



**AN ASSESSMENT OF GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING EFFECTIVENESS IN
PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

Background: This study sought to assess the effectiveness of Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) on Gender Equality and Community Development in Kenya. Specifically, the study sought to examine the extent to which Resource Mobilization in GRB; and determine the influence of Capacity Building in GRB on Gender Equality and Community Development in Kenya.

Methodology: A survey research design is appropriate in order to gather primary data from respondents through interviews or questionnaire. The study adopted a descriptive survey design. For the purposes of this study, the target population was 3 representatives for the 47 counties (141) as key respondents comprising of county management representatives with operational technical mandate. Two respondents from the Ministry of Gender, culture, the Arts and Heritage (94). The study also targeted other stakeholders such the Civil society Organizations (50).

Findings: The study also found that all the variables i.e. Resource Mobilization, and Capacity Building in GRB had positive significant influence on Gender Equality and Community Development in Kenya.

Keywords: Gender Responsive Budgeting, Resource Mobilization, Capacity Building, Gender Equality and Community Development

Background of the Study

Gender equality is a fundamental human right and a prerequisite for sustainable development. There has been a continuous commitment by most governments to achieve the gender equality goals and implementation of the gender perspective in the public policy domain. Since 1995, international organizations and agencies have initiated the integration of gender perspective budget and therefore contributing to the concept of GRB. GRB was perceived as a mechanism for developing policies for equitable distribution of resources for different social groups (Ivanina, et al., 2016). Women and girls' empowerment as well promotion of gender equality is fundamental for accelerating sustainable development. The government of Kenya has taken great initiatives in its development agenda to ensure there is gender equality. Adopted from the fourth world Conference on Women, the Beijing Platform for Action (BFPA) recognizes that the empowerment of women and gender equality to be crucial elements for addressing development concerns related to insecurity, poverty and sustainable development (SDGs Kenya Forum, 2019). Despite the efforts made towards gender mainstreaming, women and girls continue to face various forms of discrimination, violence, and exclusion.

The Constitution of Kenya promotes women economic empowerment where under the Article 27 of the Constitution provides for equality and freedom from discrimination under the Bill of Rights. To give full effect to the realization of the rights guaranteed under this Article, the Constitution states that the State shall take legislative and other measures, including affirmative action programs and policies designed to redress any disadvantage suffered by individuals or groups because of past discrimination (Constitution of Kenya, 2010). The government has established various affirmative actions through legislation as well as amendment of policies. The funds aim at providing affordable and accessible credit to women, youth, and person with disabilities (Kiriti-Nganga & Mogeni, 2020). Despite Kenya having a favourable legal and policy framework for gender related issues, implementation of gender agenda is still lagging behind since the planning, financing as well as the implementation of gender equality at both national and county levels mostly focus on resolving technical and administrative challenges (SDGs Kenya Forum, 2019).

GRB is tool that promotes the goal of gender equality through integration of agender perspective into budgeting and accounting for the purpose of supporting men and women as beneficiaries in the programmes. GRB aims at promoting accountability and transparency in the budget process of fiscal planning, management, and gender responsive participation. A gender-responsive budget is a budget that works for everyone by ensuring gender-equitable distribution of resources and contributing to equal opportunities for all. Gender-responsive budgeting is essential both for gender justice and for fiscal justice. It involves analysing government budgets for their effect on genders and the norms and roles associated with them. It also involves transforming these budgets to ensure that gender equality commitments are realized. These resources are designed to show how different actors can influence the budget cycle to promote gender-responsive budgeting at its different stages. It is intended to help groups developing strategies to think through the actions to take at each stage of the government budget process (Community of Democracies, 2023).

Statement of the Problem

The 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development aspires for all-inclusive enhanced sustainable social, economic, political and environment development. The SDG Kenya forum has promoted the engagement with the government through Civil society Organizations (CSOs) using different approaches which include: CSOs engagement with both national and county government on matters of policy and legislative framework in order to ensure there is planning, financing, commitment, and implementation of SDGs; ensuring accountability through grassroot citizens empowerment for inclusivity; and development of partnership with international agencies, media, academia, and the government for the implementation of the SDGs. The SDG Forum through funding from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is implementing a program that seeks to hold the government accountable for planning, promotion, financing and implementation on gender equalities priorities in six counties in order to achieve the SDG 5 i.e. 'Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girl' (SDGs Kenya Forum, 2019). Despite Kenya spending \$71m in 2018/2019 only 0.3% was used for gender equality. In year 2019/2020 \$72m were spent and only 0.3% was used. While 2020/2021 \$81m was used accounting for 0.3%. the fiscal years had annual budgets of \$25bn, \$25bn, and 31bn respectively. Thus, Kenya still has a long way to go to fully utilize GRB. This study seeks to assess the effectiveness of GRB on Gender Equity and Community development in Kenya

Objectives of the study

The main objective of the study was to assess the effectiveness of Gender Responsive Budgeting on Gender Equality and Community Development in Kenya. Specifically, the study sought to:

- i. To examine the extent to which Resource Mobilization in GRB influences Gender Equality and Community Development in Kenya.
- ii. To determine the influence of Capacity Building in GRB on Gender Equality and Community Development in Kenya.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical Review

Resource based view theory (RBV) was initiated by Wernerfelt and Rumelt. The theory lies in the applications of a bundle of valuable tangible and intangible resources at the firm's disposal that gives the firm competitive advantage over other firms (Wernerfelt, 1984; Rumelt, 1984). This theory was underpinned by the idea that a firm relied on resources that originated from the environment of the firm. This environment comprised other resources and organizations that what one firm needed was usually in other organizations. Lawfully, organizations that are independent can depend on another for resources that are critical and which an organization requires to function (Jeffrey & Gerald, 1978). Resources that an organization may need could be scarce and not readily available or under uncooperative suppliers thus developing unequal exchanges of authority, power and access to resources, in order to avoid this dependency, organizations develop strategies to enhance their bargaining power in resource-related transactions (Peteraf & Barney, 2003). The theory was link to this study since GRB is about resources.

The Dynamic Capabilities View theory suggests that firms should develop the ability to build, integrate (Eisenhardt & Martin, 2000; Teece, Pisano, & Shuen, 1997) and reconfigure resources and competencies to achieve competitive advantages (Gerulaitiene *et al.*, 2020). The DCV theory views dynamic capability as the firm's ability to integrate, build and reconfigure internal and external competencies to address the rapidly changing environments (Martins, 2023). The DCV theory (Teece & Pisano, 2003; Teece, Pisano, & Shuen, 1997) addresses the particular shortcomings of the RBV theory as a means for firms to evolve in changing environments and maintain a competitive edge (Helfat & Martin, 2015). Therefore, the DCV theory is considered an extension for RBV theory to deal with the changes occurred in the environment due to digital technologies (Teece, 2010). Dynamic capabilities are the firm's ability to integrate, build, and reconfigure internal and external resources/competences to address and shape rapidly changing business environments (Susanti & Arief, 2015). In this study, DCV was useful in linking the Capacity building in GRB and how it influences Gender Equality and Community Development.

Conceptual Framework

This study was guided by the following conceptual framework. Figure 2.1 below shows the conceptual framework.

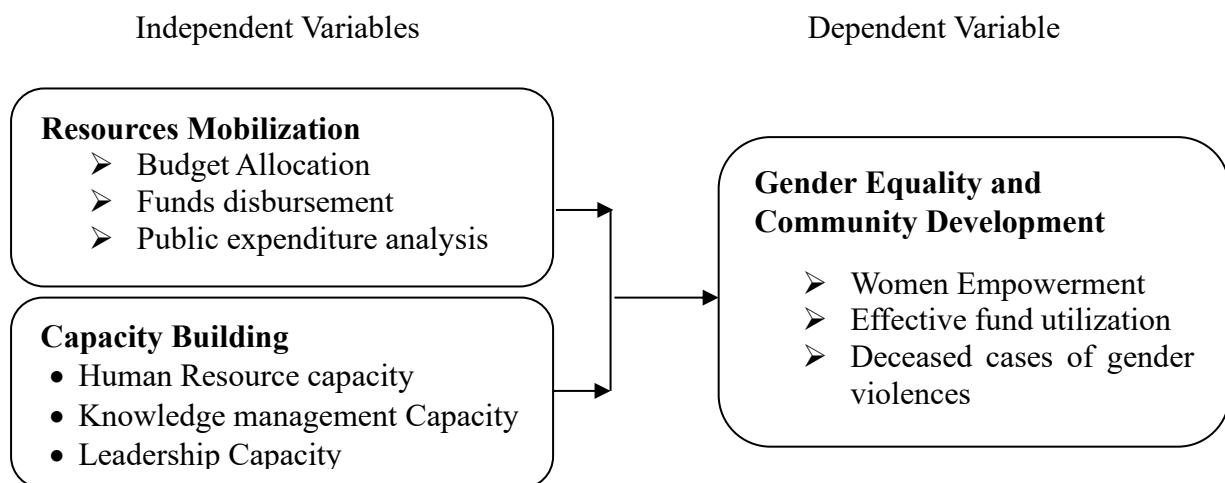


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

Resource Mobilization

GRB uses fiscal policies and the public financial management (PFM) tools in promoting empowerment of women and girls. It also incorporates a gender focus in the budgeting process to ensure the governments are aware of the impact of the budget process on both men and women. It also entails the analysis of the fiscal policies and budgetary decisions to have a better understanding of their impact on gender equality whether intentional or unintentional. With this information, it is used to design as well as implement rather more effective gender policies (Community of Democracies, 2023). According to World Bank (2009), public expenditure analysis helps government in making efficient use of public resources. The public spending in developing countries by governments account for 15-30% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Gender analysis of public expenditures provides an insight on how to improve the efficiency of public expenditure based on the analysis of differential patterns of men and women's access to public services. It is evident that women and men have different needs and further they differ on how they access and

use the public services. Thus, analysis of the differences helps facilitate better alignment of public resources to the needs of the women and men. Despite progress in integrating gender into public finance management, majority of national systems require improvements in analysis, tracking, and evaluation of gender responsive allocations and expenditures (UN, 2021).

Countries can strengthen how gender analysis helps inform decision budget decision-making through ex-ante and ex-post gender impact assessment. Budget oversight and performance review audits should be implemented. These tools have enabled a robust analysis of gender dimensions of COVID-19 and its impact on budgetary decisions on men and women (UN, 2021). In 2021, the government made a commitment in Generation Equality forum in Paris to support commitment to women and girls. The government backed up the steps to end gender-based violence by 2026 by a fund of \$23 million for prevention and response, research and data collection of gender-based violence survivors (Wa-shiko, 2021).

Capacity Building

Capacity building seeks to help improve the organization performance since it's a system-wide and planned effort that is meant to help increase performance thorough planning, and purposeful actions (Nwankwo, Olabisi, & Onwuchekwa, 2017). According to an assessment report on the affirmative action funds, 20% of respondents identified some of the challenges of the funds to include: inadequate staffing at the board secretariat, the duplication of objectives as the funds target same group i.e. women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWDs), limited financial resources and high demand for funding, risks of payment, manual loss processing system and operations, homogenous beneficiaries of target group, and lack of appropriate legal structures for recovery (Kiriti-Nganga & Mogeni, 2020). The affirmative action funds also lack harmonized data on the beneficiaries as well there is political interference on the funds. The long bureaucratic process of disbursing the loans and also lack of awareness on the funds is challenging. About 22% of the respondents were not aware of the funds. Finally, the business model pursued by the affirmative action funds doesn't assure long term sustainability. NGAAF has lacked trust as well of the confidence especially with women, youth and PWDs (UON WEE-Hub, 2022).

According to Abril and Ofusu-Amaah (2009) capacity is a main issue in implementation of GRB initiatives in many countries with the capacity gaps identified such as knowledge and expertise of the keys actors in about gender and GRB issues, public sector management techniques, and budgeting process. Though the use of information systems has helped improving on the capacity gaps, there are other important gaps within the ministries such as production of sex-disaggregated data that is needed for GRB analysis. According to Community of Democracies (2023) it is crucial to train all staff working with budgets to enable them understand gender budgeting at every stage of PFM cycle; interrelations between the stages; identification of the level of practice of gender budgeting; and increase budget efficiency. Training and capacity building are necessary for implementation of policy and budget guidance for the civil servants and other key actors. The public administration's political will as well as understanding of the importance of gender financing is important.

Gender Equity and Community Development

Gender Equity is the process of being fair to women and men by ensuring strategies and measures are available to compensate for women's historical and social disadvantages that prevent women and men from otherwise operating on a level playing field. Equity leads to equality (UNFPA, 2005). Gender equity means fairness and impartiality in the treatment of women and men in terms of rights, benefits, obligations and opportunities. Community development is that a holistic approach grounded in principles of empowerment, human rights, inclusion, social justice, self-determination and collective action (Kenny & Connors, 2017). Community members take collective action on issues that are important to them. Community development considers community members to be experts in their lives and communities, and values community knowledge and wisdom (AIFS, 2023).

Community development is very difficult unless there is gender equity. During the community development gender balance is very important for the sustainable development. Gender balance involves equal and active participation of women and men in all areas of decision-making, and in access to and control over resources and services. Community development will bring a very positive and sustainable development in society when there is gender balance and gender equity. Thus, conflict in the society will be minimized and will enhance and boost up the development activities. Gender mainstreaming is the globally recognized strategy for achieving gender equality. Gender mainstreaming is defined by the United Nations as the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action in all areas and at all levels (Khanal, 2020).

By ensuring equality in economic opportunities promotes faster recovery from the global economic fragility and helps strengthen and create sustainable global economies (United Nations, 2023). The International Monetary fund (IMF) in 2018 estimated that there can be a national growth of GDP by 10-15% if the gender inequality was eliminated. It was argued that countries that have equal economies in terms of access to education, income distribution and other services have high rates of employment. This would also increase the participation of women in the labour force (Arevalo, Berti, Caretta, & Eckefeldt, 2019). The Global Markets Institute (2014) study found that financial inclusion in middle income countries are closing the gender gaps in women's access to financial service and this would result to 12% higher income per capita by 2030. As for agriculture, farm productivity would increase by 20-30% and thus, an increase in national agricultural outputs by 2.5 – 4% and consequently lifting hunger of 150 million people. From these the women's disposable income would also increase and increase in taxbase contribution (FAO, 2018).

Empirical Review

Resource Mobilization and Gender Equity & Community Development

According to the World Bank (2009) analysis of the differential effects of economic policy instrument on women and men provides important information for improving the targeted policies and public resources allocation for fighting poverty and increase the growth. In Ethiopia, the analysis of the rural sector in the context of PER showed that though there was a representation of women in the agricultural labour force, there was a mismatch in the sector expenditure allocation to women based on their economic role. This was in form of cash transfers, credit, extension

services, and subsidies. Thus, in Sub-Saharan Africa where women are considered the backbones of agriculture economic instruments that consider the gender issues have a big impact on poverty eradication as well as growth. Similarly in Kenya, the KNBS notes that 80% of the farm labour is provided by women and they also manage 40% the smallholder firms. However, they only own 1% of the agricultural outputs and receive 10% of the credit (SDGs Kenya Forum, 2019).

According to Memphis University (2024) capacity has many benefits to community development. It fosters the sense of ownership and empowerment thus; the community partners have a great control over their own future development. Capacity building also strengthens the confidence, skills, knowledge and resources to enhance the community partner's ability to envision and taken action for future projects. Capacity building also helps to come up with a more appropriate community solution. Through capacity building, community partners are more effective in addressing community issues since it acknowledges growth, learning and change (The University of Memphis, 2023). UNDP (2020) recommends for training and capacity building on gender mainstreaming and climate change at both the national and county levels of government. The gender focal points and climate change from key MDAs should be targeted.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research design

A survey research design is appropriate in order to gather primary data from respondents through interviews or questionnaire. The study adopted a descriptive survey design.

Target Population

For the purposes of this study, the target population was 3 representatives for the 47 counties (141) as key respondents comprising of county management representatives with operational technical mandate. Two respondents from the Ministry of Gender, culture, the Arts and Heritage (94). The study also targeted other stakeholders such the Civil society Organizations (50). Table 1 below shows the target population where sample of 167 was drawn.

Table 1: Target Population

Strata	Population	n
County government representatives	141	83
Ministry of Gender, Culture, The Arts and Heritage	94	55
Civil Society Organization	50	29
Total	285	167

RESEARCH FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

Response Rate

The target population was 167 respondents where a total of 167 questionnaires were distributed at various Gender offices in the 47 counties. A total of 125 questionnaires were duly filled and returned giving a response rate of 85% which considered to be excellent as opined by Mugenda and Mugenda (2018).

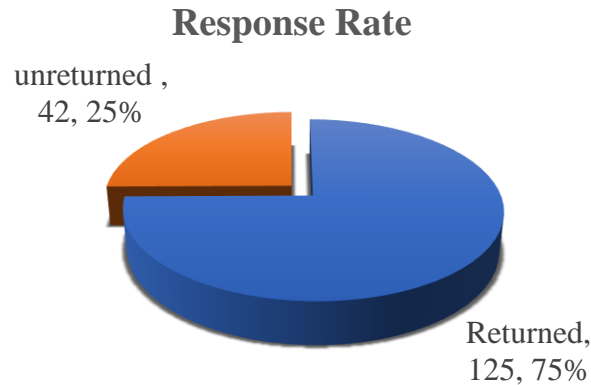


Figure 2: Response Rate

Descriptive Statistics

The descriptive statistics tend to explain the responses for the items in each variable in relation to the objectives of the study.

Resource Mobilization

The first objective of the study was to examine the extent to which Resource Mobilization in GRB influences Gender Equality and Community Development in Kenya. The composite Mean of 3.35, STD (.464) clearly indicated that averagely the respondents were not sure of how Resource Mobilization in relation to GRB influence Gender Equity & Community Development in Kenya. Resource Mobilization is the ability to gain and mobilize individuals towards accomplishment of goals for a group or an association (FRIDA, 2017). According to FRIDA (2017) growth in terms of budget is a major part of resource mobilization though acquisition of new individuals and connections is equally important. This may be through gifts, contribution, connection information, experience as well as friendship is important in advancing towards goals. Since resource in terms of money is a form of power and the reason for mobilizing resources isn't about sustainability only but also shifting the power balance through shifting of resources from those who hold a lot of power to those holding little power. Thus, resource mobilization is a form of activism and a necessary addition to gender related issues.

Since most gender related issues grants are traditionally accessed through applications where there are bureaucratic procedures such contract signings, reports presentations, financial reporting requirements etc, the scarcity of the resources have forced institutions dealing with gender issues to be creative in coming up with alternative income sources to be secured rather than being impacted by the donor trends. It is important to be more strategic to develop a community of supportive individual groups and donors that have different degrees of affinity with gender programs than spending time chasing for large grants from big funders. The support comes in terms of gifts that are unrestricted and contribute towards the financial health of the institutions deal with gender issues. This is a better approach for lowering the risk in cases where the main sources dry up and offers a better sustainability for the organizations in the long term. The use of local resource mobilization is a strategy and a tool for raising money from the local sources in form of membership fees, donations, direct grants, and volunteer support (FRIDA, 2017). Table 2 below

show the findings from the descriptive statistics on the first objective related to Resource Mobilization.

Table 2: Resource Mobilization

Statement	1 %	2 %	3 %	4 %	5 %	Mean	STDEV
The government allocates funds for the GRB in its budgetary allocation	23.2	11.2	5.6	27.2	32.8	3.35	1.588
There is enough allocation of funds for GRB activities by the Government	0.8	2.4	19.2	20.0	57.6	4.31	.919
The funds are disbursed on time to ensure efficient service delivery	6.4	11.2	9.6	39.2	33.6	3.82	1.199
Gender sensitive budgets makes it possible to perceive how the budget revenues and expenditures have impact on the socio-economic status and equal opportunities	16.8	12.8	21.6	43.2	5.6	3.08	1.209
There is national system for analysis, tracking, and evaluation of gender responsive allocations and expenditures	44.8	3.2	15.2	32.0	4.8	2.49	1.446
Gender analysis of public expenditures provides an insight on how to improve the efficiency of public expenditure based on the analysis of differential patterns of men and women's access to public services	16.0	2.4	11.2	64.8	5.6	3.42	1.172
Budget oversight and performance review audits are implemented to show the impact of the budgetary decisions on men and women.	8.8	34.4	18.4	28.8	9.6	2.96	1.174
<i>Composite Mean for Resource Mobilization</i>						3.35	.464

The respondents (60%) agreed to a great extent that the government allocates funds for the GRB in its budgetary allocation ($M = 3.35$, $stdv = 1.588$). Majority of the respondents (77.6%) also agreed that there is enough allocation of funds for GRB activities by the Government ($M = 4.31$, $stdv = .919$). Respondents (72.8%) also agreed that the funds are disbursed on time to ensure efficient service delivery. Even though majority of the respondents (48.8%) had contrary opinion, it wasn't clearly established whether Gender sensitive budgets makes it possible to perceive how the budget revenues and expenditures have impact on the socio-economic status and equal opportunities ($M = 3.08$, $stdv = 1.209$). However, majority of the respondents (48%) disagreed on the existence of national system for analysis, tracking, and evaluation of gender responsive allocations and expenditures ($M = 2.49$, $stdv = 1.446$). Respondents (70.4%) also agree to a great extent that Gender analysis of public expenditures provides an insight on how to improve the efficiency of public expenditure based on the analysis of differential patterns of men and women's access to public services ($M = 3.42$, $stdv = 1.172$). Finally, majority of the respondents (43.2%) disagreed on the implementation of Budget oversight and performance review audits to show the impact of the budgetary decisions on men and women ($M = 2.96$, $stdv = 1.174$).

In your opinion how does Resource Mobilization influence Gender Equity and Community Development in Kenya?

Respondents mentioned that Kenya still faces challenges in terms of the level of financing of GRB initiatives, and lack of adequate of gender data to support the budget process. respondents further added that, the CSO who have a big role in pushing for gender mainstreaming resort to focus on specific measures with limited budget that have gender implications such as provision of sanitary towel for girls in schools. Initiatives such as the Linda Mama programme that were also political initiated are also in danger of being sustainable in the near future due to political change of climate. Thus, respondents were not sure whether such programmes that were really helpful to women will have continuity. Budget analysis can also be used as a tool for advocacy and on gender related issues such as sexual and reproductive health. The information accessed on government budget helps in informing on the changes to allocation of the public resources. For example, the needs for millions of youths, women and men on sexual reproductive health globally governments are not committed to resulting to increase maternal mortality as well teenage pregnancies. Budget analysis is therefore a powerful tool for ensuring governments commitment in sufficient allocations of resources to fulfil their commitments and promises (International Budget Partnership, 2015).

Capacity Building

The third objective was to determine the influence of Capacity Building in GRB on Gender Equity and Community Development in Kenya. The composite Mean of 3.53, STD (.519) clearly indicated that on the average the respondents agreed to some extent on how Capacity Building in relation to GRB influenced Gender Equity & Community Development in Kenya. Capacity building is thus, developing and strengthening of the capacity or ability. Capacity building seeks to help improve the organization performance since it's a system-wide and planned effort that is meant to help increase performance thorough planning, and purposeful actions (Nwankwo, Olabisi, & Onwuchekwa, 2017). Abril and Ofusu-Amaah (2009) mentioned that capacity is a main issue in implementation of GRB initiatives in many countries with the capacity gaps identified such as knowledge and expertise of the keys actors in gender and GRB issues, public sector management techniques, and budgeting process. According to Community of Democracies (2023) it is crucial to train all staff working with budgets to enable them understand gender budgeting at every stage of PFM cycle; interrelations between the stages; identification of the level of practice of gender budgeting; and increase budget efficiency. Training and capacity building are necessary for implementation of policy and budget guidance for the civil servants and other key actors. Table 3 below shows the descriptive statistics findings.

Table 3: Capacity Building

Statement	1 %	2 %	3 %	4 %	5 %	Mean	STDEV
The government has developed initiative to ensure there is access to data on gender related issues in Kenya.	23.2	11.2	5.6	27.2	32.8	3.35	1.588
Through the use of information systems, the government has improved on the capacity gaps within the ministries by providing sex-disaggregated data that is needed for Gender Responsive Budgeting analysis.	20.2	3.2	0	57.6	19.2	4.30	1.102
The keys actors have the knowledge and expertise in gender and Gender Responsive Budgeting issues, public sector management techniques, and budgeting process	9.6	11.2	6.4	39.2	33.6	3.92	1.109
Staff working with budgets are trained to enable them understand gender budgeting at every stage of PFM cycle; interrelations between the stages; identification of the level of practice of gender budgeting; and increase budget efficiency	12.8	21.6	16.8	43.2	5.6	3.08	1.119
Training and capacity building are necessary for implementation of policy and budget guidance for the civil servants and other key actors.	3.2	44.8	15.2	32	4.8	2.68	1.326
The government allocates funds for training of staff on Gender Responsive Budgeting.	11.2	23.2	5.6	32.8	27.2	3.48	1.288
The government has leadership capacity building in place to help transformed the management style on gender related issues	5.6	19.2	17.6	57.6	0	4.36	1.001
<i>Composite Mean for Capacity Building</i>						3.53	.519

Respondents (60%) agreed that the government has developed initiative to ensure there is access to data on gender related issues in Kenya ($M = 3.35$, $stdv = 1.588$). Respondents (76.8%) also agreed that through the use of information systems, the government has improved on the capacity gaps within the ministries by providing sex-disaggregated data that is needed for GRB analysis ($M = 4.30$, $stdv = 1.102$). It was agreed by majority of the respondents (72.8%) that the keys actors have the knowledge and expertise in gender and GRB issues, public sector management techniques, and budgeting process ($M = 3.92$, $stdv = 1.109$). On whether Staff working with budgets are trained to enable them understand gender budgeting at every stage of Public Financial Management cycle; interrelations between the stages; identification of the level of practice of gender budgeting; and increase budget efficiency, a majority of 48.8% agreed even though the responses were not

conclusive ($M = 3.08$, $stdv = 1.119$). Majority of the respondents (48%) disagreed on whether Training and capacity building were necessary for implementation of policy and budget guidance for the civil servants and other key actors ($M = 2.68$, $stdv = 1.326$). Majority of the respondents (60%) agreed that the government allocates funds for training of staff on GRB ($M = 3.48$, $stdv = 1.288$). The respondents (57.6%) agreed to a great extent that the government has leadership capacity building in place to help transformed the management style on gender related issues ($M = 4.36$, $stdv = 1.001$)

In your opinion how does Capacity building on GRB influence Gender Equity and Community Development in Kenya?

Respondents opined that inadequate training capacity to carry out GRB in the ministries is a big challenge in implementation of GRB. Women rights organization are aware of the need to deal with problem of social norms, gender division of labour, and women exclusion from politics etc. Through advocacy, women can join together to form groups to work in projects in order to change things in their won. They in turn then educate and support others in doing the same. The women's voices will thus, be heard widely and the results will be bigger changes within the communities and the wider society.

Gender Equity and Community Development

The main objective of the study was to assess the effectiveness of Gender Responsive Budgeting on Gender Equality and Community Development in Kenya. The composite Mean of 3.38, $STD = .515$ clearly indicated that averagely the respondents slightly agreed to on how Stakeholder Engagement in relation to GRB influence Gender Equity & Community Development in Kenya. Despite the existence of the policies, laws, legislative reforms, plans and programmes, gender disparities still exist at legal, social, economic and political levels of participation in decision making, access to and control of resources, opportunities and benefits. According to Community of Democracies (2023) GRB aims at promoting accountability and transparency in the budget process of fiscal planning, management, and gender responsive participation. A gender-responsive budget is a budget that works for everyone by ensuring gender-equitable distribution of resources and contributing to equal opportunities for all.

Budgets are universally accepted as a powerful tool for achieving development objectives and are also good indicator for government commitment to policies set by the government. The government budgetary policy has an important role in achieving the gender equality (SID, 2012). GRB is the antithesis for gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process since the budget is the gateway to resource allocation and also an important determinant for the quality and standards of public policy formulation (OCED, 2016). GRB help promote gender equality and closing of the gender gaps; operationalization of the fiscal policies to promote gender equality; examining of the impact of the government policies on gender for a better decision making. Several factors influence the success of the gender budget outcomes including consistency of reforms, political support, social norms, and cultural attitudes of a nation (Community of Democracies, 2023). Table 4 below presents the findings from the descriptive statistics.

Table 4: Gender Equity and Community Development

Statement	1 %	2 %	3 %	4 %	5 %	Mean	STDEV
The beneficiaries of Gender Responsive budgeting are satisfied with service delivery	3.2	44.8	15.2	32.0	4.8	2.49	1.326
The number of empowerment projects under Gender Responsive budgeting have increased	12.8	16.8	21.6	43.2	5.6	3.08	1.208
There has been an increase in the number of women in position i.e. politically and administratively	15.2	23.2	16.8	22.4	22.4	3.06	1.288
The government has been committed in empowering women and gender related issues by providing resources to the various gender related issues	16.0	21.6	36.0	16.8	9.6	2.82	1.178
Gender related issues have been addressed with urgency and priority.	2.4	16.0	11.2	64.8	5.6	3.42	1.172
Women have been involved in major decision making on the various level i.e. politically, socially and economically.	8.8	34.4	18.4	28.8	9.6	2.96	1.174
The government is working hard to empower women economically, socially and politically.	11.2	23.2	5.6	32.8	27.2	3.35	1.388
Cases of gender related violences have been decreasing due to the government support.	2.4	28.0	19.2	20.0	32.8	4.08	1.217
<i>Composite Mean for Gender Equity & Community Development</i>						3.03	.537

The study found that majority of the respondents (48%) opined that the beneficiaries of Gender Responsive budgeting are not satisfied with service delivery (M = 2.49, stdv = 1.326). However, majority of the respondents (48.8%) agreed that the number of empowerment projects under Gender Responsive budgeting have increased (M = 3.08, stdv = 1.208). Respondents also agreed (44.8%) that there has been an increase in the number of women in position i.e. politically and administratively (M = 3.06, stdv = 1.288). However, respondents could not clearly establish whether the government has been committed in empowering women and gender related issues by providing resources to the various gender related issues, since majority of the respondents were undecided on the issues (M = 2.82, stdv = 1.178). Respondents generally (70.4%) agreed that gender related issues have been addressed with urgency and priority (M = 3.42, stdv = 1.172) though majority disagreed (43.2%) on involvement of women in major decision making on the various level i.e. politically, socially and economically (M = 2.96, stdv = 1.174). The respondents (60%) agreed that the government is working hard to empower women economically, socially and politically (M = 3.35, stdv = 1.388). Finally, respondents (52.8%) agreed that cases of gender related violences have been decreasing due to the government support (M = 4.08, stdv = 1.217).

Inferential Statistics

The study conducted inferential Analysis to determine the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variables.

Correlation Analysis

Resource Mobilization has a significant (sig = .000< .05) positive and very strong correlation (r = .738 < 1) with Gender Equity and Community Development in Kenya. Resource Mobilization also has a direct correlation with Gender Equity & Community Development. Capacity building has a significant (sig = .000< .05) positive and a moderately strong correlation (r = .442 < 1) with Gender Equity and Community Development in Kenya. Capacity Building also has a direct correlation with Gender Equity & Community Development. Table 5 shows the results

Table 5: Correlation Analysis

		Resource Mobilization	Capacity Building
Gender Equity & Community Development	Pearson Correlation	.738*	.442**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000
	N	125	125

Regression Analysis

The study carried out a multiple regression analysis to determine the nature of relationship of the model by predicting the dependent in terms of the independent variables using the following linear regression model. From Table 6 below Resource Mobilization significantly influences Gender Equity & Community Development in Kenya sig (.000< 0.05). This is also supported by the t-statistics where the t-calculated (11.222) >t-critical (±1.979). Resource Mobilization a has direct relationship with Gender Equity & Community Development. An increase in Resource Mobilization by a unit will lead to increase Gender Equity & Community Development by 1.481 of a unit. Resource Mobilization is also highly influence on Gender Equity & community Development. It has a correlation of 1.279 or 127.9% with Gender Equity & community Development in Kenya. Capacity Building significantly influences Gender Equity & Community Development in Kenya sig (.000< 0.05). This is also supported by the t-statistics where the t-calculated (4.025) >t-critical (±1.979). Capacity Building a has direct relationship with Gender Equity & Community Development. An increase in Capacity Building by a unit will lead to increase Gender Equity & Community Development by .395 of a unit. Capacity Building is also had the third highest influence on Gender Equity & community Development. It had a correlation of .381 or 38.1% with Gender Equity & community Development in Kenya.

Table 6: Regression Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.160	.217		.736	.463
Resource Mobilization (RM)	1.481	.132	1.279	11.222	.000
Capacity Building (CB)	.395	.098	.381	4.025	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Gender Equity & Community Development

The model can be fitted as follows:

$$\text{Gender Equity \& CD} = .160 + 1.481 \text{RM} + .395 \text{CB} \dots \dots \dots (\text{iii})$$

CONCLUSION

Resource Mobilization positively and significantly influences Gender Equity & Community Development in Kenya. According to UN (2021) Countries can strengthen how gender analysis helps inform decision budget decision-making through ex-ante and ex-post gender impact assessment. According to UN Women (2016), in Asia-Pacific region, implementation of GRB was found to contribute to increase in quantity and quality of budget allocation for gender equality. Capacity building positively and significantly influences Gender Equity & Community Development in Kenya. The findings are also supported by Memphis University (2024) who found that capacity building has many benefits to community development. Capacity building also helps to come up with a more appropriate community solution.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommends the increase of awareness on GRB among the various individuals outside the donor and activist circles to ensure local resource mobilization help the institutions dealing with gender related issues make a big progress and achieve objectives. The study also recommends for strategic and health communication to expand the initiatives on gender related issues beyond the normal circles but rather engage new allies and supporters.

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