Appendix I: Research Questionnaire for MCAs, CECs and the General Public</u>	<u>75</u>
<u>Appendix II: Interview Schedule for the Key Informants</u>	<u>82</u>
<u>Appendix III: Krejcie and Morgan Sample Size Table</u>	<u>83</u>
<u>Appendix IV: ANU Data Collection Authorization Letter</u>	<u>84</u>
<u>Appendix V: NACOSTI Research Permit</u>	<u>84</u>
<u>Appendix VI: Map of Study Area</u>	<u>86</u>

LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table 3.1 Target Population</u>	<u>31</u>
<u>Table 3.2 Sample Size</u>	<u>31</u>
<u>Table 4.1: Response Rate</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>Table 4.2: Assessment of Strategies Employed by the County Assembly</u>	<u>43</u>
<u>Table 4.3: Assessment of Effectiveness of Strategies Employed by the County Assembly</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Table 4.4: Assessment of Challenges Faced in Enhancing Devolved Governance</u>	<u>54</u>

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Figure 1.1: Conceptual Framework</u>	14
<u>Figure 4.1: Distribution of Gender</u>	38
<u>Figure 4.2: Age Brackets</u>	39
<u>Figure 4.3: Duration of Residence in Kwale County</u>	40
<u>Figure 4.4: Employment Status</u>	41
<u>Figure 4.5: Levels of Satisfactions with the Use of Public Participation Forums</u>	45
<u>Figure 4.6: Levels of Satisfactions with Cross-party Support</u>	46
<u>Figure 4.7: Levels of Satisfactions with Formal Legal Competences</u>	47
<u>Figure 4.8: Order if Effectiveness of Strategies in Enhancing Devolution</u>	48
<u>Figure 4.9: Extent to which Political Interference Affected Devolved Governance Enhance Efforts</u>	55
<u>Figure 4.10: Extent to which Resource Inadequacy Affected Devolved Governance Enhance Efforts</u>	56
<u>Figure 4.11: Extent to which Literacy Levels Among MCAs Affected Devolved Governance Enhance Efforts</u>	57

ABSTRACT

The democratic system of governance has been touted as the best because it gives citizens more voice and control over the running of their countries. As countries continued to grow and develop politically, socially and economically, groups that were historically denied power now demanded it. As much as there was some form of resistance by some central governments, it was becoming increasingly difficult to ignore and resist these demands and such governments eventually yielded to the demands of these groups. Centralized systems of governance began giving way to decentralization of governance in some countries across the world. Like the national government, the devolved units of governance must be kept in check so that powers and resources at their disposal are never misused or abused. In Kenya, besides the Senate and accompanying legislations and policies, the success of devolved governance has been pegged on County Assemblies, the immediate watchdog of the activities of the County Governments. In this study, the research sets out to answer the general question, how effective are county assemblies in enhancing devolved governance? The specific objectives of this study were; to determine strategies used by the county assembly in enhancing devolved governance in Kwale County, to analyse efficacy of the strategies employed by the county assembly in enhancing devolved governance in Kwale County and to explore challenges faced by the county assembly in enhancing devolved governance in Kwale County. The findings of the study are envisaged to contribute to policies on devolution of governance in Kenya and other parts of the world as well as contributing to the existing field of knowledge. This research study targeted Kwale County only. Agency theory, one of the major theories used in Corporate Governance, guided this research study. In this study descriptive research design was employed. A mix of probability and non-probability sampling was used in selecting survey participants. Regarding data collection tools, interview schedules and questionnaires were used to collect data from the field. Throughout the process of conducting the research, the researcher observed various ethical guidelines to ensure that any laws or codes of ethics are not breached. The study established that despite the various challenges, the county assemblies are an essential cog in the wheel when it comes to devolved governance. These institutions play an important role, such as ensuring that the devolved resources are availed to the people and that the residents of the county are actively involved in governance of the county. Main strategies employed by the county assembly to enhance devolved governance are public participation forums, cooperation to hold the county government to account through cross-party support and formal legal competences. These strategies were found to be largely effective in driving the county government to share resources equitably in their respective counties and to avail services closer to the residents among other objectives of devolution. However, the assembly has faced impediments such as political interference both from within and outside the county, resource inadequacy and low literacy levels all of which, to varying degrees, have the overall performance of the county assembly in entrenching devolution at the grassroots level. The researcher of this paper also recommends that MCAs work closely with the county government to address cases of corruption which lead to pilferage of public funds. It is also recommended that MCAs and other relevant agencies should formulate and implement regulatory instruments to protect MCAs from improper political interference.

OPERATIONALIZATION OF TERMS

- Cross-party support** : This implies a situation where an item being debated in the legislative assembly gets the backing of two or more political parties in the floor of the house.
- Decentralization** : The transfer of power, authority and some resources from the central government to a sub-national government or entity.
- Devolved governance** : The statutory delegation of powers, as enshrined in the constitution and other national laws, from the central government of a sovereign nation like Kenya to a sub-national government which in the context of this study are the 47 county governments.
- Formal legal competences** : Application of the rule of law in implementation of the processes and activities of the county government activities.
- Legislative assembly** : The arms of government, whether at the national or sub-national level, that makes laws and also keeps the government in check to ensure that it works for the citizens as mandated by the constitution.
- Public participation** : The inclusion and active involvement of the citizens or general public in the activities of the government.
- Quasi-autonomous** : An entity which itself is not part of the government but to which the constitution has given a large degree of power as a regulator or in another capacity.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CEC	:	County Executive Committee
MCA	:	Members of County Assembly
NACOSTI	:	National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation
SNP	:	Scottish National Party
SPSS	:	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
UK	:	United Kingdom
USA	:	United States of America
USAID	:	United States Agency for International Development

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This chapter sets the stage and creates broader picture for the study to capture the audience's attention. It is organized into different sections that elaborate on the study topic by presenting detailed discussion of the background of the study, which serves the purpose of laying the foundation and framework for the study. The main sections of this chapter of the document, in logical order, are; the statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research question, the study's significance, scope of the study, limitations and delimitations of the study, and the conceptual framework.

1.2 Background of the Study

Democracy has timelessly been lauded as the best and most desirable form of governance (Khan & Islam, 2014). The democratic system of governance has been acclaimed as the best because it gives citizens more voice and control over the running of their countries. This largely explains the deliberate effort by many countries across the world to move away from other forms of governance to the democratic system. Throughout history, there has been a tendency for governments to centralize power. History of democracy reveals that, as is the case with other forms of governance, democratic governance for a long time was based on a centralized system of governance where a government's power, both geographically and politically, was concentrated centrally (Hauss, 2017). However, Dillinger and Fay (1999) observe that towards the close of the twentieth century, citizens around the world began clamouring for greater control and say over the affairs of their countries and how they were governed. As countries continued to grow and develop politically, socially and economically, groups that were historically denied power now demanded it. As much as there was some form of resistance by some central governments, it was becoming increasingly difficult to

ignore and resist these demands and such governments eventually yielded to the demands of these groups. This trend across the world is attributable to many factors including economic failure of the democratic centralized system of governance, growing authoritarianism in the leadership and governance of state, decline in the threat of war and external aggression in most of the world, and the growth of educated populace and the urban middle classes.

Consequently, due to these compelling factors, centralized systems of governance began giving way to decentralization of governance in some countries across the world. Cheema and Rondinelli (2007) classify decentralization as a means of transferring authority, responsibility, and resources into three categories from the central to lower levels of administration. These categories are de-concentration, delegation, or devolution. In this study the focus is on devolution. Devolved systems and governance in the context of many countries including Kenya essentially implies devolution. Devolution is a more substantial and solid transfer of both political and economic powers from the national to lower levels of governance. In devolved systems of governance, the central governments transfer functions, authority for decision-making, proportions of national revenue and finance, and management to quasi-autonomous units of local government (Royles, 2017; Ababio & Asmah-Andoh, 2013). In the Kenyan context, these quasi-autonomous sub-state governments are called counties. Further, these quasi-autonomous sub-state governments have their own structures as enshrined in constitutions. They raise their own revenues, and have independent authority to make investment decisions (Khaunya, Wawire & Chepng'eno, 2015). In the devolved system, the local governments have clear and legally recognized geographical jurisdiction over which they exercise authority and within which they perform public functions. In most instances across the world, the leadership of the

devolved units are elected by citizens residing within the legally recognized geographical boundaries (Hidayat, 2017).

As the world continues to evolve, devolution as a strategy is steadily gaining traction and popularity. Proponents of devolved governance like Hidayat (2017) and Mukundan (2003) avow that devolved governance, through democratic decentralization and enabled by adoption of policies and legislations, has become a strategic approach by governments across the world to enhance and promote citizens participation in governance, foster political stability and economic development among other gains. It must however be acknowledged that devolution is not an entirely new concepts in the realm of global politics and governance. The United States of America (USA), which is one of the oldest democracies in the world, is also one of the countries in the world that has a long standing history of devolved system of governance characterized by state autonomy from the central government. Economists in the USA have advanced arguments for devolution and the efficiency benefits it has had on the different States. The political support for devolution has however not been very strong with the federal government mostly retaining its dominant role over the State and District governments (Tannenwald, 2001). Contrary to this view on weak political support, Plotica (2017) observes that in recent decades, influential political and legal thinkers in the USA have advocated for devolution of governmental power to the states and localities. This way, the thinkers argue, such powers properly belong and are more effectively exercised. Devolved governance in the USA has been a bag of mixed fortunes on all fronts; economic, social, political and security. While studying welfare reforms, Sheely (2012) claims that some states were more responsive and were doing better with regard to welfare reforms while others were either stagnant or were experiencing negative outcomes from the implementation of reforms at state and local

government levels.

The recent referendum on Brexit brings to fore the reality and existence of devolved governance in the United Kingdom (UK). Until the late 1960s, the UK had a reputation as one of the more centralized states in Europe. The clamour for devolution in the UK began in early 1970s when most citizens of both Scotland and Wales began demanding greater control over their own affairs. These demands quickly became a political issue that saw the formation and massive support for the Scottish National Party (SNP) in Scotland and Plaid Cymru Party in Wales (MacKinnon, 2015; Jeffery & Wincott, 2006). With agitation for devolution gaining momentum in both countries, the ruling party at that time, the Labour Party, supported both Scottish and Wales parties' push for devolution in 1979. The first referenda to devolve power was not a success because of the failure to exceed the two-fifths of the electorate required for passage. During the 1980s and '90s, however, support for devolution increased in both countries, and in late 1990s the clamour for devolution was eventually realized in both Scotland and Wales thus restoring their political autonomy when direct rule from London was imposed on them. Both countries were granted their own parliaments which had the powers to make their own laws which would govern them. According to Leyland (2011) devolution in the UK among the four countries; England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland has brought with it quite number of challenges which the territorial countries continue to find solutions to. For instance the researcher points at failure to establish a link between revenue raising and spending in Scotland; the Welsh Assembly which has limited law-making powers as compared to its peers and the controversial functions granted to the Northern Ireland executive. Katikireddi, Smith, Stuckler and McKee (2017) also argue that despite progress in other areas, devolution in the UK has contributed to population health and health inequalities.

Devolved governance in the West is also present in countries like Finland where local governments have been granted significant autonomy to the largely Swedish-speaking population of the Åland Islands. In Spain, regional governments in Basque Country, Catalonia, Galicia and Andalusia continue to enjoy extensive powers. Italy also has a system of devolved government where several regions have been granted autonomy by the central government to run quasi-governments which are aimed at addressing the special needs of the locals (Lago-Peñas, Fernández-Leiceaga, & Vaquero-García, 2017; Vainikka 2016).

Away from the West, devolved governance has also been experimented with by a number of countries in the Asian continent. In multi-ethnic countries and societies, devolution is viewed as a way to dampen regional, racial, ethnic, or religious cleavages (McGrattan & Williams, 2017). This is more visible in countries such as India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. According to Hidayat (2017), democratic decentralization and devolution in Indonesia was motivated by politics and the agenda to promote development at local levels throughout the country to meet the country's diversity. The outcomes of have been mixed fortunes for local populace of different regions and in different areas. In regencies such as Jember, there has been little success in the health and education sectors (Mccollum, Limato, Otiso, Theobald & Taegtmeier, 2018). On the contrary, Talitha, Firman and Hudalah (2020) argue that after almost two decades of implementation of the decentralized government system in Indonesia, the decentralization practice began to show positive outcomes connoted by, among other indicators, declining trend of regional disparity and spatial fragmentation.

In India, as result of the caste system, people in the Panchayats; the lower levels of society, the poor and marginal groups were for a long neglected and disenfranchised (Johnson, Deshingkar & Start, 2005). The national government had its focus in the big

picture and in the process became unresponsive to the needs of the people at the lower societal levels. Decentralization through devolution was then introduced in the country with various objectives including to; make the national government more responsive and accountable to the citizens, address the absence of financial data on rural localities, and optimize the direct involvement of citizens in planning and budgeting. Studies have heralded devolution in India as largely successful with Kerala being one of the many case examples. Kerala is regarded as one of the most decentralized states. The State has undergone noteworthy decentralization. Through devolution, Kerala implemented significant fiscal decentralization program and then built the capacity of its local governments (Mohapatra, 2013; Thimmaiah, 2000).

South Africa and Zimbabwe also has a history of devolved governance. Based on its 1996 Constitution, South Africa is one of the first countries in the continent to experiment with devolution. The two countries have multilevel government system where powers and functions are devolved to from the national government to sub-national governments. The sub-national governments are handed, by the constitution, powers to be semi-autonomous and effectively make decisions, raise revenue and make laws in order to regulate their own matters. The key objectives, as is the other cases already discussed above, are mainly to bring service delivery to the people since the powers and functions of the local governments are closer to the people (Sekgala, 2017).

It is noteworthy that devolution and decentralization of governance is not a completely new occurrence in the history of Kenya. During the colonial era, the country had local governments which were considered to be fairly autonomous and had significant sources of revenue (Hope, 2014). At independence, the Kenya adopted a devolved system of government which comprised of a central government and eight regional governments. Each regional government was comprised of the executive and

the legislature (Ministry of Devolution and Planning, 2016). Later on there was however emphasis on building a nation-state which was highly centralized had negative effect on efficient and effective delivery of public services to citizens at the lowest levels. Kenya's current constitution was a turning point in country's history. Among many positive elements it brought with it, reconfiguration of balance of power through devolution of power and responsibilities from the national government to county governments has been viewed as a major game changer in the country's growth and development trajectory (USAID, 2019). The current Constitution sought to shift government from centralized to decentralized, and from "top-down" to "bottom-up" (Kenya School of Government, 2015). Devolved governance in the country has progressively allocation of national resources to meet priorities of communities within the jurisdiction of the 47 county governments. The subsequent movement towards devolved government is aimed at improving the delivery of public services and local governance in an effective way while at the same time increasing the administrative capacity and productivity of the public sector (Hope, 2014).

Governments and devolved units of governments all over the world do not work without supervision. Parliaments, in some instances referred to as legislative assemblies, are necessary and virtually every nation in the world has a parliament, in one form or another. Like the national government, the devolved units of governance must be kept in check so that powers and resources at their disposal are never misused or abused. In Kenya, besides the Senate and accompanying legislations and policies, the success of devolved governance has been pegged on county assemblies, the immediate watchdog of the activities of the county governments. As envisaged in Chapter 11 of the Constitution of Kenya, the County Assembly have a number of roles to play towards ensuring that the county governments are effectively operational to

enhance realization of the goals and objectives enshrined in the Constitution and more (Onyango, 2013). Broadly, the three main functions of the County Assembly are representation, legislation and oversight. In this study, the research sets out to answer the general question, how effective are county assemblies in enhancing devolved governance?

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Eight years since the county governments came into existence to help take resources closer to the people at the grassroots and involve them in their own governance and development as enshrined in Article 174 of the constitution, the anticipated transformation seems to be progressing very slowly. Kwale county continues to battle serious developmental challenges, some attributable to prolonged periods of marginalization in the pre-devolution era. It was thus expected that devolved governance would turn the tide in the county by accelerating development, which is directly proportional to good governance.

Despite resources being allocated to the county government of Kwale and with the county assembly in place to hold the county executive to account, represent the electorate and legislate on matters that improve the welfare of the masses, challenges such as exclusion from mainstream governance, pervasive poverty, high illiteracy and mortality rates persist. Blame games between the county executive and the assembly as to who is not doing their part are the order of the day. Not much is known about what exactly the county assembly of Kwale is doing to enhance devolved governance within its jurisdiction.

Existing studies such as the ones done by Marigi (2017) and Carrier and Kochore (2014) have focussed on general challenges facing devolution across the country. They have not specifically addressed the strategies put in place by the county

assembly of Kwale to foster devolved governance and how effective those strategies have been as well as the attendant challenges besetting the assembly as constitutionally mandated. These are the gaps that formed the basis upon which this study was undertaken.

1.4 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to examine the role played by county assemblies in the enhancement of devolved governance in Kenya.

1.5 Objectives of the Study

1.5.1 General Objective

The general objective of this study is to establish the contribution of county assemblies in enhancing devolved governance in Kenya with Kwale County being the case study area.

1.5.2 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of this study were;

- i) To determine the nature of strategies used by the county assembly in enhancing devolved governance in Kwale County.
- ii) To analyse efficacy of the strategies employed by the county assembly in enhancing devolved governance in Kwale County.
- iii) To explore challenges faced by the county assembly in enhancing devolved governance in Kwale County.

1.6 Research Questions

- i) Which is the nature of strategies used by the county assembly in enhancing devolved government governance in Kwale County?
- ii) How effective are the strategies employed by the county assembly in enhancing devolved governance in Kwale County?
- iii) Which are the challenges faced by the county assembly in enhancing devolved

governance in Kwale County?

1.7 Significance of the Study

Significance of the study serves the purpose of making it clear why a research study is essential and the specific value contribution the research makes with regard to policies as well as furthering academic knowledge in a given field (Anderson-Levitt, 2014). The findings of the study are envisaged to contribute to policies on devolution of governance in the Kenya. Based on the findings of this study, the various laws guiding implementation of devolved governance in the country can be improved to enhance realization of the objectives of devolution in the country. Similarly, besides the legislations, the by laws and policies developed by the county assembly and the county government of Kwale can be improved based on the outcomes of this study. The study would also be of significance to other counties in Kenya who can borrow from the experience of Kwale County that are being employed to enhance devolved governance to better governance in their own counties. The researcher also anticipates that the findings of the study would add value to the body of research in the field of political science and good governance in particular.

1.8 Scope of the Study

On the whole, counties located in the coastal regions of Kenya like Kwale, Lamu, Taita Taveta, Kilifi and Tana River among others have suffered neglect by successive government regimes. Compared to their counterparts in other parts of the country, key indicators of political, economic and social development show that these counties lag behind in terms of infrastructure, health, governance, and poverty amongst others (Marigi, 2017). Cognisant of the fact that there are almost 6 counties in the said region, this research study targeted Kwale County only. The findings of the study will nonetheless be generalized to Kenya as a whole. The duration of interest was 2010,

when the county governments came to existence, to present, a period of 10 years. The study's content scope was limited to the nature of strategies employed by the county assembly and the effectiveness of these strategies towards realization of the objectives of devolved governance. With regard to acquisition of data, only the residents and the political leaders in Kwale County was considered for participation in the study since they are best placed to comment on the activities of the county government as well as those of the MCAs with respect to devolved governance in Kwale County.

1.9 Delimitation of the Study

Theofanidis and Fountouki (2019) define delimitations of a research study as the definitions that a researchers resolve to set as the boundaries or limits of their work to ensure that the study's aims and objectives do not become impossible to achieve. While there are about 6 counties in Kenya's coastal region that have been in the country's political periphery for a long time, it would be time consuming to conduct a study for covering all the 6 counties, therefore the researcher settled on Kwale because it provides an ideal setting for the study hence the findings are easily applicable to the other 5 counties. Another delimitation in this study is with regard to the chosen objectives. The County Assembly, as opposed to the Senate, is chosen for this study because unlike the Senate that concerns itself with all the 47 counties in Kenya, the county assembly is specific to a county, in this instance Kwale County, and has direct and immediate influence on the activities of the county government and devolution at the county level.

1.10 Limitations of the Study

The limitations of a study refer to potential weaknesses that are usually out of the researcher's control that may influence outcomes and conclusions of the research. In most instances these potential weaknesses place restriction on the chosen research

design, methodology, funding constraints, and time among other factors. It is imperative therefore that these limitations are acknowledged clearly by the researcher from the onset in the research document (Ross & Bibler Zaidi, 2019). The potential of the researcher to influence how participants respond to their questions, especially when guiding and translating questions to respondents who are illiterate, may affect the outcomes of the study. The findings and conclusions of the study may also be affected by social desirability bias, this could arise from survey participants who may provide biased responses by answering to questions they believe are favourable to the researcher rather than providing authentic and objective response. Another factor that may affect the outcomes of this study is political biasness by politicians while responding to questions. This is because, at the point of collecting data, some of the political respondents may decide to give information that is untrue in order to paint either a good or bad picture of the county government depending on their political leaning.

1.11 Assumptions of the Study

It is assumed in this study that the selected sample population gave views that can be replicated across the entire population hence making the findings of the study relevant, applicable replicable to devolved governance in other counties in Kenya. To justify this assumption, respondents from the general public were randomly chosen while the ones from key county government departments and the county assembly of Kwale was carefully purposely chosen. The response of the survey participants, it was assumed, would be objective and not influenced by any biases. This assumption is based on the premise that the findings of the study are of significance in enhancing devolved governance in Kwale County and in deed other counties in the country, and they were made aware of the same in order to encourage them to be impartial in their responses. The researcher also assumes that some of the strategies applied by the county assembly

in Kwale County could be similar to the ones applied in other counties.

1.12 Theoretical Framework

A theoretical framework highlights the main arguments or constructs that help ground the study (Kothari, 2004). They are derived from theories which in the opinion of the researcher anchor the study, especially so in terms of addressing the study objectives. This study was anchored on the arguments of the agency theory which is explored in details hereunder.

1.12.1 Agency Theory

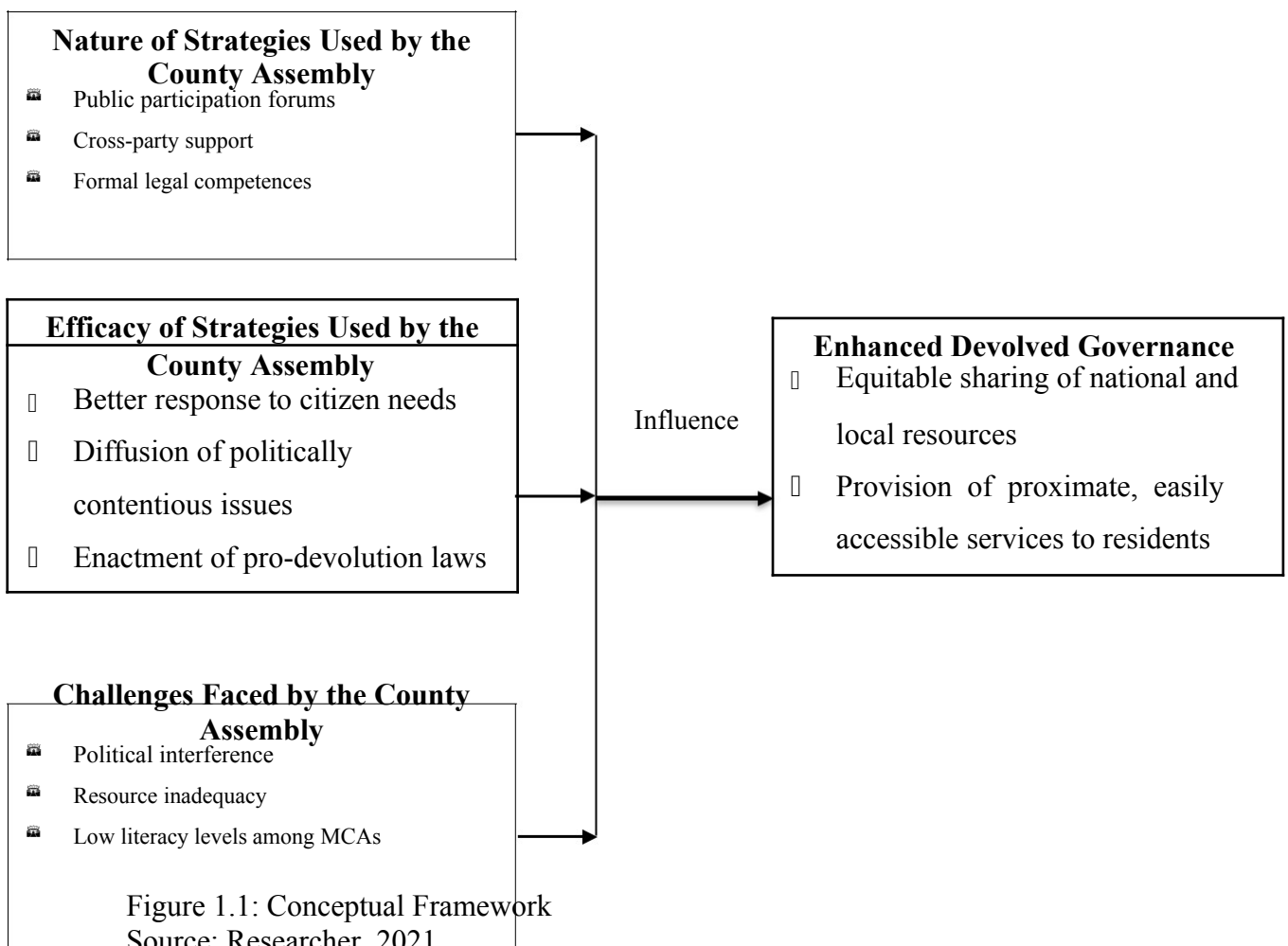
Agency theory is one of the major theories used in Corporate Governance and was first proposed by Stephen Ross and Barry Mitnick in 1973 (Mitnick, 2013). This theory, which took shape in the 1970s, is one of the one the most prominent theoretical perspectives utilized in corporate governance. The theory defines the agent-principal relationship as an implied or formal contract in which the principal hires the agent to look out for the principal's interests (Wagana, Iravo & Nzulwa, 2017; Panda & Leepsa, 2017). The Agency theory is a useful framework for explaining devolved governance and the strategies that can be adopted by county assembly to enhance devolved governance in this study. In the context of this study, the county government would be the corporate, the county MCAs (collectively the county assembly) would be the agent and collectively the residents of the county would be the principle. Drawing from the tenets of the theory, the county assembly (who in this case is the agent) represents the (Kwale County residents' (the principal) in a particular business transaction and the county assembly is expected to represent the best interests (best performance of the county assembly) of the residents of the county without regard for self-interest. As the principals, the residents of the assembly delegate decision-making authority to county assembly. The agency theory also upholds and is relevant in this study in that the county governments are supposed to act on behalf of the residents of Kwale County and deliver

to the agenda and objective of devolved governance as enshrined in Kenya's Constitution. One of the weaknesses of Agency Theory is the assumption that the interests of a principal and an agent are not always in alignment. Another weakness of the theory is that it ignores a wider range of human motives because much of its focus is on self-interested and opportunistic human behaviour (Panda & Leepsa, 2017; Kivistö, 2008).

1.13 Conceptual Framework

Independent Variables

Dependent Variable



The conceptual framework above depicts the relationship between the

independent variable and the dependent variable. The first independent variable, strategies used by the county assembly to enhance devolved governance, shows that there are strategies employed by county assemblies to ensure that devolved governance is entrenched at the county level and that the objectives are achieved. The second independent variable seeks to establish whether these strategies have been effective and the extent to which they have been effective in enhancing devolved governance. Finally, the third independent variable focuses on challenges that county assemblies face in the process of holding the county government to account to ensure that all the legislations are implemented and functions are performed in order to realize the objective of devolved governance. The dependent variable illustrates some of the indicators that, as enshrined in the constitution of Kenya, are used to assess devolved governance in the country.

CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a detailed review of previous research studies based on the thematic areas and specific objectives of this study. It is from the review of review of appropriate literature and research related to the specific objectives of this study that knowledge gaps, highlighted in the last section of this chapter and on which this study was grounded, are drawn.

2.2 Empirical Review

2.2.1 Nature of Strategies Used by the County Assembly in Enhancing Devolved Governance

Available research literature show that legislative assemblies of different countries at different levels; national, state, district, county and even municipal apply varied strategies to get governments to perform and meet their obligations to the citizenry. In the Netherlands strong use of the parliamentary oversight tools at the political party level is the main strategy employed by the country's parliament. The study by Otjes and Louwse (2018) reveal that members of political parties make use of written parliamentary questions to put government representatives to task. The outcomes of the study carried out on the parliament of Netherlands revealed that political, whether those forming the government and those in the opposition, put questions to ministers whose portfolios are salient to them, the indiscriminately ask questions to both ministers from parties that are ideologically distant and those with whom they have considerable electoral overlap. Using this strategy, the members of parliament have been able to get keep the government on its toes and have the country's governance system working for citizens. In Wales, devolution has largely worked as desired due what researchers established attributed to a paradigm shift from the traditional and mundane procedure and legislative process-oriented model of

parliamentary organization to a strategy oriented approach to performance of functions. The strategy in the National Assembly for Wales, despite being a political institution, has been to engage in a strategic decision-making and using strategic management tools in their decision making process. As evidenced by the Assembly Commission's formulation of clearly stated goals and objectives which included promotion and widening engagement in devolution and demonstration of respect, probity and good governance. This move by the National Assembly for Wales has significantly shaped the way the devolved governance have delivered to the citizens of the sub-national governments (Diana & Stirbu, 2011).

Strategies and tactics by legislative assemblies to enhance performance of devolved units of governance have been experienced in Latin America as well. In the lower-middle income country of El Salvador, in the municipality of Nejapa, Mundt (2019) established that increased involvement the municipal assembly resolved to encouraging and escalating public participation and involvement in local politics. The outcomes of this strategy, according to the findings of the study, was enhanced performance of the municipal government in meeting its obligations to the residents of Nejapa. This was demonstrated by significant increases in access to potable water, establishment of cleaner and better latrines which also significantly increased in numbers. The residents of Nejapa also got access to reliable supply of electricity.

Posner and Park (2007) aver that the role of parliaments has changed so much over the years within many parliaments increasingly playing a more active role in budget matters as a strategy to ensure prudence in public spending, more so in developing countries. In line with this assertion, Lienert (2010) conducted a study whose scope was a number of parliaments from the across the world. The study was motivated by the fact the parliaments play a key role in determining the expenditures

of their governments to ensure that government not only spend reasonably within their means but also that no money is lost in the process. The veracity of this strategy and assertion by Posner and Park (2007) came to fore in the findings by Lienert (2010) where analysis of the data collected established that many parliaments adopted the strategy of active involvement in national and sub-national governments' budget process to promote good governance and fiscal transparency. It also came out from the study that the surveyed national and sub-national legislative assemblies owned the fiscal policies through robust and objective parliamentary debates.

Research investigations in Africa have also shown that various strategies have been adopted legislative assemblies in different countries in the continent to enhance good governance in the continent. The analysis shows however that in the African continent what is really needed to promote development in the continent is good governance. Parliaments can promote good governance by controlling the executive branch of government but also to how the parliament can promote good governance by controlling itself and the behaviour of its members. The establishment of ethics regimes often requires the adoption of disclosure rules. In order to ensure members' proper conduct and to prevent possible conflicts of interests, members must disclose their interests. Disclosure of interests can take two forms: the registration of interests; and the declaration of interests (Pelizzo & Stapenhurst, 2007).

Mensah, Bawole and Ahenkan (2017) argue that since the country's independence, development has eluded Ghana. This the author attributes to high levels of centralization government functions. However, experimentation with devolved governance changed the narrative positively albeit marginally. As a result of devolution of governance in the Ghana, much focus shifted from the national to local units of government namely Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies. To enhance the

performance of the devolved units of government, de-politicization of local economic development policies was one of the main strategies adopted by the local government legislative assemblies. This meant that all development agenda and policies were considered by the members of the national assemblies from non-partisan position and with the interest of the citizens being prioritized. The study gleaned that other strategies that were adopted by the assemblies to enhance governance encompassed change management strategies in the country's local governance system (Agbevade, 2018). Research evidence on Ghanaian and Ugandan legislative assemblies have gleaned that information use in decision making has been a key strategy employed by both parliaments to enhance governance. On Uganda, Rugambwa (2010) established that the Members of Parliament needed unprejudiced, factual and timely information to make informed decisions and ensuring executive accountability to the legislature on behalf of the people of Uganda. This motivated the establishment of a fully-fledged Library and Research Department by the Parliament of Uganda in 1999. The conclusion based on the findings of the study was that adequate and appropriate information is essential in building effective legislatures. Similarly, the employment of the strategy of acquisition and objective use of quality information was established to have played a major role in the duties and responsibilities of Ghanaian legislators (Osman & Agyei, 2014).

Hope (2014) avers that creation of institutions like the Senate and County Assemblies to strengthen and sustain governance both at the national and local levels is one of the many laudable key facets of Kenya's 2010 Constitution. Prominent among the local institutional structures created at the devolved government level were the county assemblies for each county. So far the counties assemblies, using different approaches, have been instrumental in seeing that the county governments perform their

duties to the people. A research survey conducted in Kenya by Shimengah (2018) emphasized on strategic leadership among the elected political county government leaders, including the MCAs, as a strategy for enhancing devolved governance in the country. Based on the findings of the study, the researcher concluded that strategic leadership practices among the MCAs to keep the county government accountable can enhance service delivery to constituents of the different counties. The researcher further argues, based on the study's findings, that electing county leaders who have essential leadership traits can enhance realization of the objectives of devolved governance through involvement of the citizenry and reduction of bureaucracy in the running of the county affairs. A study conducted in four counties; Mombasa, Kilifi, Taita Taveta and Kajiado and another study carried out in Laikipia County established that public participation mechanisms were critical in involving the citizenry in devolved governance and entrenching devolution (Odhiambo & Opiyo, 2017; Mariru, 2015). In a research survey on Good Governance and Service Delivery in Kisumu County, Kimutai and Amisi (2018) concluded that strategies such as carrying out legislative business in an open manner, holding sittings of committees in public and facilitation of public participation and involvement of citizens as enshrined in Article 196 of the constitution of Kenya were important approaches towards enhancing devolved in the county.

2.2.2 Efficacy of the Strategies Employed by the County Assembly in Enhancing Devolved Governance

Legislative assemblies are the foundations and cornerstones of democratic governance. These institutions keep the government in check to ensure that they work for the good of the people. They also serve as a central gateway for all citizens to participate in public life. It therefore follows that effective legislative assemblies contribute to the rule of law, economic development, improved social

welfare and political prosperity (Nemțoi, 2014; Arter, 2006). The subject of efficacy seeks to establish whether parliaments make a difference, whether they have impacts on governments and the people who they represent. Among other factors, the strategies employed by the legislative assemblies are determine to a great extent the effectiveness of these institution in ensuring that there is good and strong governance. Empirical studies have revealed varying levels of effectiveness of the different strategies used by parliaments to enhance governance both at national and sub-national levels.

Mello and Peters (2018) considered informal sources of parliamentary influence as a strategy used by parliamentarians to shape government security policy. The study which cut across many parliaments across the world including the US Congress and European parliaments in Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania intended to determine how sources based out of parliament, either coming from the executive arm of the government on political parties, influenced governmental policies on security. Based on the analysis of the data collected, these two authors concluded that this approach was effective in shaping the security policies developed by the government and how such policies were implemented to ensure realization of the intended objectives. Besides informal sources of parliamentary influence, the study also observed that reliance on formal legal competences was another strategy employed by qualified parliamentarians from different professional fields to enhance governance in their countries. For instance, lawyers used the areas of specialization to draft laws and challenge various government activities.

White (2009) in a study of scrutiny of the UK and other and other countries with a Westminster-style parliament, broadly categorizes the use of debates, parliamentary questions and parliamentary committees as the main strategies used by these parliaments to enhance governance. The findings of the study reveal that these

strategies when applied can have both desired and undesired impacts on the governance through the activities of the government. Effectiveness of these strategies can come in the form of facilitation of government openness by obliging civil servants and ministers disclose and avail relevant information to the public at all times, prompting higher standards or better processes in government activities and positively influencing the democratic system within which government operates. Ineffectiveness of some of these strategies may arise in the form of shifting government priorities away from important areas to those areas that are the focus of scrutiny, inappropriate politicization particularly of process issues and limiting openness by creating a defensive reaction.

Research findings in the study carried among adopted by Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies in Ghana demonstrated that the strategies adopted by these assemblies proves effective in enhancing devolved governance and promotion of local economic development as evidenced by significant improvements in economic wellbeing of citizens are the different levels. These strategies encompassed de-politicization of local economic development policies and change management strategies (Agbevade, 2018). Contrary to these findings, an almost similar study conducted in Ejisu-Juaben Municipal Assembly, Ghana revealed that the strategies employed by the legislative assembly in this assembly were considered largely traditional and consequently not directly effective to rapidly enhance good governance and promote economic wellbeing of the people of Ejisu-Juaben Municipal (Oduro-Ofori, 2011).

2.2.3 Challenges Faced by the County Assembly in Enhancing Devolved Governance

Documented research findings reveal that as legislative assemblies strive to perform their duties aimed at enhancing governance both at national and sub-national levels, they are increasingly being faced by a myriad of challenges. A conference report

presented at the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament on Challenges facing parliaments today revealed that all parliaments across the world face numerous challenges. Some of these challenges cut across most of the legislative institutions while other are unique to some parliaments depending on the nation-specific prevailing contexts. The report gleaned that public scepticism, exhibited by low and falling public confidence in the authority of parliament, is a problem that many parliaments are grappling with. It came out from the conference that uneven power relations between the executive and legislative branches of government which almost naturally keeps the balance of power in favour of the executive has been found to constantly undercut performance of the legislative. Closely linked to aspect of executive dominance is the notion of institutional capacity of parliaments. Since the executive controls much of the government resources, it subsequently determined the quantity and in some instances quality of resources available to parliament to perform its functions. Presentation at the conference revealed that besides material and financial resources, the executive also has significant better access to information than parliament, and can largely control the amount of information available to parliament especially if the information needed by parliament for input into its activities originate from the executive-controlled government functions (Inter-Parliament Union, 2015).

Findings of a study carried out on local assemblies in Ghana revealed that Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies faced a myriad of hurdles that affected their performance in ensuring that devolved government units worked for the people of Ghana. One of the key challenges identified in the study was inadequate finance to effectively run some of the assemblies' operations. This subsequently reduced the number of public participation forums that they intended to hold with their constituents. Inadequate human capacity both in terms of numbers and qualifications

was also a major challenge faced by these assemblies. For instance the author established that all assemblies at the three sub-national level did not have the requisite human resource and institutional capacity for the implementation of some assembly programs and activities. Another major challenge in the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies in Ghana according to the findings of the study was politicization of assembly agenda from time to time by some assembly members. The politicization of agenda took the form of political patronage where both the political party in power and the opposition parties whipped their party members to take certain position even in critical matters that otherwise needed objectivity during discussion (Agbevade, 2018).

In separate studies still on Ghana and carried out in Ejisu-Juaben Municipal Assembly and Mfantseman Municipal Assembly, Oduro-Ofori (2011) and Arthur (2016) respectively reached similar findings that inadequate capacity with regard to financial resources, logistics and human resources considerably impacted negatively the ability of the assembly to effectively perform its functions. Boatemaa-Yeboah and Tamakloe (2019) based on the findings of their study also concluded that political interference characterized Kwahu West Municipal Assembly in Ghana thereby affecting the performance of its functions negatively. Dominance of the executive over the other two arms of government in a democracy can pose a serious challenge to the functioning of the parliament (Daniel, 2018). In such instances, although each arm of the government is presumed to be independent, the executive, which controls all the government resources can significantly undermine the operations of the parliament. This is evidenced by the findings of the study carried out in Nigeria. The ability of the parliament to safeguard the national development through its three major functions is significantly diminished because it does not have the necessary financial support and good will of the government to be effective (Igwe, 2010).

Resource inadequacy was established to be a major challenge affecting the effectiveness of various county assemblies in Kenya toward implementation of the devolved system of governance. As it is with the case in almost all organizations, the study which was carried out among all the county assemblies in the greater Rift Valley region determined that unavailability of adequate financial, material and human resources pulled back the progress of these county assemblies from performing their duties meant to enhance devolved governance in the counties (Ariwomoi, 2013). Mutisya, Abonyo and Senelwa (2017) researched on the effect political parties' affiliations on County Assemblies' exercise of oversight authority over county government in Kenya. The finding and conclusion from the study was that wrongful use superiority by the majority party or political coalition in the county assemblies hampered and frustrated the implementation of county government's activities. The study further determined that on their own, and without the support of the majority, the opposition parties in the county assemblies had weak impact in influencing and enforcing county governments' performance.

A report produced by the body mandated to oversee the implementation of Kenya's 2010 constitution titled *Assessment of the Implementation of the System of Devolved Government* detailed three key major hurdles faced by county assemblies in the performance of their duties. The first identified challenge was low capacities of MCAs to debate Bills and fast-track the processes. The report indicated that in some county assemblies a good number of MCAs were not properly educated hence were not in a position to informedly and objectively debate Bills tabled in the assemblies to come up with proper by-laws and policies for their county governments. Low literacy level limiting debate on Bills leading to sub-standards legislation is a closely related challenge that was identified. Another major challenge that came from this report was

lack of commitment and frequent quorum hitch of MCAs. Across the country some MCAs, the report gleaned, were not committed to fulfilling their duties and obligations as the representatives of the people. Only a few frequently showed up during sessions in the assemblies during debates and some of those who showed up did not participate actively and adequately in the house activities (Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution, 2014). The consequences of these hurdles, some of which are self-imposed, is that delivery of services to the constituents by the county governments hampered. For instances, failure to attend and participate in county assembly forums by some MCAs effectively lead to formation of poor laws and policies and poor oversight of the county governments thus slowing down implementation of devolution.

2.3 Summary and Research Gaps

It is widely agreed that one of the main obligations of parliaments is to promote inclusive and effective governance. In the case of devolved governance in Kenya, the current constitution envisaged that through devolution government services would reach the people on the ground and citizens would have more say in the governance of the nation through the devolved units of government. However, review of literature reveal a number of inadequacies and gaps with regard to strategies employed by county assembly, which is the institution mandated to keep county governments in check, to ensure realization of the objectives of devolved governance. As shown in the review, very few research studies have attempted to establish strategies that county assemblies employ to enhance devolved governance in Kenya. Another area of serious knowledge gap in relation to the subject of this study is that almost no studies have been conducted in Kenya to establish how effective the strategies employed by county governments have been in driving the devolved units of government towards implementation of their roles that are enshrined in the constitution. Some studies have made effort to identify

some of the challenges faced by county governments in performance of their duties but this is an area that still needs further research. Besides these glaring deficiencies that cut across all the 47 counties in Kenya, no studies have focused on Kwale County based on all the three specific objectives of this study.

In this study therefore, the researcher intends to investigate and report on strategies used by the county assembly to enhance devolved governance in Kwale County and the efficacy of these strategies. The study also intends to analyse challenges faced by the Kwale County assembly in enhancing devolved governance in the county.

CHAPTER THREE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter details the description of the research process. It outlines research methods that were followed during the study. At the onset, the chapter explains and justifies the research design that was chosen for this study. Information provided here also includes the target population, how a sample was drawn from this target to participate in the study and the criteria for inclusion of the sample. The instruments that were used for data collection are also described as well as the procedures that were followed to carry out this study. The latter sections of the chapter discuss the methods that were employed to analyse the data. Finally, ethical and legal issues that were observed in the process are discussed.

3.2 Research Design

Creswell and Creswell (2018) accentuate that a clear and well thought-out overall strategy of how different components of a study are coherently integrated is essential in effectively addressing research objectives. The blueprint, which is the research design, generally identifies the research methods and techniques preferred in this study as well as the approaches that were taken during collection, measurement, and analysis of data. In this study, descriptive research design was employed. According to Coghlan and Brydon-Miller (2014), descriptive research design involves systematic description of a population, situation or phenomenon under study with an aim of answering what, when, where, when and how the subjects being observed behave or respond the way they do. Descriptive research design was appropriate in explaining the efficacy of county assemblies, specifically the conduct of MCAs with regard to their official duties, on enhancement of devolved governance towards realization of main objectives of the devolved units of government as enshrined in

Kenya's 2010 Constitution.

To address the specific research objectives, this research employed both qualitative and quantitative approaches to data analysis. The non-numerical data collected through qualitative approaches provided in-depth insight into the concepts being studied through description, interpretation and contextualization of the data obtained (Hammarberg, Kirkman & de Lacey, 2016). The quantitative methods on the other hand were suitable for measuring, ranking, categorizing, identifying patterns in order to make sound generalizations of the study's findings. Brannen (2005) accentuates that brought together, the mixed approach allowed for a combination of strengths of the numerical measurement and in-depth exploration with the qualitative data supporting the results of the quantitative data analysis.

3.3 Research Site

This research specifically focused on the County Assembly of Kwale (Appendix VI). The rationale behind this choice of research site is the fact that Kwale County is among the 6 counties in the coastal region of Kenya which have for a long time lagged behind economically due to negligence by the successive government regimes that have governed the country since independence. Additionally, the Kwale County, just like its counterparts in the region, had not experienced significant increase in political participation in the country's political affairs prior to the creation of the devolved units of government by Kenya's Constitution. Additionally, due to low economic and political development, Kwale County had poor social development and it is only after implementation of devolved governance that the residents of the county are beginning to experience improvements in their social well-being as indicated by the growing construction of more and better social amenities like schools, hospitals and recreational facilities (Marigi, 2017). The development of more and better education facilities are

also improving the level of civic education essential for participation and sustenance of democratic governance in the county and beyond. The county assembly of Kwale, given its constitutional mandate, is responsible for holding the county executive responsible to ensure that implementation of development activities is appropriately done for the benefit of the residents of the county.

3.4 Target Population

A number of stakeholders are essential with regard to the quality of information that was collected in this survey, which subsequently determined the credibility of the findings of this study. As such the target population for this study was carefully chosen. In this study, the researcher worked together with the county government of Kwale and relevant national level institutions. The offices of the Governor and Deputy Governor of the County Government of Kwale were significant sources of information for this study. The office of the Speaker of the County Assembly of Kwale as well as the office of the Kwale County Assembly Clerk was also of importance with regard to information and data collection. The survey also targeted the residents of Kwale County, arguably the most significant segment of the target population because they are the primary beneficiaries of devolved governance in the county. Also to be targeted in this study are all the 20 elected MCAs and all the 10 County Executive Committee (CEC) Members (also known as County Ministers). Table 3.1 presents the breakdown of the various segments of the target population that were targeted in this study.

Table 3.1 Target Population

Respondent Segment	Number
Office of the Governor of the County Government of Kwale	1
Office of the Deputy Governor of the Kwale County Government	1
Office of the Speaker of the County Assembly of Kwale	1
Office of the Kwale County Assembly Clerk	1
Elected Members of Kwale County Assembly	20
Kwale County Executive Committee Members	10
Residents of Kwale County (adult population)	446,400
Total	446,434

Source: Kwale County Government, (2019); KNBS, (2019)

3.5 Study Sample

3.5.1 Study Sample Size

Sample size refers to the proportion of individuals selected from the general target population who were engaged in a survey (Singh & Masuku, 2014). From the target population, 384 individuals were involved during data collection and the itemization of the sample size is as presented in Table 3.2. The Krejcie and Morgan (1970) Table for sample size (Appendix V) has been used to arrive at the sample size for the survey.

Table 3.2 Sample Size

Respondent Segment	Number	Sample Size
Office of the Governor of the County Government of Kwale	1	1
Office of the Deputy Governor of the Kwale County Government	1	1
Office of the Speaker of the County Assembly of Kwale	1	1
Office of the Kwale County Assembly Clerk	1	1
Elected Members of Kwale County Assembly	20	20
Kwale County Executive Committee Members	10	10
Residents of Kwale County (adult population)	446,434	350
Total	446,400	384

Source: Researcher, (2020)

3.5.2 Sampling Procedure

According to Turner (2020), sampling procedure refers to the process or technique that a researcher uses to arrive at a specific number of individuals to participate in a research study. The procedure outlines the process of selecting individuals in such a way that the individuals chosen were a reliable representation of the larger target population from which they were drawn. A mix of probability and non-probability sampling was used in selecting survey participants. Simple random sampling was used to select participants from the general population segment of the target population. The researcher visited each ward in the county and randomly selected participants from the general population to take part in the study. Stratified sampling was used to divide the remaining segments of the population into smaller strata based on their common characteristics (in this case the official positions they occupy within the county assembly and the county executive). Purposive sampling procedure, which is a type of non-probability sampling, was then used to choose officials from these strata namely the offices of the Governor, Deputy Governor, assembly speaker, county clerk, MCAs, and CECs. Purposive sampling is appropriate for this study because it focus on particular characteristics of the specified target population that are of interest thus enabling the researcher to answer your research questions using expert/professional information.

3.6 Data Collection

3.6.1 Data Collection Instruments

The collection instruments refer to the tools used by a researcher to collect data during the research process. The principal need for data collection is to gather quality evidence in order to answer the research questions with high precision. As such, accurate and systematic data collection is critical to conducting scientific research (Paradis, O'Brien, Nimmon, Bandiera & Martimianakis, 2016). In this research study interview schedules and questionnaires were used to collect data from

the field. Representatives from the following offices; Governor of the County Government of Kwale, Deputy Governor of the Kwale County Government, Speaker of the County Assembly of Kwale, the Kwale County Assembly Clerk, and offices of House Majority and Minority leaders were engaged in interviews. The questionnaire was mainly used to gather data from the MCAs (except the House Majority and Minority leaders), the CECs and adults from the general populace. In effect, 6 interviews were conducted and 378 questionnaires administered. To effectively collect data from the population sample, the researcher developed a semi-structured questionnaire which respondents drawn from the participants responded to. The interview schedule on the other hand was comprised of structured questions which nonetheless evolved as the interview proceeds in order to enrich the quality of the information collected.

3.6.2 Pilot Testing of Research Instruments

Prior to the actual, full-scale data collection field activity, pilot test was conducted in the last week of the month of March 2021 to evaluate the feasibility, suitability and adequacy of the data collection instruments with an aim of improving the instruments appropriately. The pilot study was conducted in Ramisi ward in Msambweni constituency in the county. The pilot study comprised of 40 participants who were equivalent to 10% of the sample size as recommended by Mugenda & Mugenda (2003). This was important in identifying the actual challenges the researcher may experience in the field when carrying out the actual study. The lessons drawn from this activity were used to enhance preparations for the main study. Because of the pilot study in Ramisi ward, the actual study was subsequently not carried out in this specific geographic location.

3.6.3 Instrument Reliability

Mohajan (2017) explains instrument reliability as the consistency with which a data collection instrument measures the factors that it is intended to measure. That is, the ability to yield similar or almost similar results whenever the same test is carried out using the instrument. During pilot testing, test-retest and internal-consistency measures were used to assess the consistency of the instruments. Test-retest was used to measure the consistency from one time to the next while internal-consistency was used to measure consistency of the questions within the instrument. Reliability analysis done using Cronbach's Alpha, which measures the internal consistency by establishing if certain items within a scale measure the same construct. For the research instruments to be reliable, the Cronbach's Alpha coefficients for all the variables was greater than 0.7 thus indicating that the instruments could reliably be used for data collection.

3.6.4 Instrument Validity

Instrument validity according to Taherdoost (2016) refers to how well a data collection instrument measures what it is intended to measure thus the accuracy of the survey questionnaire. Construct, content and criterion validity were used to measure the validity of the data collection instruments. Construct validity was used to assess the whether the instruments measure the concepts they are intended to measure. Content validity focused on assessing the representativeness of the instrument in measuring the research objectives. Finally, criterion validity tested the correspondence of different tests of the instruments during the pilot testing phase. Additionally, the instrument was submitted to expert scrutiny by the supervisor to identify any possible gaps. Any ambiguities and difficulties observed in the construction were addressed accordingly

3.6.5 Data Collection Procedure

After successfully testing the instruments and adjusting them appropriately, the researcher embarked on full-scale data collection. The questionnaires and interview schedules were used to collect data consecutively. With the help of research assistants, the researcher first visited Kwale County and issue questionnaires to the member of the public. Key informant interviews were exclusively conducted by the researcher. The interview process involved booking appointments with the respective respondents. The entire data collection process was conducted in a systematic manner to enhance the quality of response got from the survey participants and also to ensure that all the data collection instruments are fully answered and collected from the field. Authenticity and integrity of the data was ensured through proper management of the process which included ensuring that research assistants actually went out to collect data and they were monitored throughout the entire exercise. The exercise was carried out over a period of one week to ensure that there was ample time to carry out the activities and not rush the process.

3.7 Data Analysis

The process of data analysis began with inspecting and cleansing the data. This was followed by coding of the questions and keying them into the SPSS software (version 25) for analysis purposes. Frequency tests, percentages and means were used to transform the quantitative data into useful information. Content analysis was used to analyse the qualitative data and this involved picking out specific words, themes, or concepts of interest with regard to this study from the collected qualitative data. The outcomes of the analysis was presented in tables and charts (quantitative data) and verbatim quotes and narratives (qualitative data) for interpretation through analytical and logical reasoning to determine relationships between the different variables.

3.8 Legal and Ethical Considerations

Yip, Han and Sng (2016) emphasize the significance of legal and ethical issues as components of modern research related to the research subject and the researcher. At all times, the researcher ensured that honesty is observed even by the research assistants while dealing with different individuals and institutions. This meant exhibiting high levels of professional competence. Academic integrity was also observed by acknowledging all sources of borrowed information by way of appropriate and adequate citation and referencing. The researcher also takes full responsibility, where reasonable, of all the outcomes of their activities during the research process. Further, the researcher and assistants showed respect for people's rights, dignity, and diversity while carrying out the study. Permission was sought from relevant authorities and institutions namely the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) and the County Directors of Education prior to field data collection. Further, the researcher obtained the letter of introduction from Africa Nazarene University which was then used to obtain research permit from NACOSTI and present to apposite county government to facilitate data collection. Participation in this study was voluntary thus the researcher sought consent of participants before engaging them in the study. Confidentiality of the information provided by survey participants was ensured throughout the research process. Further, only adults 18 years and above were engaged in the survey process.

CHAPTER FOUR DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

The results and analysis of the data collected are covered in this chapter. The findings relate to the research objectives that guided the study. The analysis is done using percentages and frequencies which are then presented in tables and pie charts. The response rate from the data collection process is also presented in this chapter.

4.2 Response Rate and Respondents' Demographic Profile

4.2.1 Response Rate

Fincham (2008) advances that a response rate of at least 60% is adequate for a researcher to rely on use for data analysis. In this research study, all the six targeted key interview informants were reached and successfully engaged in during data collection. With regard to data collection through questionnaires, the researcher achieved an 86% response rate of. This implies that out of the remaining 378 respondents (384 less 6 who were engaged in interviews) whom questionnaires were administered to, 325 successfully filled and returned in the questionnaire allocated to them which were subsequently used during data analysis in addition to the interviews data. This proportion was therefore adequate to allow the researcher to proceed and use the collected data for analysis. Table 4.1 presents the data on response rate.

Table 4.1: Response Rate

	Number of surveys sent	Number of respondents who successfully completed they survey	Response rate
Interviews	6	6	100%
Questionnaires	378	325	86%
Total/Average		331	86%

Source: Field data, (2021)

4.2.2 Gender of Respondents

Figure 4.1 depicts the gender of the survey participants. From the diagram, 72%

of the respondents were males while the rest 28% were women. This indicates the patriarchal nature of the Kwale County where men, as compared to women, are more likely to participate in activities, both domestic and public, due to cultural dictates.

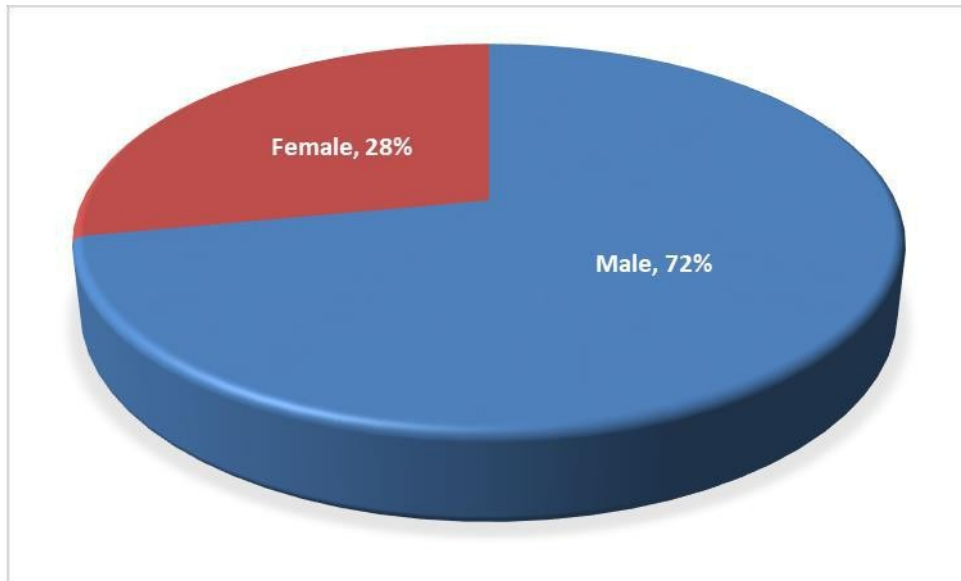


Figure 4.1: Distribution of Gender
Source: Field data, (2021)

4.2.3 Age Bracket

From the results of the analysis, 36% of the respondents were aged between 28 – 37 years, 31% fell in the 48 – 57 years age bracket and 21% were 58 years old or more. The rest 12% were between 18 – 27 years of age as shown in Figure 4.2. This distribution of the respondents' ages implies that they have adequate experience of living in the country and were therefore in a position to reliably comment on the issues under research.

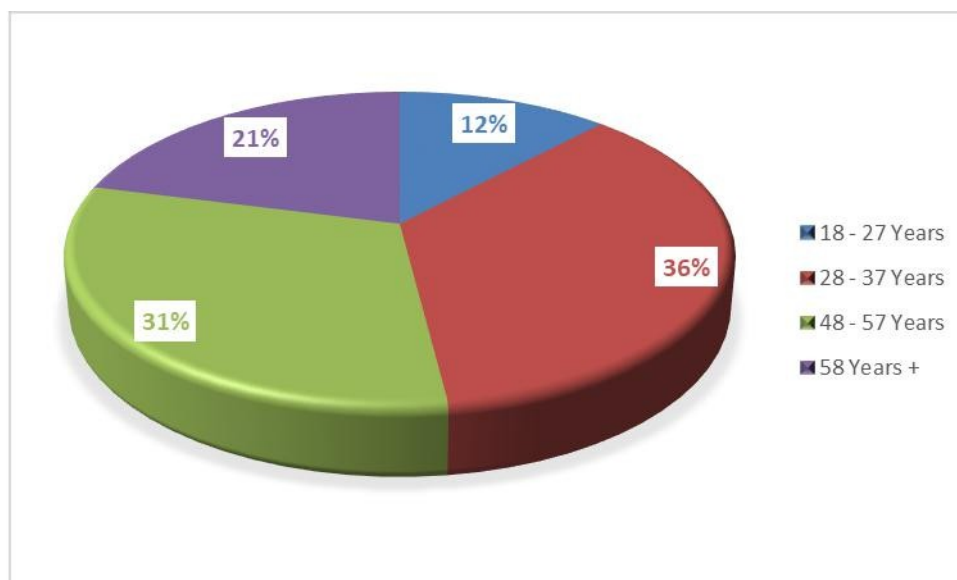


Figure 4.2: Age Brackets
Source: Field data, (2021)

4.2.4 Duration of Residence in Kwale County

Results presented in Figure 4.3 indicate that 27% of the respondents had lived in Kwale County for between 21 – 25 years, 23% had lived in the county for 16 – 20 years, 17 had resided in Kwale County for 11 – 15 years, 15% had lived in the county for 26 – 30 years and 10% had been residents of the county for 31 years of more. Out of the remaining 8%, approximately 8% had lived in the county for 6 – 10 years and the rest 2% had been residents of the county for 2 years or less. Those who had lived in the county for long were highly likely to be natives of the county hence very aware and experienced in the happenings in the county especially with regard to the performance of the county government as well as the activities of the county assembly. They are therefore in a position to have much knowledge on the issues under study and give adequate and reliable information.

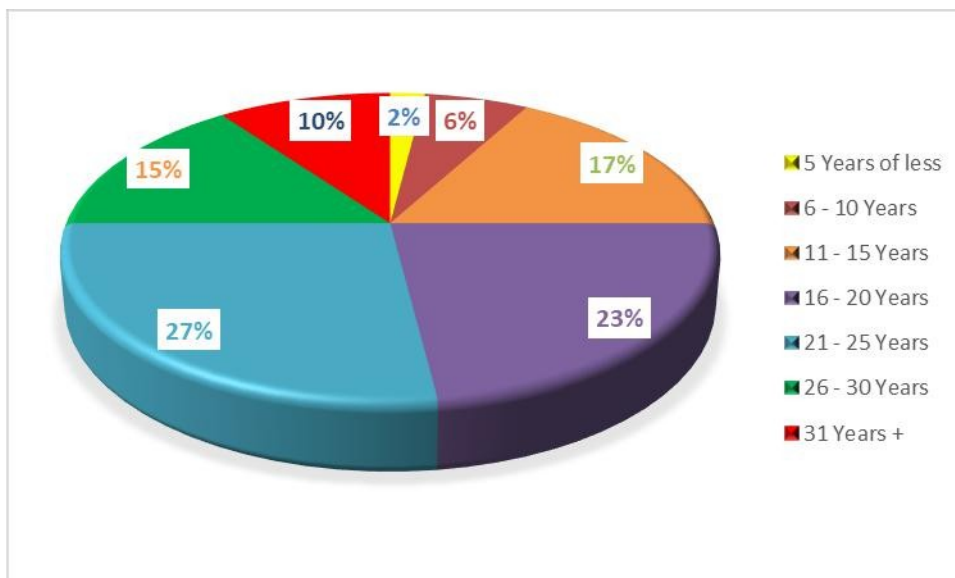


Figure 4.3: Duration of Residence in Kwale County
Source: Field data, (2021)

4.2.5 Employment Status

Outcomes of the analysis on employment status of the respondents show that 41% of the respondents were employed full-time, 28% were in part-time employment, 23% were currently unemployed and the remaining 8% were retirees as presented in Figure 4.4. This information is important because it reveals the rates of unemployment in the county which could possibly influence the opinion of the respondents on the effectiveness of devolved governance in creating job opportunities for the county's residents.

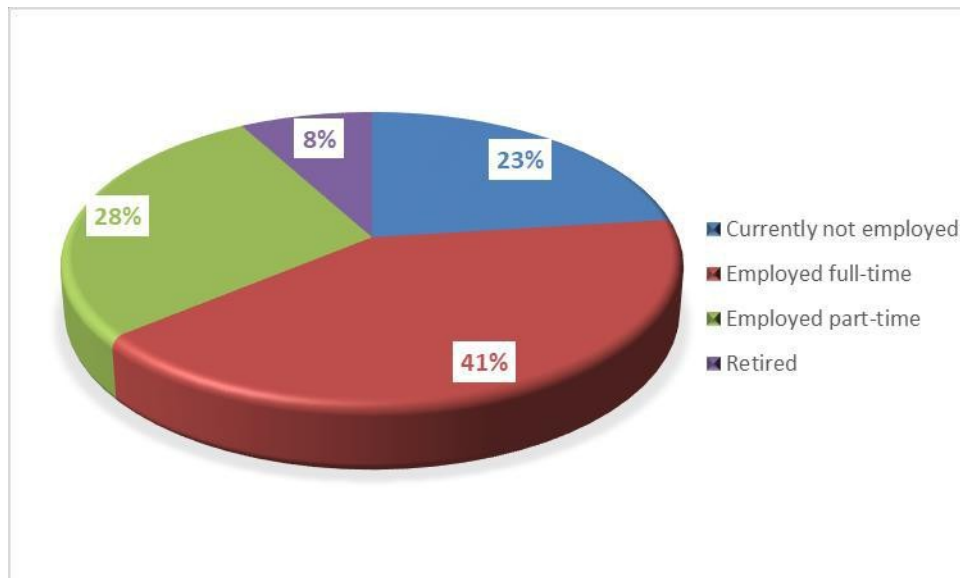


Figure 4.4: Employment Status
Source: Field data, (2021)

4.3 Presentation of Research Analysis and Findings

4.3.1 Nature of Strategies Used by the County Assembly in Enhancing Devolved Governance

Table 4.2 shows the results of the survey respondents on strategies used by the county assembly in enhancing devolved governance based on the various parameters identified and used in this study. From these results 25% of the respondents strongly agreed that public participation forums is one of the strategies employed by the county government to enhance devolved governance by to educating the public on bills and listening to development priorities in Kwale County, 32% agreed that this strategy has been employed by the county to enhance devolution in the county and 11% were not sure whether this strategy has been employed by the county assembly to enhance devolved governance in the county. On the other end, 21% disagreed that public participation forums have been used by the county assembly to enhance devolution in the county and the rest 11% strongly disagreed that this strategy has been employed by the county government to enhance devolution in the county.

As depicted in Table 4.2, 12% of the respondents strongly agreed that establishing cross-party support was a key strategy by the Kwale County assembly to

enhance devolution in the county, 25% of the survey respondents agreed with this question statement while 23% were neutral. About 28% of the survey participants disagreed that the members of county assembly sought to achieve cross-party support in order to enhance devolved governance in the country while the rest 12% strongly disagreed with the question statement.

With regard to application of formal legal competences by the members of the Kwale County Assembly to enhance devolution in the county, 19% of the respondents strongly agreed that the county's assembly applied this strategy, 32% of the respondents agreed with the question statement, 13% expressed neutrality, 17% disagreed with the question statement while the rest 19% strongly disagreed that efforts to achieve cross-party support has been a key strategy employed by the county assembly of Kwale to enhance devolved governance in in the county as shown in Table 4.2.

Respondents were also asked whether they felt that the MCAs articulate the needs of their constituents in the assembly and demand replies from the executive. In response to this question, 21% of the survey participants strongly agreed that the MCAs articulate the needs of their constituents in the assembly and demand replies from the executive, 36% of the respondents agreed with the question statement while 15% were indifferent on whether or not county assembly committees have been effective in enhancing devolved governance in Kwale County. On the other end of the continuum 20% of the survey participants disagreed that the MCAs articulate the needs of their constituents in the assembly and demand replies from the executive and the rest 8% strongly disagreed with the question statement as depicted in Table 4.2.

On the question of active involvement of the county assembly of Kwale in enacting laws aimed at enhancing devolved governance in the county, 26% of the respondents strongly agreed that the county assembly has been actively involved in

enactment of laws that enhance devolved governance in Kwale County, 38% of the respondents agreed with the question while 7% were neutral. From the negative responders' category, 17% of the respondents disagreed with the question statement while the rest 12% strongly disagreed that the Kwale County assembly had been actively involved in enactment of laws that enhance devolved governance in the county.

Outcomes of the analysis presented in Table 4.2 also show that 16% of the survey respondents strongly agreed that vetting of county government appointees to ensure merit and competence has supported the work of the executive arm of the Kwale County towards enhancement of devolved governance, 22% of the respondents agreed with this question statement, 25% were neutral, 28% disagreed with the question statement and the rest 9% of the survey participants strongly disagreed with the question statement.

Table 4.2: Assessment of Strategies Employed by the County Assembly

	SA	A	N	D	SD
Public participation forums are one of the main strategies used by the count assembly to enhance devolved governance in this county to educate the public on bills and listen to development priorities.	25%	32%	11%	21%	11%
Efforts to achieve cross-party support has been a key strategy employed by the county assembly of Kwale to enhance devolved governance in in the county.	12%	25%	23%	28%	12%
Formal legal competences have extensively been used by the county assembly of Kwale towards enhancing devolved governance in the county.	19%	32%	13%	17%	19%
MCA's articulate the needs of their constituents in the assembly and demand replies from the executive.	21%	36%	15%	20%	8%
The county assembly has been actively involved in enactment of laws that enhance devolved governance in Kwale County.	26%	38%	7%	17%	12%
Vetting of county government appointees to ensure merit and competence has supported the work of the executive arm of the Kwale County towards enhancement of devolved governance.	16%	22%	25%	28%	9%

Source: Field data, (2021)

It came out from the study that besides the conventional, legally recognised strategies and approaches, the county assembly employed other less formal strategies to ensure that the county government functions well and that devolution is enhanced in the county. One of these less formal strategies was establishment and maintenance of cordial relationship with the governor and other officials of the county government. Through these cordial relationships, issues that were not too trivial and could be addressed at personal levels were thus addressed in meetings between the players.

Analysis of interview results brought back similar results to those of questionnaires. During the interviews the respondents indicated that both the county assembly and county government were committed in hiring employees on merit, although this was not the case in all instances. One of the interviewees was had his to say;

“When the devolved units were first created, our county government largely hired people based on who they knew. However, with time, the county assembly put in place measures and worked to ensure that this trend changed and people are hired on merit and as per the rules set in the Section 65 of the County Governments Act of 2012. This has gone a long way in entrenching devolution in the country because people are now getting quality services from qualified employees. In fact, in some cases the county assembly had to set aside some appointment decisions of the county government that were biased and the employees unqualified.” [Interviewee V]

With regard to the use of public participation forums to enhance devolution in the county, one of the interviewees from the county commented as follows;

“If there is one area that the Kwale County assembly has been keen on and invested so much it is the public participation forums because we want our people to feel and actually be part of the governance process and activities in this county. I am happy and confident to report that as a house of representatives why have satisfactorily done this to ensure that devolved governance is enhanced and entrenched in this county. If you ask majority of people in this county they will tell you that the county assembly has been at the fore front to ensure that the *kawaida mwananchi* is engaged in running the county affairs through the forums.” [Interviewee X]

According to the results presented in Figure 4.5 approximately 12% of the respondents were very satisfied with public participation forums as a strategy employed by the county assembly of Kwale towards enhancing sharing of national and local resources in the county, 21% of the survey participants were satisfied with the use of this strategy while a significant proportion, 36% expressed neutrality. On the other end of the continuum 25% of the respondents were dissatisfied with public participation forums as a strategy in enhancing sharing of national and local resources in Kwale County and the rest 6% were very dissatisfied with the use of public participation forums in enhancing resource sharing in the county.

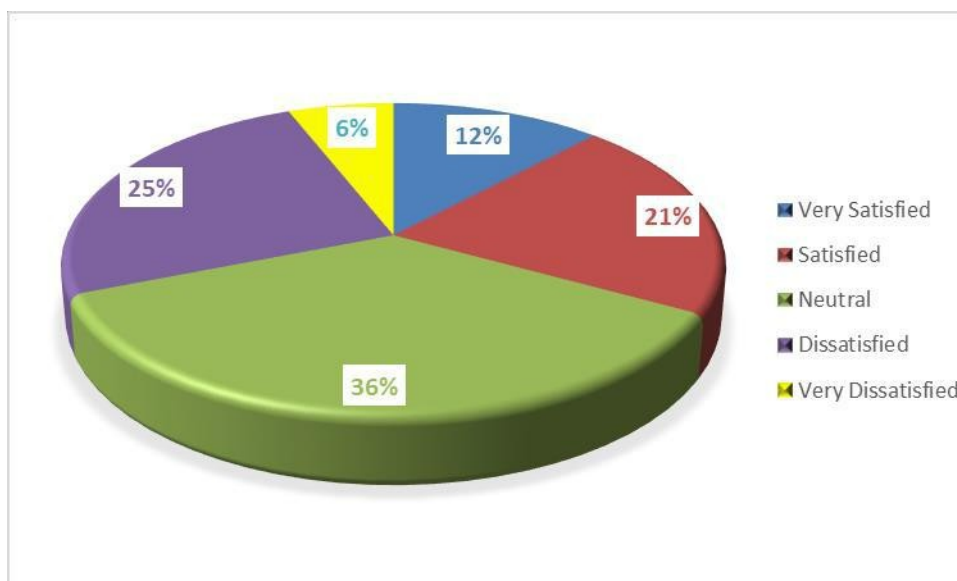


Figure 4.5: Levels of Satisfaction with the Use of Public Participation Forums
Source: Field data, (2021)

As presented in Figure 4.6, results of the analysis of the question on satisfaction of the respondents with cross-party support in enhancing provision of proximate, easily accessible services to residents of this county shows that 16% of the respondents were very satisfied, 23% were satisfied and 31% were neutral with regard to this question. Approximately 27% of the respondents were dissatisfied and the rest 3% of the survey participants were very dissatisfied.

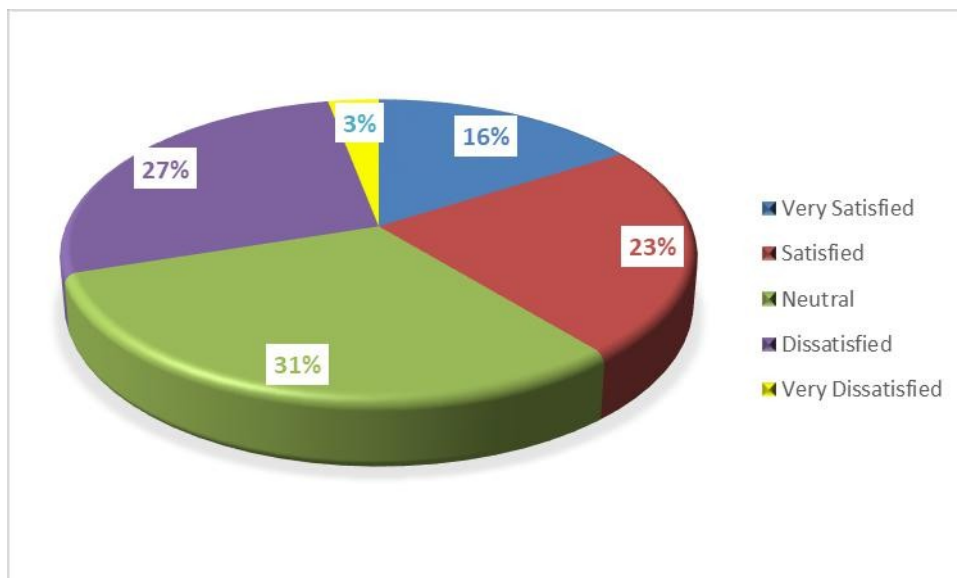


Figure 4.6: Levels of Satisfactions with Cross-party Support
Source: Field data, (2021)

Results depicted in Figure 4.7 reveal that 13% of the survey participants were very satisfied with formal legal competences in enhancing sharing of national and local resources in Kwale County, 21% of the survey participants were satisfied with the formal legal competences in enhancing sharing of national and local resources in the county while a significant proportion of the respondents, 38% were neutral with regard to this question statement. About 23% of the survey participants were dissatisfied with the formal legal competences employed by the county assembly towards enhancing sharing of national and local resources in the county and the rest 5% were very dissatisfied with the application of this strategy in enhancing devolved governance in Kwale County.

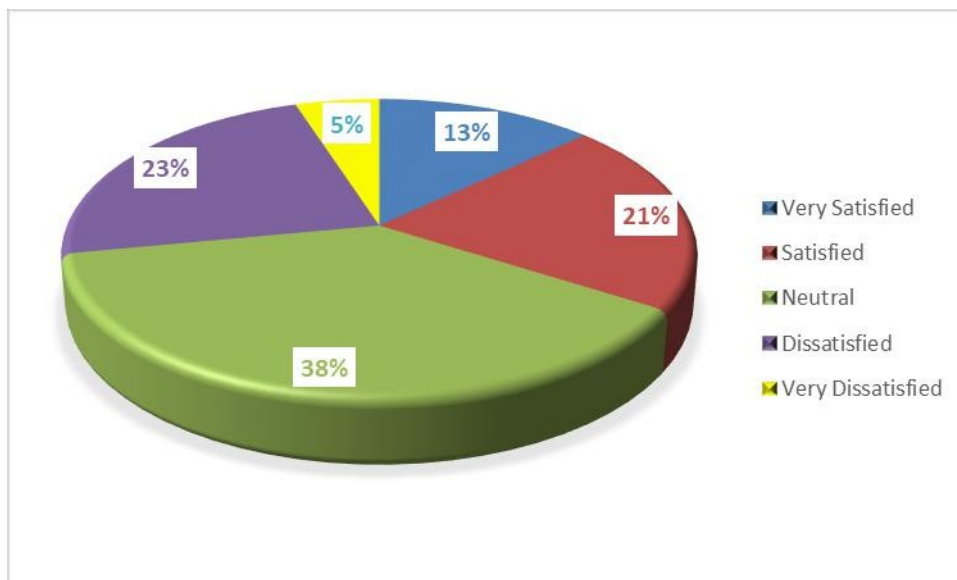


Figure 4.7: Levels of Satisfactions with Formal Legal Competences
Source: Field data, (2021)

From interviews it was also clear that formal legal competences were key in enhancement of devolution in the county. In response to the question on application of law to entrench devolved governance, an interviewee opined as follows;

“It is fortunate or unfortunate that sometimes the county assembly has had to resort to pursuance of judicial process to get the county governments to properly do its work. These instances, which I must say have been very few, arose when the county government attempted to carry out its business outside the law and county assembly’s positions on such matters were not being considered. We therefore had to go to court to be advised and correct decisions to be made.” [Interviewee U]

Going by the results depicted in Figure 4.8 of the analysis of the question on ranking of strategies in the order of effectiveness in enhancing devolution in Kwale County, the survey respondents, public participation forums were ranked as the most effective at 48%, formal legal competences were ranked as moderately effective at 40% and the least effective strategy was 12% in the view of the respondents.

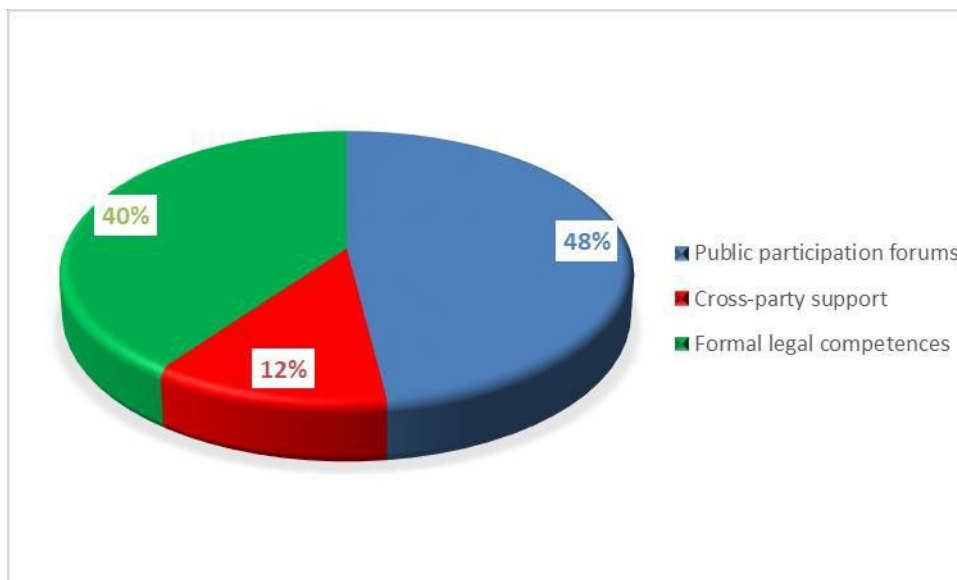


Figure 4.8: Order of Effectiveness of Strategies in Enhancing Devolution
Source: Field data, (2021)

4.3.2 Efficacy of the Strategies Employed by the County Assembly in Enhancing Devolved Governance

Respondents were also asked to give their views on how effective they found the various strategies employed by the county government to be in enhancing devolved governance in Kwale County. With regard to the question on whether public participation forums have led to better response to citizen needs thereby enhancing equitable sharing of national and local resources in the county, 24% of the survey participants strongly agreed with the question statement, 31% of the survey participants agreed that Public participation forums have led to better response to citizen needs thereby enhancing equitable sharing of national and local resources in Kwale County while 15% were indifferent. Among the negative responders 20% disagreed that this strategy led to better response to the needs of the county's residents with regard to sharing of equitable resources and the remaining 9% strongly disagreed with the question statement as per the analysis results presented in Table 4.3.

The survey participants were also asked their views on whether they felt participation forums had led to better response to citizen needs thereby enhancing provision of proximate, easily accessible services to residents. Approximately 26% of

the respondents strongly agreed with the question statement, 20% agreed with the statement and 18% were neutral. About 16% disagreed that participation forums had led to better response to citizen needs thereby enhancing provision of proximate, easily accessible services to residents and the remaining 10% strongly disagreed with the question statement as shown in Table 4.3.

The results in Table 4.3 also show that 13% of the survey participants strongly agreed that diffusion of politically contentious issues brought about cross-party support had been effective in enhancing devolution in Kwale County, 23% of the respondents agreed with this question statement, 24% were neutral, 26% disagreed with the question statement and the rest 14% strongly disagreed that devolution in the county was enhanced by diffusion of politically contentious issues has been brought about cross-party support as a strategy employed in the Kwale County assembly thus enhancing devolution in the county.

With regard to the question on whether MCAs receive satisfactory responses from the executive with regard to issues of interest to the residents of Kwale County raised during public participation forums, results depicted in Table 4.3 illustrate that 19% strongly agreed with the question statement, 29% agreed that the executive arm of the Kwale County respond satisfactorily to the aspects of interest raised by residents of the county during public forums while 15% expressed neutrality with regard to this question. Among the negative responders, 21% disagreed that MCAs do receive satisfactory responses from the executive with regard to issues of interest to the residents of Kwale County raised during public participation forums while the rest 16% strongly disagreed with the question statement.

On the question of effectiveness of formal legal competencies applied by the county assembly of Kwale as a strategy towards enhancing devolved governance, as

shown in Table 4.3, 18% of the survey participants strongly agreed that this strategy was effective, 29% of the respondents agreed that the strategy was effective, 22% were not certain whether the strategy had been effective or not, 18% disagreed that that strategy was effective and the rest 13% strongly disagreed that formal legal competences in the Kwale County assembly had significantly contributed to enactment of effective legislations thereby enhancing equitable sharing of national and local resources in the county.

Table 4.3: Assessment of Effectiveness of Strategies Employed by the County Assembly

	SA	A	N	D	SD
Public participation forums have led to better response to citizen needs thereby enhancing equitable sharing of national and local resources in Kwale County.	24%	31%	15%	20%	9%
Public participation forums have led to better response to citizen needs thereby enhancing provision of proximate, easily accessible services to residents.	26%	30%	18%	16%	10%
Diffusion of politically contentious issues has been brought about by cross-party support as a strategy employed in the Kwale County assembly thus enhancing devolution in the county.	13%	23%	24%	26%	14%
The Kwale County MCAs receive satisfactory responses from the executive with regard to issues of interest to the residents of Kwale County raised during public participation forums.	19%	29%	15%	21%	16%
Formal legal competences in the Kwale County assembly has significantly contributed to enactment of effective legislations thereby enhancing equitable sharing of national and local resources in the county.	18%	29%	22%	18%	13%

Source: Field data, (2021)

Besides the use public participation forums to invite the residents of the county to comment on decisions to be taken by the assembly and the county government, the assembly has also used this avenue to responds to the residents' calls and to hear them out on the complaints and concerns they have. Reponses from the interviews revealed

that so far this has been the most effective approach to enhancement of devolved governance in Kwale County. One of the interviewees made the following observation;

“To me, and I believe many people will share this sentiment, the public participation forums have been very effective and if anything the most effective in addressing the needs of the people of this county and to ensure that devolution is enhanced. The views received from the members of the public have guided actions and decisions of the Kwale County assembly as well as those of the county government to the interest of the residents of the county” [Interviewee Z]

The results of the analysis show that diffusion of politically contentious issues has also been considerably effective in enhancing devolved governance in Kwale County. The political parties have made deliberate effort to work closely with one another in the interest of serving the people of the county. According to one of the interviewees, the effectiveness of this strategy has been demonstrated in instances where members of the county assembly have ignored their political parties’ stance on issues considered contentious such appropriation of budget in order to ensure that the interest of the residents are served. Below is the comments of an interviewee on the application of this strategy;

“Although it has been difficult at times, members of the county assembly have in numerous occasions set aside the positions and interest of their parties to serve the people. There are many times that members have disagreed based on the stance of their political parties but at the end of the day the wishes of the people were prioritized. This has effectively helped in realization of the objectives of the people of Kwale County” [Interviewee Y]

From the results of the analysis these findings have generally been effective in enhancing devolved governance although some of them have been more effective than others. Strategies which involves getting the views of the people have undoubtedly been more effective in entrenchment of governance because the people feel that they are actively and directly involved in the governance.

4.3.3 Challenges Faced by the County Assembly in Enhancing Devolved Governance

Results of the analysis of data on faced by the county assembly in enhancing devolved governance are as presented in Table 4.4. With regard to the question on political interference as an impediment to enhancement of devolved governance in the county, 31% of the survey participants strongly agreed that political interference in the Kwale county assembly had significantly affected negatively the county government's ability ensure equitable sharing of national and local resources, 51% of the respondents agreed with this question statement and 7% were neutral. On the other side 6% of the survey participants disagreed that political interference with activities of the county assembly significantly influenced negatively the county government's ability ensure equitable sharing of national and local resources as illustrated in Table 4.4.

Results in Table 4.4 also show that 28% of the respondents strongly agreed that resource inadequacy in the county's assembly impeded the enhancement of devolved governance, 31% agreed with this question statement while 8% were neutral. Approximately 10% of the survey participants disagreed that devolved governance in Kwale County could not be enhanced to resource inadequacy and the rest 6% strongly disagreed with this question statement.

On the question of low literacy levels among the MCAs of Kwale County Assembly negatively affecting enhancement of devolved governance, 29% of the survey participants strongly agreed with the question statement, 31% agreed that low literacy levels among some MCAs made it difficult for the Kwale County assembly to effectively perform its duties thus impeding enhancement of devolved governance, 8% were neutral, 20% disagreed with the question statement while the remaining 12% of the survey participants strongly disagreed that effective performance of MCAs duties towards enhancement of devolved governance in the county was impeded by low

literacy levels among some of the county's MCAs as depicted in Table 4.4.

Among the challenges faced by the MCAs in their efforts to enhance devolved governance in Kwale County, 16% of the survey participants strongly agreed that poor working relationship between the county assembly and the executive caused delays in key county government activities such as approval of country government budget and key appointments of the country government thereby affecting service delivery considerably, 28% of the respondents agreed that poor working relationships between the two arms was derailing efforts to enhance devolved government in the county while 20% of the respondents expressed neutrality. On the other hand, 19% disagreed with the question statement and the rest 17% strongly disagreed that there was poor working relationship between the county assembly and the executive thus causing delays in key activities of the county government as illustrated in Table 4.4.

Poor commitment and frequent quorum hitch affect the ability of the assembly to conduct its business effectively. As illustrated in Table 4.4, approximately 21% of the respondents strongly agreed that this particular challenge impeded the effectiveness of the assembly in enhancing devolved governance in Kwale County, 30% agreed with the question statement while 26% were neutral with regard to this question. On the other hand, 15% of the respondents disagreed that lack of commitment and frequent quorum hitch of MCAs impedes effective execution of county assembly activities thereby derailing devolved governance in Kwale County and the rest 8% strongly disagreed with the question statement.

Table 4.4: Assessment of Challenges Faced in Enhancing Devolved Governance

	SA	A	N	D	SD
Political interference in the Kwale county assembly has significantly affected negatively the county government's ability ensure equitable sharing of national and local resources.	31%	51%	7%	6%	5%
Resource inadequacy in the Kwale County Assembly continues to impede enhancement of devolved governance in the county.	28%	45%	11%	10%	6%
Low literacy levels among some MCAs makes it difficult for the Kwale County assembly to effectively perform its duties thus impeding enhancement of devolved governance.	29%	31%	8%	20%	12%
Poor working relationship between the county assembly and the executive, causing delays in approval of budgets, appointments, etc.	16%	28%	20%	19%	17%
Lack of commitment and frequent quorum hitch of MCAs impedes effective execution of county assembly activities thereby derailing devolved governance in Kwale County.	21%	30%	26%	15%	8%

Source: Field data, (2021)

Analysis results illustrated in Figure 4.9 indicate that 40% of the survey participants were of the view that political interference had affected efforts to enhance devolved governance in Kwale County to a great extent, 31% were of the opinion that this challenge impeded enhancement of devolved governance to a very great extent and 6% found it to affect the ability of the county assembly to enhance devolved governance only to a small extent. On the other side, 15% of the respondents expressed the view that this challenge negatively affected enhancement of devolved governance in the county to a little extent while the rest 8% opined that the is aspect was a challenge to little extent.

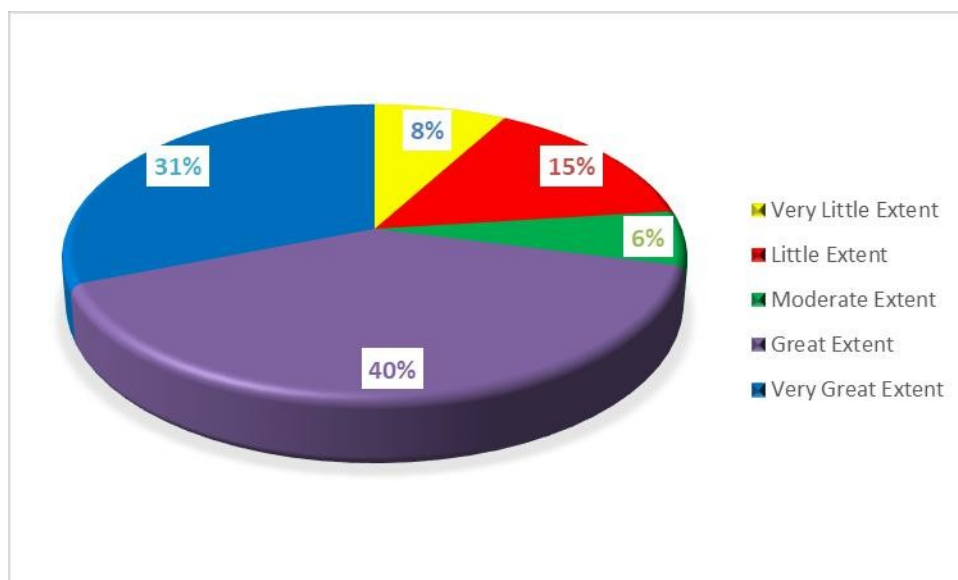


Figure 4.9: Extent to which Political Interference Affected Devolved Governance Enhance Efforts

Source: Field data, (2021)

According to 43% of the survey participants, resource inadequacy has affected negatively efforts to enhance devolved governance in the county to a great extent, this was followed by 17% who opined that this challenge affected implementation and enhancement of devolved governance to a very great extent while 18% were of the view that this challenge affected realization of effective implementation of devolved governance to a moderate extent. About 16% found resource inadequacy to affect implementation of devolved governance to a little extent and the remaining 6% were of the view that enhancement of devolved governance was impeded to a very little by resource inadequacy as shown in Figure 4.10.

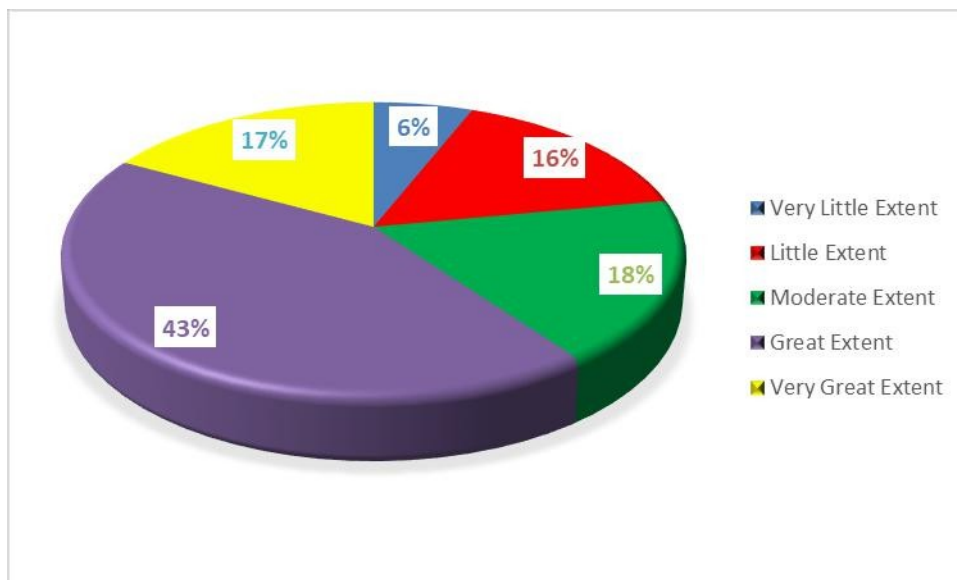


Figure 4.10: Extent to which Resource Inadequacy Affected Devolved Governance Enhance Efforts

Source: Field data, (2021)

With regard to the question on how low literacy levels among some MCAs had affected efforts to enhance devolved governance in Kwale County, 32% of the respondents held the view that this has affected enhancement of devolved governance to a great extent, 21% were of the opinion that low literacy levels among MCAs had impeded enhancement of devolved governance to a very great extent while 19% were of the view that this challenge affected enhancement of devolved governance to a moderate extent. On the other side, 17% were of the opinion that low literacy levels among some MCAs had affected efforts to enhance devolved governance in Kwale County to a little extent while the rest 11% found low literacy levels among MCAs to affect strategy implementation to a very little extent as illustrated in Figure 4.11.

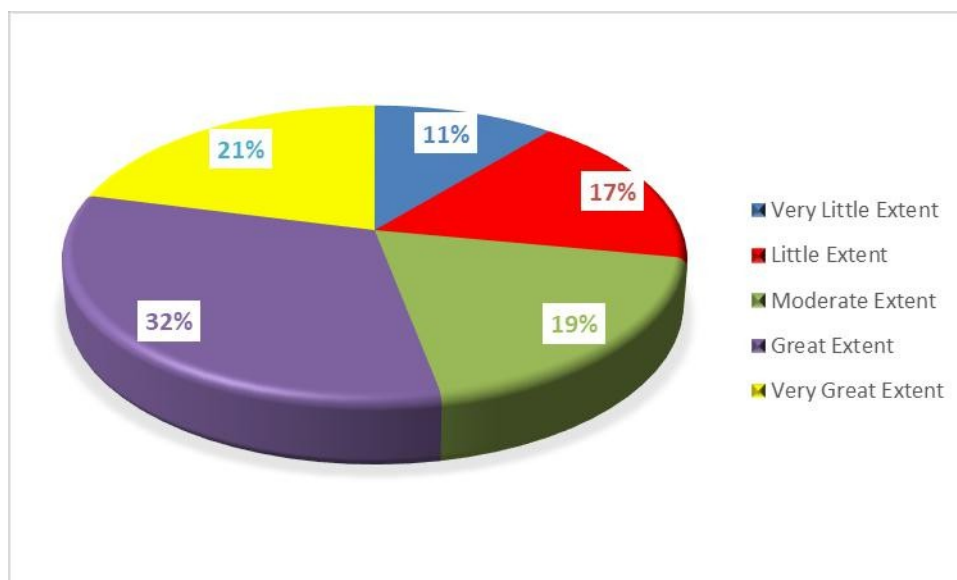


Figure 4.11: Extent to which Literacy Levels Among MCAs Affected Devolved Governance Enhance Efforts

Source: Field data, (2021)

From the results of the interviews done, political interference came out as the factor that present the gravest challenge to efforts made and strategies applied to enhance devolved governance in the Kwale County. While in the previous section the respondents indicated that they have worked together to overcome party differences, inference by politicians who do not sit in the assembly significantly undermine efforts to enhance devolved governance. An interviewee made the following observation with regard to this challenge.

“Political interference is a serious challenge to the county assembly. Both minority and majority whips get instructions from party leaders at the national and county level as well as from other individuals who have vested interest in issues being discussed in the parliament. As such certain issues do not get objectively addressed or take longer than necessary to address therefore affecting the ability of the assembly to properly contribute to enhancement of devolution in the county.”

Resource inadequacy as well as low literacy levels among the MCAs have also been found to be serious impediments to enhancement of devolution. Resource have led to instances where the MCAs were able to effectively discharge their duties for instance due to lack of resources to implement projects that they would have liked to

put in place to improve the livelihoods of the people they represent. Enhancement of devolved governance has also been hampered by low literacy levels among the MCAs which implies that some of the MCAs in Kwale County assembly lack the basic knowledge and skills to effectively debate issues and make the appropriate decisions in the assembly.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSIONS, SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a discussion of the research findings based on the three research objectives of this study and in the light of previous research findings and available literature, where applicable, in order to identify points of convergence and departure between the findings of this study and previous studies and literature. A summary of the research findings as well as the conclusions derived from the findings of this study are presented. Recommendations and areas for further research are identified at the tail end of the chapter.

5.2 Discussions

5.2.1 Nature of Strategies Used by the County Assembly in Enhancing Devolved Governance

Strategic actions and decision are key for organizational (in this case the county government of Kwale, mission, vision and objective to be realized. Without strategies employees will not know what to do and in the end the entire organization will fail. As the representative of the people, the county assemblies are obliged to come up with strategies that will work towards enhancement of devolution goals and objectives and ultimately leading to realization of these goals and objectives as enshrined in the 2010 Constitution of Kenya. The Constitution of Kenya, 2010 stipulates and gives prominence to public participation as one of the key approaches to promoting democracy by providing the citizens the opportunity to take part in decision making processes affecting them. Besides the citizens, other players like civil society organizations also play a critical role in enhancement of devolution through public participation. The results of the data analysis have revealed that the various strategies applied by the county assembly of Kwale have been considerably effective in enhancing devolution in the county.

Akin to the findings of Mundt (2019), public participation forums in the form of budget preparation and validation meetings and town hall meetings as required by the County Governments Act, 2012, the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, and the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011 were critical undertakings in ensuring that the people's voices were heard and that the county government took into consideration the wishes of the residents of the county when coming up with and implementing various projects and programmes in the county. These forums, organized by the county assembly, proved essential in encouraging the public to have meaningful input into the decision-making process of the county government of Kwale. Consistent with the findings of Mariru (2015) and provided for in the constitution, citizen engagement seem to be effective in enhancing devolution in Kwale County because on one hand it provides the citizens with unconditional opportunity and space to engage, contribute and influence governance matters and decisions on all matters that concern them while on the other hand the county assembly and the county government are obliged and also have opportunity to inform, consult, involve, collaborate with and empower the citizens so that decisions are consensually reached and implemented.

Opposing political parties usually have differing interest and as has been experienced in numerous instances before, it is quite easy for these differences to get into the way of governance and unnecessarily come in the way of and block the interest of the citizens. More often than not, the rival political parties will not care about the interest of the citizens who elected them as long as their interests are taken care of. However the findings of this study reveal an undertaking that should be emulated if devolution is to effectively work in Kenya as desired. In order to enhance devolution and ensure that the county government deliver to its people, the MCAs from the rival political parties in Kwale resolved from time to time to put aside their political party

differences to work for the interest of the people. This involve forming caucuses, political party differences notwithstanding, to address put the government to task and to address the interest of the citizens. Through cross-party support also meant that both the majority and minority political party receives tremendous support from each in passing legislations that are meant to enhance devolution. Similarly, consistent with the research findings of Mello and Peters (2018) formal legal competences, which in the context of this research study refer to application of the rule of law in implementation of the processes and activities of the county government activities, was essential in enhancement of devolved governance in Kwale County. As one of the key strategies of entrenching devolved governance, the county assembly ensured that the county government followed all the applicable laws as provided for in the constitution, Acts of parliament and by-laws formulated by the county assembly. Whenever there were discrepancies in the understanding application of the laws by the county government, the assembly in most instances involved the judiciary in resolving such differences. Following legal procedures imply that cases of antagonism which have the potential of derailing delivery of services are eliminated and law is strictly followed to ensure that that all parties conduct themselves as expected in delivering devolved governance services.

5.2.2 Efficacy of the Strategies Employed by the County Assembly in Enhancing Devolved Governance

In ranking the three strategies presented to them, public participation forums were ranked as the most popular and most effective strategy followed by formal legal competencies and then cross-party support. Effective public participation is a crucial precondition for transparent and accountable governance. Although it is difficult to achieve consensus among all the residents of the county due to diverse opinions, the views of the majority guided the allocation of available financial and material resources

thus enhancement of devolution. It is through these forums that the general public was able to participate in decision making with regard to resource allocation, especially the devolved funds as well as other financial resources received from other partners such as donor organizations and foreign governments (Odhiambo & Opiyo, 2017). For instance, the effectiveness of the public participation forums is demonstrated through the budget preparation and validation meetings provided where the residents of the county to decide the priority areas which the county government was to channel the financial resources available. Through these participation activities, the county government is able to equitably share the national and local resources optimally to the benefit of all the residents of the county. Through the public participation forums the civil societies are able to on behalf of the citizens in instances where the county government is not ready to accept the position of the citizens. The effectiveness is therefore is seen when the county government yields to the pressure and demands of these civil society organizations. The effective public participation forums have been critical in helping the county government to tackle inequality by ensuring that all persons irrespective of their socioeconomic backgrounds, including those from the rural communities are able to take part in decisions that impact their lives thus enhancing devolved governance.

The effectiveness of cross-party support by the county assembly as a strategy towards enhancing is evidenced by diffusion of politically contentious issues. Diffusion of politically contentious issues imply that the representatives of the political parties in the county assembly are able to aside their differences borne by political parties to address issues that are of interest to the citizens of the county. Setting aside their differences enables the MCAs to take the county government to task when it comes to its obligations under the constitution such as equal distribution of resources to the

people. Additionally, resolution of cross-party differences, as established by Mello and Peters (2018) ensures that the county government is able to further devolve its service delivery units to ensure that the residents, irrespective of their remote geographic location in the county, are able to access services equally as their counterparts in the urban settings. In unfortunate instances where this is not the case, then residents represented by minority political parties would suffer poor service delivery and in extreme instances complete neglect by the majority political parties and the county government which more often than not will come from the political party with majority members in the assembly.

Legislation is one of the most important instruments at the heart of governance. Without good legislation there can be no effective governance. Good legislation determines the rights and responsibilities of individuals and authorities to whom the legislation applies. Effectiveness of formal legal competences in Kwale County has been demonstrated by enactment and passing of effective legislations by the county assembly. These legislation ensure that the county government delivers to the residents of the county as obligated by the constitution. In enhancing devolved governance, the county assembly ensured that the formulated laws were effectively and faithfully implemented to the letter to provide the residents with safe, comfortable and efficient environments in which they can reside and carry out their businesses successfully.

5.2.3 Challenges Faced by the County Assembly in Enhancing Devolved Governance

The findings of this study that political interference is one of the main challenges facing institutions of governance and legislation is congruent with that of Boatemaa-Yeboah and Tamakloe (2019). One of the ways the other arms of government especially the executive interfere with the activities and mandates of the

legislative arm is by giving orders to the members from the executive arms in parliament to antagonize activities of the assembly through tactics such as filibustering (Daniel, 2018). Interested parties outside the county assembly suppress the assembly's responsibility to deliver on its mandates thus derailing the efforts being made to entrench devolved governance at the counties through Equitable sharing of national and local resources and provision of proximate, easily accessible services to residents as described in this study. The derailment occurs through abuse of power by the majority political party in the assembly, improper conduct of legislators in the assembly, inexcusable delays in assembly activities and lack of commitment among.

Consistent with the findings of Agbevade (2018) unavailability of adequate resources to effectively conduct their house business is a serious impediment to the operations of the county assembly. These inadequacies range from insufficient funds to inadequate human resources to help the assembly conduct its business. The respondents expressed concern about limited funding preventing the MCAs to traverse the county to find out the challenges that residents were facing. For instance, inadequate funds limited the number of public participation forums that the assembly could hold to get residents' views on issues being proposed by the assembly and the county government. Additionally, the assembly members were able to hold such forums only in the major towns in the county therefore implying that the input from those in the rural areas was rarely captured. Limited qualified personnel to provide support also affected the ability of the county assembly to deliver on its mandate towards enhancement of devolved governance.

The issue of literacy of political leaders, especially MCAs and Members of the National Assembly is one that has been going on for some time. The argument in some quarters is that post-secondary school qualifications are essential for political leaders at

these levels to hold. Those of contrary views are convinced that the ability of MCAs to deliver on their mandates has nothing to do with their academic qualifications. However, as it came out from the findings of this study, a considerable proportion of the respondents opined that low literacy levels among MCAs was limiting debate on Bills, resulting in low quality sub-standard laws passed by the assemblies. Further, due to limited level of education, the MCAs were incapable of performing their oversight and representation duties effectively. This subsequently affected their general performance and deliverables in relation to enhancement of devolution in the county. Considered objectively, gaining more education at the post-secondary school level enhances chances of helping MCAs discharge their duties knowledgeably and from an enlightened perspective.

5.3 Summary of Main Findings

This section summarizes the main research findings of the study. The primary research objective was to establish the effectiveness of county assemblies in enhancing devolved governance. The findings of the study have established that despite the various challenges highlighted discussed above, the county assemblies are an essential cog in the wheel when it comes to devolved governance. These institutions play an important role in ensuring that the county governments deliver on their mandate of ensuring that devolution as intended and as spelt out in the Constitution of Kenya 2010 guarantees equitable sharing of national and local resources as well as provision of proximate, easily accessible services to residents of the counties. A number of strategies have been employed by the county assemblies to see to it that devolution works and is enhanced across the country. These strategies include public participation forums, cross-party support and formal legal competences. It is worthy to note that so far, as proven in the findings of this study, these strategies have been largely effective in

driving the county government to share resources equitably in their respective counties and to avail services closer to the residents. However, the assemblies have not had smooth sailing all along. They have faced impediments such as political interference, resource inadequacy and low literacy levels all of which, to varying degrees, have affected their abilities to perform effectively.

5.4 Conclusions

The county assemblies are essential to enhancement of devolution in Kenya. With the establishment of devolved units of governments in Kenya, involvement of the general public through mechanisms such as public participation is essential in ensuring that residents are actively engaged in the governance of their counties. Elected leaders drawn from the different political parties must put their political differences aside when it comes to working for their electorates to ensure that the county governments work and that the objectives and fruits of devolution are realized. It is also important that both the MCAs pursue legal options to help them address challenges that they may experience when executing their duties. While these strategies employed by the county assembly have so far proved to be considerably effective, they need to be enhanced to address gaps that may exist. Finally, county assemblies continue to face numerous work related challenges in the process of performing their duties. These challenges include interference by their sponsoring political parties as well as resource inadequacies among others.

5.5 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made based on the findings of this research study. The MCAs and other relevant agencies should come up with regulatory instruments to protect the work of MCAs from improper political interference while safeguarding accountability to the political wishes of the population. It is recommended

that legislation be put in place to make it mandatory for any individual aspiring to be a MCAs have a minimum academic qualification of Diploma. The county assembly should work closely with the county government to ensure that they are allocated adequate resources to effectively perform their duties as enshrined in the constitution. This is because adequate resources they will definitely find it difficult to effectively perform their duties. The researcher of this paper also recommends that MCAs devise other effective strategies that would help enhance devolved governance. For instance, they could find ways of working closely with the county government to address cases of corruption which lead to pilferage of public funds. This way the county governments are able to have more resources and deliver better on their mandates to their residents. It would also be imperative for the different state agencies and county government institutions to constantly and regularly sensitize the general populace on their role in enhancing devolved governance. This can be done through biannual sensitization forums held in different parts of counties in all the 47 counties. The general populace should also make it a constant and conscious effort to be involved directly and indirectly in the governance affairs of the county. Their involvement should not be limited or felt only during times of governance crises.

5.6 Areas for Further Research

Further studies should be conducted to establish ways in which county assemblies can overcome the challenges identified herein that impeded their abilities to effectively deliver on their mandates. While this research paper focused on the effectiveness of county assemblies to enhance devolution, other studies should be conducted to establish effectiveness of the Senate, the upper house of the parliament, to enhance devolution. Studies could also be conducted to establish how county governments, as the major custodians of devolution, can further enhance delivery of

their services to realize even further the objectives of devolution. A similar study to this one could also be conducted with a focus on any of the other forty six counties in Kenya. Finally, further research studies should be conducted to focus on the flip side, that is, role of county assemblies in derailing devolved governance.

REFERENCES

- Ababio, E., & Asmah-Andoh, K. (2013). Decentralisation or devolution: An Analysis of Local Government Effectiveness.
- Agbevade, A., (2018). Local Economic Development Strategies and Challenges: A Comparative Empirical Evidence from Ghana's Local Governance System. *Journal of Public Administration and Governance*, 8(4), pp. 110-126.
- Anderson-Levitt, K.M., (2014). Significance: Recognizing the Value of Research Across National and Linguistic Boundaries. *Asia Pacific Education Review*, 15, pp. 347–354.
- Ariwomoi, J., (2013). Challenges of Implementing Change at Selected County Assemblies in Kenya. Unpublished Doctoral dissertation, University of Nairobi, Kenya.
- Arter, D. (2006). Introduction: Comparing the Legislative Performance of Legislatures. *The Journal of Legislative Studies*, 12(3-4), pp. 245-257.
- Arthur, D. D., (2016). Examining the Effects of Governance Challenges in Ghana's Local Government System: A Case Study of the Mfantseman Municipal Assembly. *Journal of US-China Public Administration*, 13(7), pp. 454-465.
- Boatemaa-Yeboah, Y., & Tamakloe, W. A., (2019). Challenges in public procurement in Kwahu West Municipal Assembly, Ghana. *African Research Review*, 13(3), pp. 42-54.
- Brannen, J. (2005). Mixing methods: The entry of qualitative and quantitative approaches into the research process. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 8, pp. 173-184.
- Carrier, N. & Kochore, H. H., (2014). Navigating Ethnicity and Electoral Politics in Northern Kenya: The Case of the 2013 Election. *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, 8(1), pp. 135-152.
- Cheema, G. S., Rondinelli, D. (2007). From Government Decentralization to Decentralized Governance.
- Coghlan, D. & Brydon-Miller, M. (2014). *The Sage Encyclopaedia of Action Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution, (2014). Assessment of the Implementation of the System of Devolved Government: From Steps to Strides.
- Creswell, J. W. & Creswell, J. D. (2018). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. 5th edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

- Diana, S. & Stirbu, D., (2011). Strategic Management in Parliamentary Organisations: A Case Study on Shaping the National Assembly for Wales' Vision for the Future.
- Daniel, R., (2018). The Consequences of Political Interference in Bureaucratic Decision Making : Evidence from Nigeria. Policy Research Working Paper; No. 8554. World Bank, Washington, DC.
- Dillinger, W. & Fay, M. (1999). From Centralized to Decentralized Governance. *Finance & Development*, 36(4).
- Dollery, B. & Johnson, A., (2005). Enhancing Efficiency in Australian Local Government: An Evaluation of Alternative Models of Municipal Governance. *Urban Policy and Research*, 23(1), pp. 73-85.
- Fincham J. E. (2008). Response rates and responsiveness for surveys, standards, and the Journal. *American journal of pharmaceutical education*, 72(2), 43.
- Hammarberg, K., Kirkman, M. & de Lacey, S. (2016). Qualitative research methods: When to use them and how to judge them. *Human Reproduction*, 31(3), pp. 498–501.
- Hauss, C., (2017). Devolution: Government and Politics. Retrieved November 12, 2020 from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/devolution-government-and-politics>
- Hidayat, R., (2017). Political Devolution: Lessons from a Decentralized Mode of Government in Indonesia. *SAGE Open*. Pp. 1-11.
- Hope, K. R. (2015). Bringing in the Future in Kenya: Beyond the 2010 Constitution. *Insight on Africa*, 7(2), pp. 91-107.
- Hope, K. R. (2014). Devolved Government and Local Governance in Kenya. *African and Asian Studies*, 13(3), pp. 338–58.
- Igwe, O. W., (2010). The Challenges of Parliaments in Safeguarding the National Development Interest in an Atmosphere Where the Executive Plays a Dominant Role.
- Inter-Parliament Union, (2015). Presentation of Conference Reports: Challenges Facing Parliaments Today. Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.
- Jeffery, C., & Wincott, D. (2006). Devolution in the United Kingdom: Statehood and Citizenship in Transition. *Publius*, 36(1), pp. 3-18.
- Johnson, C., Deshingkar, P. & Start, D., (2005). Grounding the State: Devolution and Development in India's Panchayats. *The Journal of Development Studies*, 41(6), pp. 937-970.

- Katikireddi, S. V., Smith, K. E., Stuckler, D. & McKee, M., (2017). Devolution of Power, Revolution in Public Health?, *Journal of Public Health*, 39(2), pp. 241–247.
- Kenya School of Government, (2015). Overview of Key Challenges and Opportunities for Enhancing Participation in Newly Devolved Institutions and Systems: A Summary of the Working Paper Series.
- Khan, M. M., & Islam, M. S., (2014). Democracy and Good Governance in Bangladesh: Are They Compatible? *Millennial Asia*, 5(1), pp. 23–40.
- Khaunya, M. F., Wawire, B. P. & Chepng'eno, V., (2015). Devolved Governance in Kenya; Is it a False Start in Democratic Decentralization for Development? *International Journal of Economics, Finance and Management*, 4(1), pp. 27-37.
- Kimutai, G. K., & Amisi, A. P., (2018). Good Governance and Service Delivery: A Study of Citizen Participation in Kisumu County. *Universal Journal of Management* 6(2), pp. 59-69.
- Kivistö, J., (2008). An Assessment of Agency Theory as a Framework for the Government–University Relationship. *Journal of Higher Education Policy and Management*, 30(4), pp. 339-350.
- Lago-Peñas, S., Fernández-Leiceaga, X., & Vaquero-García, A., (2017). Spanish Fiscal Decentralization: A Successful (but Still Unfinished) Process. *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*, 35(8), pp. 1509–1525.
- Leyland, P., (2011). The Multifaceted Constitutional Dynamics of U.K. Devolution. *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, 9(1), pp. 251–273.
- Lienert, I., (2010). Role of the Legislature in Budget Processes. Retrieved November 25, 2020 from <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/tnm/2010/tnm1004.pdf>
- Mariru, P. (2015). What about public participation? Where are we? Retrieved January, 23 2020 from <https://ilakenya.org/what-about-public-participation-where-are-we/>
- Marigi, S., (2017). Climate Change Vulnerability and Impacts Analysis in Kenya. *American Journal of Climate Change*, 6, pp. 52-74.
- MacKinnon, D., (2015). Devolution, State Restructuring and Policy Divergence in the UK. *The Geographical Journal*, 181, pp. 47-56.
- Mccollum, R., Limato, R., Otiso, L., Theobald, S. & Taegtmeier, M., (2018). Health System Governance Following Devolution: Comparing Experiences of Decentralisation in Kenya and Indonesia. *BMJ Global Health*. 3.
- McGrattan, C. & Williams, S., (2017). Devolution and Identity: Multidirectionality in ‘Welshness’ and ‘Northern Irishness’. *Regional & Federal Studies*, 27(4), pp. 465-482.

- Mello, P. A., & Peters, D. (2018). Parliaments in Security Policy: Involvement, Politicisation, and Influence. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, 20(1), 3–18.
- Mensah, J. K., Bawole, J. N., & Ahenkan, A., (2017). Local Economic Development in Ghana: From the ‘Lost Decades’ to a Policy ‘Maturing’ Stage. *Development Southern Africa*, 34(5), pp. 607-621.
- Ministry of Devolution and Planning, (2016). Policy on Devolved System of Government.
- Mitnick, B. (2013). Origin of the Theory of Agency: An Account By One of the Theory’s Originators. SSRN Electronic Journal.
- Mohapatra, B. P. (2013). Decentralised Governance and Fiscal Devolution in India: Why There is a Need for Policy Reform? *Review of Development and Change*, 18(2), pp. 191–208.
- Mukundan, M. V., (2003). Democratic Decentralization and Primary Education: A Comparison of Continuity and Change in Two Districts of Kerala (India). *Asia Pacific Education Review*, 4(1), pp. 27-38.
- Mundt, M. D., (2019). Participatory Deliberative Democracy for Peace in El Salvador. *Journal of Public Deliberation*, 15(3), pp. 1-35.
- Mutisya, S. M., Abonyo, J. O., & Senelwa, W., (2017). Influence of Political Parties’ Affiliations on County Assemblies’ exercise of Oversight authority over County Governments in Kenya: A Case Study of Makueni County Assembly. *Saudi Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 2(5), pp. 385-392.
- Nemțoi, G. (2014). The Decisive Role of Parliaments in Democracy of Social-Political. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 149, pp. 647 – 652.
- Ngigi, S. & Busolo, D., (2019). Devolution in Kenya: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.
- Odhiambo, M. & Opiyo, R., (2017). Effective Public Participation Mechanisms in Mombasa, Kilifi, Taita Taveta and Kajiado Counties.
- Oduro-Ofori, E., (2011). The Role of Local Government in Local Economic Development Promotion at the District Level in Ghana: A Study of the Ejisu-Juaben Municipal Assembly.
- Onyango, P. O., (2013). Devolution made Simple: A Popular Version of County Governance System.
- Otjes, S., & Louwse, T., (2018). Parliamentary Questions as Strategic Party Tools. *West European Politics*, 41(2), pp. 496-516.
- Panda, B., & Leepsa, N. M., (2017). Agency Theory: Review of Theory and Evidence on Problems and Perspectives, 10, pp. 74-95.

- Paradis, E., O'Brien, B., Nimmon, L., Bandiera, G., & Martimianakis, M. A. (2016). Design: Selection of Data Collection Methods. *Journal of graduate medical education*, 8(2), pp. 263–264.
- Pelizzo, R. & Stapenhurst, R., (2007). The Role of Parliament in Promoting Good Governance in Africa.
- Plotica, L. P. (2017). Federalism, Devolution, and Liberty. *American Political Thought*, 6(1), pp. 106-133.
- Posner, P., & Chung-Keun, P., (2007). Role of the Legislature in the Budget Process: Recent Trends and Innovations. *OECD Journal on Budgeting*, 7(3).
- Ross, P. T., & Bibler Zaidi, N. L. (2019). Limited by our Limitations. *Perspectives on medical education*, 8(4), pp. 261–264.
- Royles, E. (2017). Sub-state diplomacy: Understanding the International Opportunity Structures. *Regional & Federal Studies*, 27(4), pp. 393-416.
- Rugambwa, I., (2010). Enhancing Democracy and Good Governance: The Role of Parliamentary Library and Research Services.
- Sekgala, M. P., (2017). From South Africa to Zimbabwe with Devolution: Comparing the Constitutional Powers of Local Governments. *Journal of Public Administration and Development Alternatives*, 2(2), pp. 105–117.
- Sheely, A. (2012). Devolution and Welfare Reform: Re-evaluating “Success”. *Social Work*, 57(4), pp. 321-331.
- Shimengah, M. M., (2018). Influence of Strategic Leadership Practices on Service Delivery Within County Governments in Kenya: A Literature Review. *Journal of Strategic Management*, 3(1), pp. 1-13.
- Talitha, T., Firman, T. & Hudalah, D., (2020) Welcoming Two Decades of Decentralization in Indonesia: A Regional Development Perspective. *Territory, Politics, Governance*, 8(5), pp. 690-708.
- Tannenwald, R., (2001). Devolution in the United States: Theory and Practice. *SSRN Electronic Journal*.
- Theofanidis, D. & Fountouki, A., (2019). Limitations and Delimitations in the Research Process. *Perioperative Nursing*, 7(3), pp. 155–162.
- Thimmaiah, G. (2000). Decentralization and Economic Development: Indian Experience. *Hitotsubashi Journal of Economics*, 41(2), pp. 123-136.
- Turner, D. P. (2020). Sampling Methods in Research Design. Headache: *The Journal of Head and Face Pain*, 60, pp. 8-12.

Wagana, D. M., Iravo, M. A. & Nzulwa, J. D., (2017). Analysis of the Relationship Between Devolved Governance, Political Decentralization, and Service Delivery: A Critical Review of Literature. *European Scientific Journal*, 11(31), pp. 1857 – 7881.

White, H., (2009). *Parliamentary Scrutiny of Government*, London: Institute for Government.

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Research Questionnaire for MCAs, CECs and the General Public

Dear Respondent,

I am a candidate at Africa Nazarene University pursuing Master of Science in Governance, Peace and Security. As part of my academic programme, I am carrying out a research survey to establish the **Effectiveness of County Assemblies in Enhancing Devolved Governance: A Case of Kwale County Assembly**. You are welcome to participate in this survey by responding honestly and objectively to this questionnaire. The information collected will be treated with confidentiality and will only be used for the purpose of this research. Your contribution in facilitating the success of this study will be highly appreciated.

SECTION A: Background Information

1. Gender

Male []

Female []

2. Age bracket

18–27[]

28–37[]

38–47[]

48–57 []

58 and above []

3. For how long have you been a resident of Kwale County?

5 years or less []

6– 10 years []

11– 15 years []

16 – 20 years []

21 – 25 years []

26 – 30 years []

31 years and above []

4. In which of the following category do you fall?

A. Member of County Assembly

B. Kwale County Executive Committee Member

C. Adult from the general public

5. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

A. Currently not employed []

B. Employed full-time []

C. Employed part-time []

D. Retired []

SECTION B: Strategies Used by the County Assembly in Enhancing Devolved

Governance

To what extent do you agree with the following statement? Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Neutral (N), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD)

	SA	A	N	D	SD
6. Public participation forums have been effective in enhancing devolved governance in this county to the public on bills and listen to development priorities.					
7. Efforts to achieve cross-party support has been a key strategy employed by the county assembly of Kwale to enhance devolved governance in in the county.					
8. Formal legal competences have been effective in enhancing devolved governance in this county.					
9. County assembly committees have been effective in enhancing devolved governance in Kwale County.					
10. The county assembly has been actively involved in enactment of laws that enhance devolved governance in Kwale County.					
11. Vetting of county government appointees to ensure merit and competence has supported the work of the executive arm of the Kwale County towards enhancement of devolved governance.					

12. What other strategies can you identify that have been employed by the county assembly of Kwale to enhance devolution in the county?

13. How satisfied are you with public participation forums in enhancing sharing of national and local resources in this county?

- A. Very Satisfied []
- B. Satisfied []
- C. Neutral []
- D. Dissatisfied []
- E. Very Dissatisfied []

14. How satisfied are you with cross-party support in enhancing provision of proximate, easily accessible services to residents of this county?

- A. Very Satisfied []
- B. Satisfied []
- C. Neutral []
- D. Dissatisfied []
- E. Very Dissatisfied []

15. How satisfied are you with formal legal competences in enhancing sharing of national and local resources in this county?

- A. Very Satisfied []
- B. Satisfied []
- C. Neutral []
- D. Dissatisfied []
- E. Very Dissatisfied []

16. Please rank the following strategies in order of effectiveness in enhancing devolution in Kwale County, from 1 to 3 where 1 is most effective, 2 moderately effective and 3 least effective.

A. Public participation forums []

B. Cross-party support []

C. Formal legal competences []

**SECTION C: Efficacy of the Strategies Employed by the County Assembly in
Enhancing Devolved Governance**

To what extent do you agree with the following statement? Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Neutral (N), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD)

	SA	A	N	D	SD
17. Public participation forums have led to better response to citizen needs thereby enhancing equitable sharing of national and local resources in Kwale County.					
18. Public participation forums have led to better response to citizen needs thereby enhancing provision of proximate, easily accessible services to residents.					
19. Diffusion of politically contentious issues has been brought about cross-party support as a strategy employed in the Kwale County assembly thus enhancing devolution in the county.					
20. The Kwale County MCAs receive satisfactory responses from the executive with regard to issues of interest to the residents of Kwale County raised during public participation forums.					
21. Formal legal competences in the Kwale County assembly has significantly contributed to enactment of effective legislations thereby enhancing equitable sharing of national and local resources in the county.					

22. In your opinion, else has public participation forums been effective in enhancing devolution in the county?

23. In your opinion, else has diffusion of politically contentious issues been effective in enhancing devolution in the county?

24. In your opinion, else have formal legal competences been effective in enhancing devolution in the county?

SECTION D: Challenges Faced by the County Assembly in Enhancing Devolved Governance

To what extent do you agree with the following statement? Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Neutral (N), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD)

	SA	A	N	D	SD
25. Political interference in the Kwale county assembly has significantly affected negatively the county government's ability ensure equitable sharing of national and local resources.					
26. Resource inadequacy in the Kwale County Assembly continues to impede enhancement of devolved governance in the county.					
27. Low literacy levels among some MCAs makes it difficult for the Kwale County assembly to effectively perform its duties thus impeding enhancement of devolved governance.					
28. Poor working relationship between the county assembly and the executive, causing delays in approval of budgets, appointments, etc.					

29. Lack of commitment and frequent quorum hitch of MCAs impedes effective execution of county assembly activities thereby derailing devolved governance in Kwale County.					
---	--	--	--	--	--

30. To what extent would you say political interference has affected efforts to enhance devolved governance in Kwale County?

A. Very Little Extent []

B. Little Extent []

C. Moderate Extent []

D. Great Extent []

E. Very Great Extent []

31. To what extent would you say resource inadequacy has affected efforts to enhance devolved governance in Kwale County?

A. Very Little Extent []

B. Little Extent []

C. Moderate Extent []

D. Great Extent []

E. Very Great Extent []

32. To what extent would you say low literacy levels among some MCAs has affected efforts to enhance devolved governance in Kwale County?

A. Very Little Extent []

B. Little Extent []

C. Moderate Extent []

D. Great Extent []

E. Very Great Extent []

33. In your view, how has political interference affected efforts to enhance devolved governance in Kwale County?

34. In your view, how has resource inadequacy affected efforts to enhance devolved governance in Kwale County?

35. In your view, how has low literacy levels among some MCAs affected efforts to enhance devolved governance in Kwale County?

36. In your opinion, what other challenges does the county assembly of Kwale face in its efforts to enhance devolved governance in the county?

The End. Thank You for Your Participation

Appendix II: Interview Schedule for the Key Informants

Dear Respondent,

I am a candidate at Africa Nazarene University pursuing Master of Science in Governance, Peace and Security. As part of my academic programme, I am carrying out a research survey to establish the **Effectiveness of County Assemblies in Enhancing Devolved Governance: A Case of Kwale County Assembly**. You are welcome to participate in this survey by responding honestly and objectively to this questionnaire. The information collected will be treated with confidentiality and will only be used for the purpose of this research. Your contribution in facilitating the success of this study will be highly appreciated.

1. Please comment on how the following strategies have been applied by the county assembly of Kwale to enhance devolved governance in the county.
 - a) Public participation forums.
 - b) Cross-party support.
 - c) Formal legal competences.
2. What have been the outcomes of the application of these strategies the following in enhancing devolved governance?
 - a) Public participation forums.
 - b) Cross-party support.
 - c) Formal legal competences.
3. In your view, how has political interference affected efforts to enhance devolved governance in Kwale County?
4. In your view, how has resource inadequacy affected efforts to enhance devolved governance in Kwale County?
5. In your view, how has low literacy levels among some MCAs affected efforts to enhance devolved governance in Kwale County?

Appendix III: Krejcie and Morgan Sample Size Table

Population Size	Confidence = 95%				Confidence = 99%			
	Margin of Error				Margin of Error			
	5.0%	3.5%	2.5%	1.0%	5.0%	3.5%	2.5%	1.0%
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
20	19	20	20	20	19	20	20	20
30	28	29	29	30	29	29	30	30
50	44	47	48	50	47	48	49	50
75	63	69	72	74	67	71	73	75
100	80	89	94	99	87	93	96	99
150	108	126	137	148	122	135	142	149
200	132	160	177	196	154	174	186	198
250	152	190	215	244	182	211	229	246
300	169	217	251	291	207	246	270	295
400	196	265	318	384	250	309	348	391
500	217	306	377	475	285	365	421	485
600	234	340	432	565	315	416	490	579
700	248	370	481	653	341	462	554	672
800	260	396	526	739	363	503	615	763
1000	278	440	606	906	399	575	727	943
1200	291	474	674	1067	427	636	827	1119
1500	306	515	759	1297	460	712	959	1376
2000	322	563	869	1655	498	808	1141	1785
2500	333	597	952	1984	524	879	1288	2173
3500	346	641	1068	2565	558	977	1510	2890
5000	357	678	1176	3288	586	1066	1734	3842
7500	365	710	1275	4211	610	1147	1960	5165
10000	370	727	1332	4899	622	1193	2098	6239
25000	378	760	1448	6939	646	1285	2399	9972
50000	381	772	1491	8056	655	1318	2520	12455
75000	382	776	1506	8514	658	1330	2563	13583
100000	383	778	1513	8762	659	1336	2585	14227
250000	384	782	1527	9248	662	1347	2626	15555
500000	384	783	1532	9423	663	1350	2640	16055
1000000	384	783	1534	9512	663	1352	2647	16317
2500000	384	784	1536	9567	663	1353	2651	16478
10000000	384	784	1536	9594	663	1354	2653	16560
100000000	384	784	1537	9603	663	1354	2654	16584
300000000	384	784	1537	9603	663	1354	2654	16586

Appendix IV: ANU Data Collection Authorization Letter

12th March, 2021

RE: TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Matsavwa Saidi Kassim (18J03DMGP019) is a bonafide student at Africa Nazarene University. He has finished his course work and has defended his thesis proposal entitled: - *"Contribution of County Assemblies to Enhancing Devolved Governance: A Case of Kwale County Assembly, Kenya"*.

Any assistance accorded to him to facilitate data collection and finish his thesis is highly welcomed.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Titus Mwanthi', is written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Titus Mwanthi.
Ag. DVC, Academics

Appendix V: NACOSTI Research Permit



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Ref No: 433444

Date of Issue: 09/April/2021

RESEARCH LICENSE



This is to Certify that Mr. SAIDI KASSIM MWATSAVWA of Africa Nazarene University, has been licensed to conduct research in Kwale on the topic: CONTRIBUTION OF COUNTY ASSEMBLIES TO ENHANCING DEVOLVED GOVERNANCE: A CASE OF KWALE COUNTY ASSEMBLY, KENYA for the period ending : 09/April/2022.

License No: NACOSTUP/21/9619

433444

Applicant Identification Number

Director General
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY &
INNOVATION

Verification QR Code



NOTE: This is a computer generated License. To verify the authenticity of this document, Scan the QR Code using QR scanner application.

THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ACT, 2013

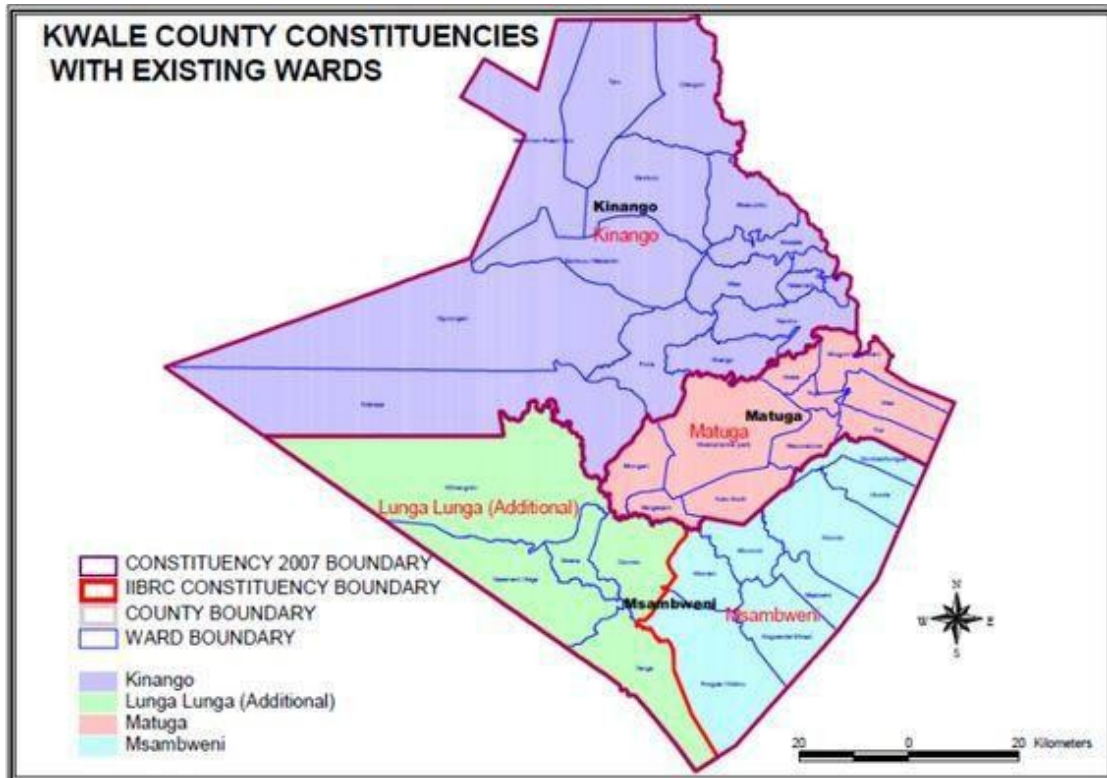
The Grant of Research Licenses is Guided by the Science, Technology and Innovation (Research Licensing) Regulations, 2014

CONDITIONS

1. The License is valid for the proposed research, location and specified period
2. The License any rights thereunder are non-transferable
3. The Licensee shall inform the relevant County Director of Education, County Commissioner and County Governor before commencement of the research
4. Excavation, filming and collection of specimens are subject to further necessary clearance from relevant Government Agencies
5. The License does not give authority to transfer research materials
6. NACOSTI may monitor and evaluate the licensed research project
7. The Licensee shall submit one hard copy and upload a soft copy of their final report (thesis) within one year of completion of the research
8. NACOSTI reserves the right to modify the conditions of the License including cancellation without prior notice

National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation
off Waiyaki Way, Upper Kabete,
P. O. Box 30623, 00100 Nairobi, KENYA
Land line: 020 4007000, 020 2241349, 020 3310571, 020 8001077
Mobile: 0713 788 787 / 0735 404 245
E-mail: dp@nacosti.go.ke / registry@nacosti.go.ke
Website: www.nacosti.go.ke

Appendix VI: Map of Study Area



Map of Kwale County
Source: Google Maps, 2021