International Journal of Physical and Social Science
Vol. 8 Issue 10, October 2018
ISSN: 2249-5894 Impact Factor: 6.644
Journal Homepage: http://www.ijmra.us, Email: editorijmie@gmail.com
Double-Blind Peer Reviewed Refereed Open Access International Journal - Included in the International Serial Directories Indexed & Listed at: Ulrich's Periodicals Directory ©, U.S.A., Open J-Gage as well as in Cabell's Directories of Publishing Opportunities, U.S.A

GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND PROJECT PERFORMANCE: A CASE OF SABOR WATER PROJECT IN ELGEIYO MARAKWET COUNTY, KENYA

Caroline Chelal*

ABSTRACT

Gender mainstreaming became widely discussed after the UN Third World Women's Conference which took place in Nairobi, Kenya in 1985. One of the main agendas of the conference was about the discussion within the United Nation Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Many organizations have now embarked on a transformation process of restructuring their internal systems and procedures and to change the staff attitudes and values. The purpose of this study was to explore the relationship between Gender impact assessment and the performance ofSabor water project in Elgeiyo Marakwet County, Kenya. A mixed method research approach and a descriptive survey design was employed. The sample size was determined using the Krejcie & Morgan (1970) sample size determination table and the sample size corresponding to 260 households is 152. Stratified random sampling was used to select 152 heads of households from the target population.The questionnaire comprising of both closed-ended and open-ended questions divided into six sections was administered. An interview guide was also used to collect data from the project staff, county staff and other community leaders who are knowledgeable about the water project. Thematic analysis was used to analyze qualitative data and the results presented in prose. Quantitative data was analyzed by use of both inferential and descriptive statistics. It was found out that gender impact assessment marginally influence the performance of Sabor water project. It is thus recommended that, the county government of Elgeiyo Marakwet should ensure that projects impacts are adequately identified and quantified and mitigation measures are implemented for the negative impacts.

Keywords; Gender, project performance, impact assessment

* **Masters candidate, The Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Nairobi-Kenya**

INTRODUCTION

Gender mainstreaming became widely discussed after the UN Third World Women's Conference which took place in Nairobi, Kenya in 1985. One of the main agendas of the conference was about the discussion within the United Nation Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Gender mainstreaming has been seen as a way of upholding the role of women in the development arena. During the UN fourth world conference regarding women which was organized in 1995 in Beijing, China, the Platform for Action endorsed gender mainstreaming concept for the achievement of gender equality (Espey, 2010). This Platform for Action demands for the advancement of policy in the mainstreaming of gender by calling upon governments to create vigorous and achievable policies on gender mainstreaming in all programs so as to ensure that before a decision is made, an analysis is made on the effects of such decisions on both gender (Greed, 2005).

According to Tiessen (2005), many development practitioners continue to view gender issues as separate and unrelated to programmatic issues. In their study on gender mainstreaming, Wendoh & Wallace (2005) observes that the government officials who are responsible for dealing with gender mainstreaming in African countries have reported some resistance at the implementation level of gender-focused projects.

The Philippines Communal Irrigation Development Project has had a positive impact because it integrated gender issues into the project; the project was able attain its physical development targets as well as the appraisal evaluations of irrigation strength and paddy yields. The achievement of the Philippines projects can be credited to the maximum participation of all the beneficiaries as well as drawing from a tradition of farmer-built irrigation system. Women in the Philippines are free to exercise independent land rights. According to Quisuimbing (1994), the success of the project in the community can be attached to the Enrolment of community organizers, majority being women and the spouses were both members in the water associations. Women were actively encouraged to take leadership roles which enabled the efficient collection of water fees a factor that was contributed by women being the controllers of family finances. (Quisuimbing, 1994).

Statement of the Problem

The integration of gender mainstreaming strategies in all program activities continues to be the primary challenge in the performance of projects (Wendoh & Wallace, 2005). Elgeiyo Marakwet County has initiated many water projects but the implementation of gender mainstreaming strategies in these projects is still low. This has resulted in low performance of many projects and many other projects have stalled. The survey conducted by National Taxpayers Association in 2014, revealed that 65% of the respondents pointed out that women were not involved in the project identification. This implies that the needs of women were not put into consideration in the designing of the water projects.

Gender impact assessment and the performance of water projects

Hunt (2004) points out that during project programming, gender analysis as a tool should always be used to evaluate the effects that a development project is likely to have on both genders. By carrying out a gender analysis, biasness on men and women are completely eliminated and the sustainability and effectiveness of the project is greatly enhanced. According to Hunt (2004), the mainstreaming of gender in the design of any development therefore becomes paramount otherwise there will be a danger of exacerbating inequalities among men and women as well promoting the capacity of men who already are better placed as compared to women. By factoring in the existing differences between genders, women's needs are likely to be addressed thus promoting equality.

According to the United Nations (1995), the identification and formulation stages of a project enable the collection and documentation of ideas which provides attention to the opinions of both men and women particularly on the location, and the technology that can be used in the project which is favorable to both women and men. The United Nations (1995), further notes that potential positive and negative project impacts on both genders will be easily identified thus coming up with working solutions to curb the negative impacts. Project identification and formulation also help in the identification of all the available issues regarding gender by use of indicators which are important in evaluating the project's impacts on both genders. Project planning stage provides the basis for integrating the gender perspective into the implementation of the project. A thorough assessment of the gender perspective concerning the different project

stages creates the prerequisites for success in gender mainstreaming. By excluding the gender perspective in the project planning of goals, communications, activities, and assessment, no account of the gender perspective can be attained in project implementation.

According to Greed (2005), people are likely to abandon facilities which are not suited for their needs. Majority of water projects are demand responsive which calls for participation by beneficiaries and all the stakeholders. The demand responsive nature of the water projects should act as good news to women because it implies that they will be involved and thus their needs will be integrated into the project. Worthy consultative and communicative procedures shows a clear promise to transparency which helps to prevent any disagreements regarding to water as a resource (Greed 2005). It is important to note that consultation processes require gender sensitivity because women may feel shy to actively participate in meetings and many other women have limited experience in giving their opinions.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A mixed-method research approach was adopted for this study. The target population for this study was 260 households in Tambach and Kamariny wards in Elgeiyo Marakwet County, Kenya. The type of research design adopted in this research was a descriptive survey design. The sample size for this study was arrived at by using the Krejcie & Morgan (1970) sample size table. The sample size corresponding to 260 households is 152. Stratified random sampling was used to select 152 heads of households from the target population. The strata in this study was Kamariny and Tambach County wards in Elgeiyo Marakwet County. A random sample from each stratum was taken and pooled to form a random sample. A total of 123 (80.9%) of the anticipated 152 respondents participated in the study. Data was collected by use of questionnaires and quantitative data was analyzed using the SPSS software. Thematic analysis was used to analyze qualitative data and the results presented in prose form. The results are presented by the use of tables, figures, and charts. Inferential statistics incorporate regression analysis to explain the relationship between gender impact assessment and project performance

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Descriptive statistics for Gender impact assessment

This objective sought to establish the influence of gender impact assessment on the performance of Sabor water project in Elgeiyo Marakwet County, Kenya. The statements were presented in a Likert scale of level 1 to 5 where; **1=highly disagree; 2=Disagree; 3=Neutral; 4=Agree; 5=highly agree**

Table 1. Gender impact assessment on project performance

	Highly disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Neutral (%)	Agree (%)	Highly agree (%)	Mean	Std. Dev.
Project identified men & women who are likely to be affected by project	5.7	.8	13.8	43.9	35.8	4.03	1.024
Both men & women involved in project impacts identification	78.9	7.3	11.4	0	2.4	1.40	.875
Both men & women participate equally in decision making for Sabor water project	44.7	43.1	5.7	5.7	.8	1.75	.865
Both men & women equally involved to identify mitigation measures for negative impacts	81.3	13.8	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.24	.646

The above table shows that 43.9% (54) of the Sabor water project respondents highly agree that identifying a project where both men and women are involved has influence on project performance. A proportion of 35.8% (44) indicate that they highly agree that this involvement of both men and women has influence on project performance. Few respondents represented by 13.8% (17) are neutral as those who highly disagree and disagree with this statement are 5.7% (7) and 0.8% (1) respectively. This indicates that the Sabor Water project stakeholders believe incorporation of both men and women ideas, expertise and knowledge in the water project initiation phase leads to improved project performance as is the case of Sabor project. This supports Gender and Alliance (2003) report which revealed that the Macina Wells project in Mali, for example, failed to succeed since initiators did not incorporate an understanding of the different gender roles and inequalities in the planning phase. The male community leaders were

handed the management of the wells without any consultation with the women who are mainly affected by water issues in their homes.

On involvement of both men and women in identification of project impacts, 78.9% (97) of the respondents have indicated that they highly disagree that it would influence project performance. A paltry 11.4% (14) have shown that they are neutral as few 7.3% (9) and 2.4% (3) disagree and highly agree respectively. These findings show that the stakeholders do not recognize the role of both gender in identification of project impacts for a water project like Sabor. To them involvement of both gender in evaluation of project impacts is inconsequential to quality project performance. This contrasts Hunt (2004) who points out that in order to improve the sustainability and effectiveness of the project's activities, a needs analysis should be used to ensure that neither gender is disadvantaged by the project and should promote equality between men and women.

The table presents data that shows that most of the Sabor water project stakeholders represented by 44.7% (55) highly disagree that involving both men and women in decision making would influence project performance. This is also supported by those who disagree represented by 43.1% (53). Those who are neutral are 5.7% (7) and those who agree are 5.7% (7) as well. A paltry 0.8% (1) highly agree that involvement of both genders would highly influence performance of their water project. Again this is not in agreement with the Hunt (2004) who posits that involvement of both men and women has positive influence on projects by reducing the risk of inequalities that could be aggravated by further improving the ability of men who already have enhanced skills and employment prospects than women. To avoid further disadvantaging women, it is critical to factor the existing gender differences into programme design based on previous gender analyses.

It is shown in the presented data that majority of the respondents represented by 81.3% (100) highly disagree that involving both genders in identification and establishment of mitigation measures for any negative impact would facilitate project performance. A proportion of 13.8% (17) disagree with the statement that it could improve performance of Sabor water project. It is only few respondents who are neutral and highly agree at 1.6% (4) each. Those who agree with this statement stood at 1.7 % (2). This shows that the stakeholders do not believe that

involvement of both genders in seeking strategies to ameliorate negative results, would facilitate completion of the project on time and within the specified budget as indication of expected performance. This is not in agreement with Greed (2005), who stated that people are likely to abandon facilities which do not suit their needs. Water projects have increasingly become demand-responsive which is worthy for women as demand responsive approaches infer consultation and recognition of various needs of different project stakeholders. Overall, the results above produced a mean of 2.105 at a standard deviation of 0.85. This implies that gender impact assessment as a strategy was not well integrated in Sabor water project.

Regression between gender impact assessment and project performance

Table 2. Regression Analysis-model Summary for gender impact assessment and project performance

Model Summary

					Change Statistics				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	R Square Change	F Change	df1	Sig. F Change	
1	.280[a]	.078	.070	.801	.078	9.837	1	.002	

a. Predictors: (Constant), Extent of Gender impact assessment on project performance

The study carried out a regression analysis between gender impact assessment and project performance From the Model Summary Table 2 above, 7.8%% (R Square) of the total variability in the dependent variable (project performance) can be explained by the independent variable (gender impact assessment).

Table 3. Regression Coefficients of gender impact assessment and project performance

From the regression Coefficient in Table 3, the Independent Variable (gender impact assessment) contributes a positive statistically significant value of .254 for every unit increase in the Dependent Variable (project performance). The regression equation is presented below;

$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \varepsilon$ Becomes;

$Y = 1.580 + .254X1 + \mu$

Table 3. Regression Coefficient

Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
4	(Constant)	1.580	.290		5.455	.000
	Gender impact assessment on project performance	.254	.145	.195	1.755	.082

a. Dependent Variable: Women economic/productive benefits from saved time

Summary of findings

This objective sought to assess the influence of gender impact assessment on the performance of Sabor water project in Elgeiyo Marakwet County, Kenya. The mean obtained from the results was 2.1 at a standard deviation of 0.85. This indicates that the County government has not successfully integrated Gender impact assessment as a strategy into their projects and programmes.

The beneficiaries of Sabor water project are aware of the importance of gender impact assessment in the eradication of bias that may ensue against men or women. The project has succeeded in involving women and men in identifying their own urgent needs. Other aspects such as equal decision making among men and women, equal participation of men and women in project impact identification, the beneficiaries were not adequately involved.

On involvement of both men and women in identification of project impacts, 78.9% highly disagree that it would influence project performance. A paltry 11.4% have shown that they are

neutral as few 7.3% disagree. Only 2.4% highly agree it could positively influence project performance. This means that the stakeholders do not recognize the role of both gender in identification of project impacts for a water project like Sabor. To them involvement of both gender in evaluation of project impacts is inconsequential to quality project performance.

In Sabor water project stakeholders 44.7% highly disagree that involving both men and women in decision making would influence project performance. Another 43.1% disagree with the statement. Only a paltry 0.8% who highly agree that involvement of both genders would highly influence performance of their water project. This indicates that they do not believe that involvement of both sexes would impact their project in any significant way.

Majority of the people (81.3%) highly disagree that involving both genders in identification and establishment of mitigation measures for any negative project impacts would facilitate project performance. A few of them, 13.8%, disagree with the statement that it could improve performance of Sabor water project. It is just few who are neutral and highly agree with the statement at 1.6% each. This shows that the stakeholders do not believe that involvement of both genders in seeking strategies to ameliorate negative results, would facilitate completion of the project on time and within the specified budget as indication of expected performance. They indicate that there has never been any positive influence on performance of the project.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study sought to determine how gender impact assessment influences the performance of Sabor water project. From the findings, the study revealed that gender impact assessment has a direct influence on performance Sabor water project. On this basis, the study recommends that the County government of Elgeiyo Marakwet should ensure that projects impacts are adequately identified and quantified and mitigation measures are implemented for the negative impacts so as to safeguard the welfare of men and women in the project.

REFERENCES

Espey, J. (2010). Twin Track Gender Mainstreaming. Theory and Practice: Prague, Oversees Development Institute.

Gender and Water Alliance, (2003). Gender Water and Development Report 2003: Perspectives on Policies in the Water Sector, Loughborough: Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC)

Greed, C. (2005). An Investigation of the Effectiveness of Gender Mainstreaming as a Means of Integrating the Needs of Women and Men into Spatial Planning in the United Kingdom. *Progress in Planning,* Vol.64, 243-321.

Hammam, G. (2005). Gender, water and sanitation; Case Studies on Best Practices New York: http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/pdf/unwaterpolicybrief2gender.pdf. Accessed 15 May, 2018

Hunt, J, (2004). Introduction to Gender Analysis Concepts and Steps, *Development Bulletin, no. 64* pp.100-1006

National Taxpayers Association. (2014). Citizen's NG-Constituency Development Fund Report Card for Elgeyo Marakwet County. Department for International Development (DFID) through the Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF)

Quisuimbing, A. R. (1994). Improving Women's Agricultural Productivity as Farmers and Workers, World Bank Discussion Paper Series No. 37. Quoted in FAO, SEAGA Sector Guide: Irrigation.

Tiessen, R. (2005). "Mainstreaming Gender in HIV/AI DS Programs: Ongoing Challenges and New Opportunities in Malawi". *Journal of International Women's Studies Vol. 7 No.1* Ottawa, Canada.

United Nations, (1995). "Platform for Action," Fourth World Congress on Women. http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/plat2.htm: Accessed 20 May, 2018

Wendoh, S and Wallace, T. (2005). "Re-thinking Gender Mainstreaming in African NGOs and Communities". *Journal of Gender and Development. 13 (2): 70-73.*