

INFLUENCE OF COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS' PARTICIPATION IN INITIATION PHASE OF MARKET PROJECTS, KABWE URBAN IN ZAMBIA

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DOI Link : <http://doi-ds.org/doi/10.21203/rs.3.rs-6146747/v1>

Abstract

The main purpose of the study was to evaluate the influence of community stakeholders' participation in project Initiation Phase of markets done in Kabwe urban in Zambia. In the study, the researcher adopted the community participation theory for the study. The community stakeholders' participation was an independent variable while the outcome (success/failure) was the dependent variable. Respondents were sampled from Kabwe urban in four (4) communities (Natuseko, Lukanga, Kamuchanga and Katondo). The study consisted of a total sample of 142 respondents. The sample was selected through purposive and simple random methods. Data was collected using questionnaires and interview guides and analysed with the help of Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) and Microsoft Word (MW). The conclusion is that the community stakeholders never participated in initiation phase of market projects in their respective communities. The recommendation is that in order for the market projects to be successful, all the key stakeholders should participate at inception stage so that the foundation can be strong.

Keywords

Community Stakeholders; Market Projects; Project Initiation

INTRODUCTION

Successful project delivery has its foundation on the first stage, the initiation (inception or definition) as it increases holistic project value creation. Market projects are for the benefit of the community members and the government at large (Matyola2013). Whether one works formal or informal employment, they need the markets for them to buy their foods. As the employees buy from markets, they are providing income to those that sell. In other words, markets make most Zambians' lives better which bring about national development. Markets contribute to the national gross domestic growth as this is evidenced with number of people involved in the business (Manju, 2012). It is very difficult to do away with the local markets system especially that most of the Zambians are poor (70% according to Central Statistics Office, 2015). It is out this background that the research decided to carry out an evaluation study in market projects in communities which would help to understand the correlation between community participation to have the required market.

Markets projects support the delivery of key public services, connect citizens and firms to economic opportunities and serve as an important catalyst for economic growth (IMF, 2015). Market projects are in almost every community around the country for the reason of trading and transportation by community members. Many people in communities depend on markets which are in different forms.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Markets projects are desired to be completed within the planned time frame, budgeted cost, the required quality and as per scope. Yet, paradoxically, the poor performance of projects and the disappointment of project stakeholders and beneficiaries seem to have become the rule and not the exception in contemporary reality (Gichoya, 2015). This study addresses the gap on community stakeholders' participation in public projects of market

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY: THE FOLLOWING ARE THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- (1) To identify and analyses strategies of how government authorities engage community stakeholders during market projects at initiation stage.
- (2) To identify the factors that affect community stakeholders' participation in market projects.
- (3) To establish the influence of community stakeholders in initiation of market projects and.
- (4) To determine the relationship that exists between government authorities and the community members in relation to market projects.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

To meet the set out objectives, the study endeavored to answer the following questions:

- (1) How do government authorities engage community stakeholders during market project at initiation stage?
- (2) What factors affect community participation in market projects at initiation stage?
- (3) What influence do community stakeholders have towards undertaking of market projects?
- (4) What working relationship exists between government authorities and community stakeholders?

Significance of the Study: The study was important because it brought out issues that surround market project failures in Kabwe urban which can be applicable to other markets in the province and a country as a whole. The findings in this study may be used by the Government of the Republic of Zambia to find new ways of implementing projects to enable it meet the intended objectives.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

In line with Kothari (2004)'s explanation, this study was guided by Community Participation Theory. Community Participation Theory (sometimes called the Citizen Participation Theory) represents a move from the global top-down strategies that dominated early development initiatives to more locally sensitive methodologies. The researcher adopted the Community Participation Theory as it is much concerned with communities' involvement in the market projects.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This section presents related literature on the subject matter. This was achieved through study of academic books, journals, articles, government documents and the use of the internet.

PROJECT LIFE CYCLE

Meredith, *et al* (2014) defines project life cycle as the four-step process that is followed by nearly all project managers from project initiation through to project completion. Project life cycle provides a framework for managing any type of project within a business and stipulated time. Meredith, *et al* (*ibid*) explains that a standard project typically has the following four major phases (each with its own agenda of tasks and issues): initiation, planning, implementation, and closure, referred to as the "project life cycle."

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN MARKET PROJECTS

Community participation refers to the practice of involving members of the public in the agenda setting, decision making, and policy forming activities of organizations or institutions responsible for policy development (Sam, 2016). Participation is a way to create social capital and mutual trust in society, which in turn provides a societal or community framework for realizing peoples' capabilities. Consequently the society becomes dynamic and government structures do not stand alone in the protection and realization of rights (Rondinelli, 2016).

LOCAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN COUNCILS

The credibility of Councils stems from the fact that these are body corporate entities created by an act of parliament, legally established as agents of the central government in the promotion of social, political and economic development to the lowest stage (Kabwe Municipal Council, 2018). Councils operate a representative local governance system to elect a Council that has powers to make policies at local stage.– Ensure bottom-up decision making, citizens are involved in decision making by electing their area representatives who petition for their needs in the local council chambers and area based interest groups are involved in community development (Kabwe Municipal Council, 2018). This, thus enhances the principle of self-governance through citizens participation in the decision making process (Kabwe Municipal Council, 2018).

MARKET ACT, NUMBER 290

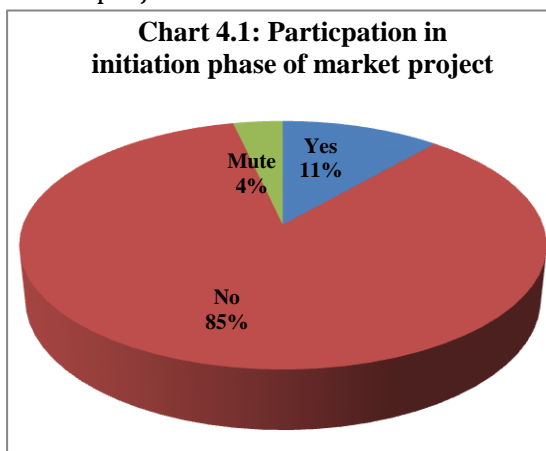
Market Act of the laws of Zambia is to provide for the establishment and regulation of markets; to provide for the establishment of management boards for markets. In some sections of part Four (4) on the Establishment of markets by the local authority, the Act stipulates as follows, the local Authority is given mandate to work with other government institutions, community leadership and other stakeholders when carrying out projects for smooth running of the cause (Market and bus station Act of 2007).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

All the respondents were sampled from Kabwe urban in four (4) communities namely; Natuseko, Lukanga, Kamuchanga and Katondo. The researcher used mixed research (quantitative and qualitative) method of data collection and analysis as elaborated by Creswell (2012). The study targeted a total sample of 142 respondents distributed as follows: Community members=140; mayor = 1 and Town = 1. The data was collected using questionnaires from Mayor and Town Clerk, and interview guides was used to collect data from Community Members. The researcher analyzed the data in this report with help of Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) and Microsoft Word (MW).

RESEARCH FINDINGS

This section presents the findings of the researcher from the community members and Kabwe municipal council on the influence of community stakeholders’ participation in initiation phase of market projects in Kabwe urban.



COMMUNITY MEMBERS

This subtitle presents data findings from the community stakeholders from purposively sampled community areas in Kabwe urban in relation the subject under study.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE INITIATION PHASE OF MARKET PROJECT

The respondents had different responses as to whether they participated in initiation stage of market projects (see chart 4.1 below).

Source: Researcher’s design (2020)

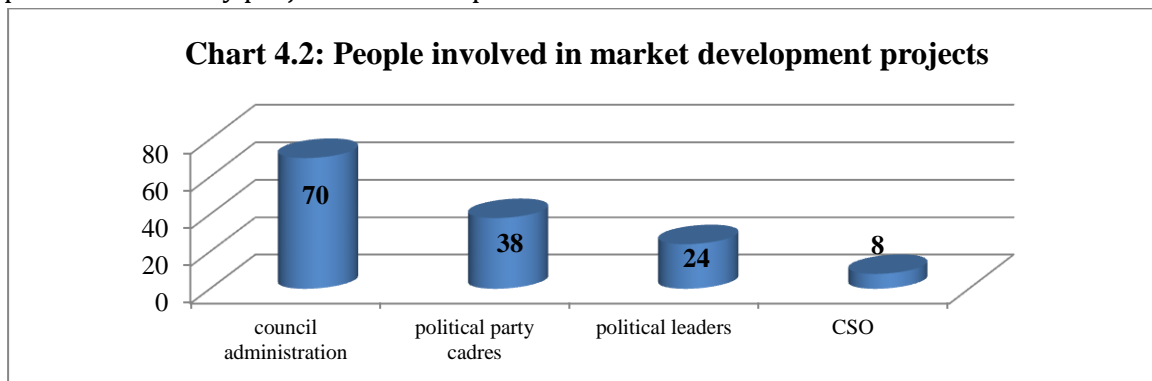
As indicated in chart 4.1 above, 85% (119) respondents said that they never participated, 11% (16) participated in project initiation phase while 4% (5) never responded to the researcher.

ROLES PLAYED BY THOSE THAT PARTICIPATE IN INITIATION PHASE

A summary of their responses were that they participated in the last two phases (execution- 15 and closure -21) of market projects and at after completion (104 respondents); most community members only participated in trading in such markets. The researcher further found out that many of those who participated were in ruling political party leadership positions in their respective communities. Those who never participated (119 of 140) in initial stage informed the researcher that it was the work of the Council and not community members. Some of them said that they never engaged by the Council in market project. Others said they were not interested in any market projects and while few others said they were not sure. It was further found out that they. This led to some markets being abandoned as there were no marketers to trade in them.

PEOPLE INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY MARKET PROJECTS AS PERCEIVED BY THE RESPONDENTS

Community members were asked to identify those they perceived to be the ones seen to be taking part in community projects. Their responses are summarized in Chart 4.2 below.



Source: Researcher's design (2020)

IMPORTANCE OF INVOLVING COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN INITIAL STAGE OF MARKET PROJECTS

When asked why the respondents thought they were important in initiation (foundation) stage of market projects, they had different responses and Table 4.04 below illustrates. The respondents were given to state at least three reasons why they felt that community stakeholders were important in the first phase of the market project.

Table 4.01: Important of involving the community stakeholders in the initial stage

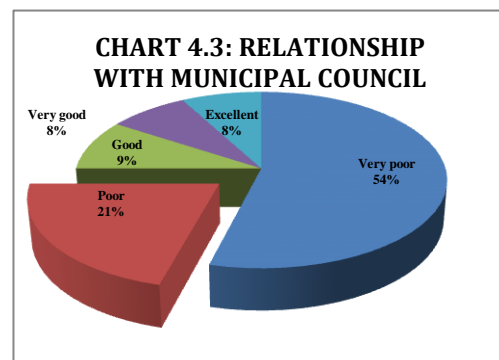
Reason	Number
Market projects are meant for community members	137
Community members have the power to reject or accept a market	126
Council is meant to work for the community members	113
Community members can decide what is best for them	97
Communities can only develop if the residents participate from the inception	59

Source: Researcher's design (2020)

COMMUNITY MEMBERS' RELATIONSHIP WITH KABWE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

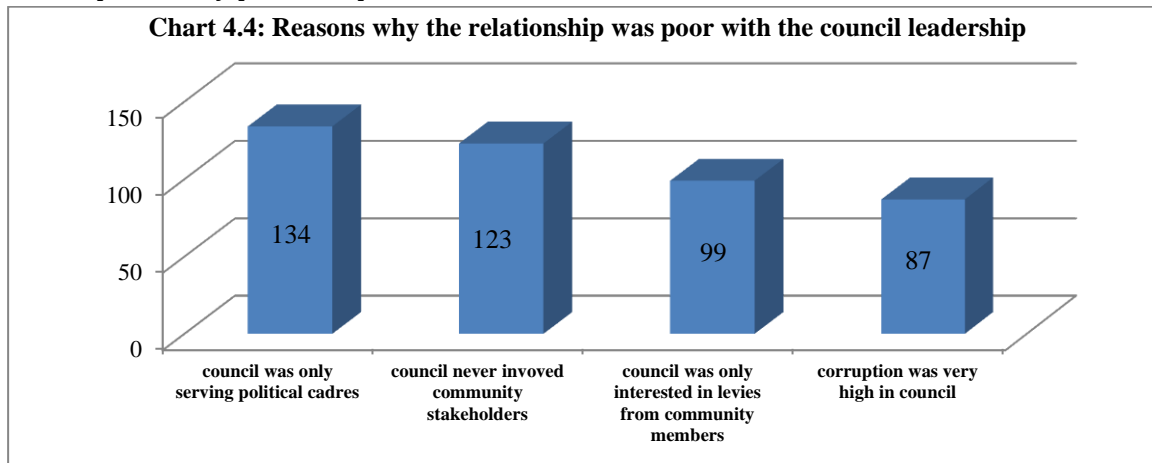
When the respondents were asked to state how their relationship was with the council, they gave different responses. Chart 4.3 below illustrates community stakeholders' responses.

Source: Researcher's design (2020)



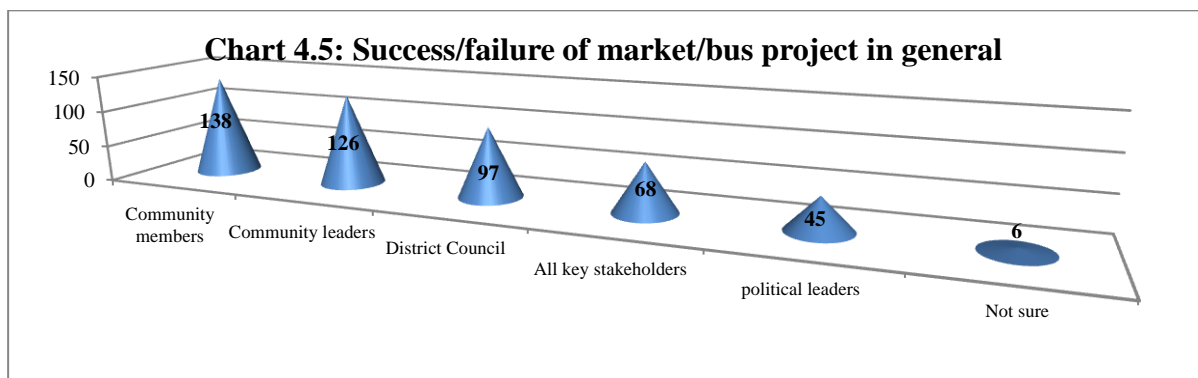
REASONS WHY THE RELATIONSHIP WAS LIKE THAT WITH THE COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

The respondents were asked further to explain their responses. Those that had said that the relationship was very poor and poor had their reasons recorded as shown in Chart 4.4 below.



Source: Researcher's design (2019)

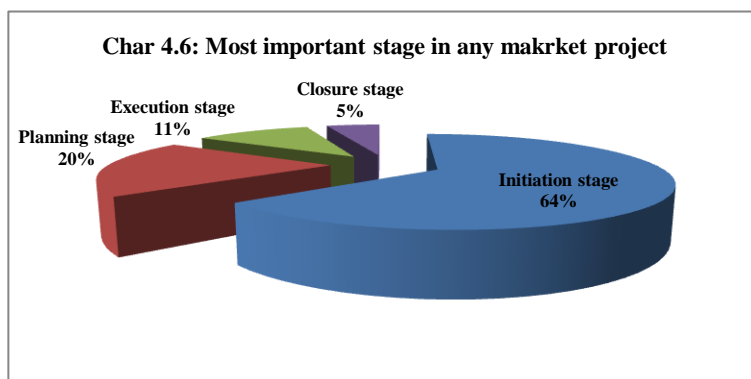
4.1.7 Success/failure of the market project in general: According to the respondents, the success of a market project depended upon the many factors. Char 4.5 below illustrates the responses.



Source: Researcher's design (2020)

MOST IMPORTANT STAGE IN ANY MARKET PROJECT

The respondents were asked to state the stage which they perceived to be important for the market to be a success. Chart 4.6 below illustrates the responses.



Source: Researcher's design (2020)

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (MAYOR'S AND TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE)

The respondents informed the researcher that the stakeholders involved include, among others, political leaders (members of parliament), councilors, district commissioner, the district project committees, the community

committees, the ward committees, the community leaders and the community members during the first stage of market project. It was evidenced that; the council and district administration involved different stakeholders at different community projects.

RESEARCH DISCUSSIONS

The results showed that there was participation in market projects but only at 40.2 %. This was weak positive correlation of the outcome of the results. The researcher found out that the community stakeholders had no influence at inception stage as they were not involved. The study reviewed that the relationship that existed among government authorities and community stakeholders towards market projects was weak in that community stakeholders were not aware of how the market and projects being carried out in their communities and they never knew the costs of those projects. This weak relationship among local government authorities and community stakeholders affected the outcome of market projects in Kabwe urban.

CONCLUSION

The researcher concludes that the community stakeholders had little to contribute towards market projects in their respective communities. There was a gap that existed between community stakeholders and local government authorities which affected the outcome of market projects in Kabwe urban. The gap that existed needed to be bridged so that the outcome of the market projects can be positive for the purpose of meeting the set objectives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

From the conclusion given above, the researcher recommends that: In order for the market projects to be successful in Kabwe urban, all the key stakeholders should participate from inception of projects. The council should avoid imposing projects on the community members but instead seek dialogue with all concerned parties and involve them at the required time. There shouldn't be issues to do with who belongs to which political party but there should be togetherness in fulfilling the goal of enhancing development where market projects are concerned.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To Ministry of Local Government and Housing for helping with the data provision and other ministries that were there providing me with information that I needed during the time of study.

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