

**THE ROLE OF CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND ON WOMEN  
EMPOWERMENT. A CASE OF MATHIRA CONSTITUENCY,  
NYERI NORTH DISTRICT - KENYA.**

**BY**

**GEORGE KIMU NYAMU  
MADAM/13073/61/DF**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POST GRADUATE STUDIES IN  
PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD  
OF MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT  
ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF  
KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

**2007**

## DECLARATION

I here by declare that this work is a result of my own effort and have never been submitted for any award in any other university or institution of higher learning.

Signed

  
NYAMU KIMU GEORGE

Date

30/10/2007

## APPROVAL

This work has been done under my supervision as a university supervisor, and submitted with my approval.

Signed:   
EDAKU CHARLES

Date: 31-10-2007

## DEDICATION

This work of research is dedicated to my parents, brothers and sisters and in-laws.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A large number of people assisted in making the completion of this work possible. I cannot name each one individually but I feel greatly indebted to them.. I am however pleased to acknowledge the encouragement and assistance that I have received from the ministry of Gender, sports, culture and social services (Kenya). Special thanks go to the Deputy Director, Department of Gender, Mr. Justus Mutie and the Department of Gender Librarian Madam Mary L. who assisted in accessing useful information for this research work.

I also wish to acknowledge the support received from officials of Mathira CDF committee, District Officer Mathira, Nyeri District Development Office, Maendeleo ya wanawake Mathira office,, Divisional Educational office and the community members of Mathira constituency.

Special thanks goes to the Director of the School of Post graduates studies and his entire staff of Kampala International University for their enormous support. My sincere gratitude also goes to my supervisor Mr. C. Edaku who in his resourceful ideas and rich experience guided me at the time of drafting and compiling the final results of this research work.

Madam Sophie and Faith's contribution in the arduous typesetting of this work within a very limited time is greatly appreciated.

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## ACRONYMS

<b>WE</b>	Women Empowerment
<b>UN</b>	United Nation
<b>UNIFEM</b>	United Nations Development Funds for Women.
<b>NGOs</b>	Non Governmental Organizations
<b>FWPR</b>	Female Workforce Participation Rate
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of all forms Discrimination against Women
<b>NFLS</b>	Nairobi forward Looking Strategies
<b>BPFA</b>	Beijing Platform for Action
<b>ICPD</b>	International Conference on Population and Development
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>ERS</b>	Economy Recovery Strategy
<b>CDF</b>	Constituency Development Fund
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Program
<b>FAO</b>	Food Agriculture Organization
<b>ICRC</b>	International Community of Red Cross
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>CBO</b>	Community Based Organization
<b>CDC</b>	Constituency Development Committee
<b>MP</b>	Member of Parliament
<b>GRB</b>	Gender responsive budgeting
<b>SID</b>	Society for International Development
<b>IT</b>	Information Technology
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	Human Immuno- Deficiency Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
<b>DPC</b>	District Project Committee
<b>NCGD</b>	National Commission on Gender and Development
<b>LDC</b>	Location Development Committee
<b>IAE</b>	Institute of Economic Affair
<b>FGD</b>	Focus Group Discussion
<b>LATF</b>	Local Authority Transfer Fund

<b>NMC</b>	National Management Committee
<b>KCSE</b>	Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education
<b>MGSCSS</b>	Ministry of Gender, Sport, Culture and Social Services
<b>NEPAD</b>	New Partnership for Africa's Development.

## ABSTRACT

This study is an evaluation on the role of CDF on women empowerment. Despite the government intervention by empowering of the community through CDF initiatives the wide gap between economic participation and political social power exist. Women involvement in key decision in the development process is not consummated with their level of contribution. They are therefore persisted trends and patterns of poverty level among the women irrespective of government intervention through empowerment of rural community. Several Journals, books, articles and literatures written by scholars and international financial organization were reviewed. The literature was reviewed on women empowerment in three items; contribution of development processes challenges and strategies of women empowerment. A case study was used to narrate the situation by intensively investigate the CDF structure. Several method of data collection were employed, interviewed and focus group discussion, questionnaire observation and documentary analysis into three items, contributions, challenges and strategies.

The outcome of findings confirmed minimal benefit and less opportunity and women, the low contribution of CDF initiatives to the women's empowerment in terms of participation where men dominate. The most challenging factors were fund insensitive systems, traditional and cultural values and social economic and political dependency of women the most strategic approach on welfare of women was found to be enhancing strategic gender.

The study therefore recommended for project free women workload and special programs on women, affirmative action and women will work plus ensure access to relevant of information on CDF communities. All in all special programs which are genders responsive would boost women's negotiation capacities as well as their skills and confidence. Such efforts also increase overall productivity for the community there by maximizing the role of CDF on empowerment of women.

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Women are globally more in number than men. Women have gender role and responsibilities in society put on them which denies them opportunity to participate in development process. The struggle of women empowerment has been there in time of memorial but it was geared up after First World War. In many societies of developing countries, women carry the burden on –farm labour and on farm transport. They arrange for household energy (mostly firewood) and water. During periods of hunger, women know which plants can provide emergency meals to keep their families alive. Beyond the provision of livelihoods for local communities. In the areas of family health growing stable crops, conflict management and bio- diversity conservation. Women have also found local answers to broader issues such as trade, tourism, education, health and employment (World Bank, 2004).

Despite the essential contribution to the lives of their families and communities women still face many constraints in exercising more influence over their living conditions. These constraints include an excessive workload, the difficulties of accessing or controlling the key factors of production, and lack of training opportunities and appropriate information, extension and advisory services (Mamplala, 2004)

Since mid seventies series of international conferences celebrating the UN decade for women have been organized. This also followed a number of achievements in empowerment of women. For instance since 1976 when the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) was formed and it has pioneered in the defence of women's rights and the promotion of their empowerment.

In Kenya the policy framework of the national policy on gender and development recognized Kenya's commitment to the advancement of women as reflected in her signing and ratification conventions. These include CEDAW, NFLS, BFPA, MDGs and ICPD among others. For instance gender budgets analyses on how women and men face differently under revenue and expenditure in order to redress equities has been some how addressed. Kenya has eased tax policies to aid women access to essential commodities such as sanitary towels on trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women in Kenya the trust fund helped to create new rites of passage as an alternative to female genital mutilation.

The broad thrust of Kenya's macro economic framework is to maintain economic stability but within the context of structures reforms that will lead to wealth and employment creation aimed at poverty reduction. The approach that has been adopted is one of revamping growth, raising productivity, facilitating private investment and alleviating unemployment while simultaneously addressing the social economic agenda and equity concern. The economic recovery strategy (ERS) recognizes that women and men have different needs constraints, options, incentives and expectations regarding the outcomes and impacts of macro economic management. (M.G.S.C.S.E,2005).

The Kenya government aims at transforming the social cultural background of the society as well as the decision making and resource allocation mechanisms and channeling the dynamics thereby realized in directions that will give rise to the most widespread development like the constituencies development fund (CDF) initiative.

The constituency development fund (CDF) it is a specific proportion of annual government ordinary revenue devoted to the constituencies for development and in particular poverty eradication at the grassroots. CDF development model has also been established in other countries such as the Solomon Islands (Rural constituency development fund) and India Member of Parliament constituency development fund.

## **1.1 Constituency development Fund (CDF)**

### ***“Maendeleo kwa wote”***

CDF was established in 2003 by an Act of parliament, remit 2.5% of the annual government ordinary revenue to the 210 constituencies in the republic mainly to support development projects to fight poverty at the constituency level. These may include setting up constituency office, education bursaries (though expenditure here is limited to 10% of the allocation) and projects initiated by the community. Constituencies may also spend up to 50% of their allocation on one sector each year.

#### **1.1.1 Composition of the Management Committee**

The constituency Development Committee (CDC) has a maximum of 15 members. The MP is the chair, 2 councilors, 1 D.O, 2 religious representatives, 2 male representatives, 2 women representative, 1 youth representative and 1 nominee from an active NGO in the constituency. The members of the CDC other than members of parliament, councilors and ex officio members shall hold office for a period not exceeding two years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for one further term of two years. In nomination members of the constituency Development Committee the elected members of parliament shall have regard a(a) the honesty and integrity of person's nominated (b) The ability of the person nominated to read and write (c) the Knowledge and experience of persons nominated and (d) the importance of representing the political, gender and ethnic diversity of the CDC. Its first meeting is covered by the MP and it subsequently meets monthly. Membership to this committee is by nomination of the MP and names are then forwarded to the national committee for approval.

The District projects committee (DPC) comprises a MPs in the district, chairpersons or mayors of local authorities, the DC, the DDO, the chairperson of the CDC, the district accountant. The DPC ensures there is no duplication and that projects benefit a wider area. It meets at least once every 3 months.

The selected committee of parliament oversees constituency proposals and implementation, propose amendments to the Act. The national CDF committee ensures allocation and disbursement is prudent and compiles records from constituency then submits these to parliament.

### **1.1.2 Disbursement and implementation**

Disbursement is approved by the national committee and made through the constituency bank account. The signatories to this account 2 nominees of the district projects committee, one of them must be the District Accountant the treasurer of the constituency development committee and the secretary to the constituency, and they must sign every cheque.

Once every 2 years, the MP shall convene development meetings in every location to come up with priority projects to be submitted to the committees. The CDC shall then prioritize the proposal from locations in consultation with government departments then submit the final ranking to national committee. Implementation is done by the relevant government department in the district or by the department indicated in the budget. All procurement is subject to government regulations by being tabled before the district planning committee. This also means that if a member of the district project committee or the constituency committee has a personal interest to the committee. The DDC shall keep records of all the receipts and disbursements on a monthly basis and submit these to the national committee.

Once funds have been allocated to a project, they may not be re allocated. Running cost may not exceed 3% of the total allocation. The fund shall not be used for personal awards, or support political bodies or religious bodies. All payment to the account shall be minuted by the CDC as a resolution. The emergency allocation is not paid out to the constituency but may be requested for in event of an emergency.

In financial years 2003/2004 and 2004/2005. The three major sectors benefited from CDF funding includes; education, health and water with education receiving the Lion's share. Similarly small projects involving roads reconstruction and rural electrification have also received a fair amount finding. These sectors are critical in addressing Economic Recovery Strategies (ERS) objectives and attaining the Million Development Goals (MDGs).

In Kenya, over 80% of women live in the rural areas where the majorities are engaged in the farming of food and cash crops, livestock keeping and in agro-based income generating activities. Absolute poverty increased from 44% to 52% between 1994 and 1997. The incidences of poverty in rural areas increased from 47% to 53% while urban poverty increased from 29% to 49% during the same period. The burden of poverty falls disproportionately on women. Female members of poor households are often worse off than males because of gender based differences in distribution of resources within the households. By 1998, the number of female headed households has grown to 32% out of which 80% fell below poverty line. These trends and patterns are increasing with women being disproportionately represented among the nations poor.

The government undertakes community mobilization with a view to securing participation of women and men: Girls and boys in poverty eradication plans and programmes. For instance in the year 2003 introduction of constituency development funds to ensure equitable distribution of resources across a country's regions in an attempt to alleviate poverty and for sustainable livelihoods.

## **1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Despite the government intervention through CDF projects towards community driven development, there is a wide gap between women's economic participation and their political social power. Women constitute 51% of the population of the country and in Nyeri North district and contribute 60-80% of the total agricultural labor. Women involvement in key decisions in the development process is not concomitant with their level of contribution. There are therefore persistent trends and patterns of poverty level among the women irrespective of government intervention through empowerment of rural community.

### **1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

#### **1.3.1 Purpose of the study**

The main purpose of this research was to evaluate the Role of Constituency Development Fund (CDF) on women's empowerment, a case of Mathira constituency, Nyeri North District- Kenya.

#### **1.3.2 Specific Objectives**

The study specifically sought to:-

1. Assess the contribution made by CDF in promoting women's welfare in Mathira Constituency.
2. Explore the challenges facing the CDF committees in enhancing women's welfare.
3. Examine the strategies, put in place by the CDF committees to overcome the problems faced in promoting women's welfare in the constituency.

#### **1.3.3 Research Questions**

1. What is the contribution made by CDF in promoting women's welfare?
2. What are the challenges facing CDF initiatives in enhancing women's Conditions?
3. What strategies have the CDF committees put in place to overcome the problems faced in their attempt to empower women in Mathira constituency?

### **1.4 SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The researcher restricted himself only to the Mathira Constituency Development Fund for a period of three years (2004 – 2007) as one of the criterion that is used in the work of evaluation. The focus was on the contribution, challenges and the strategies attributed to CDF initiatives in promoting women's welfare.

## **1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

1. It is hoped that the results of this study through a bottom up approach would be used by the government with more emphasis on active participation of women in rural development projects. The result of this study will inform as to whether Constituency Development Funds Projects has any impact in the empowering women.
2. It is expected that the results of this study would improve the overall performance of CDF activities by offering relevant information to enlighten CDF officials and constituents especially women.
3. The research shall contribute immensely towards importance of active involvement of women in designing, implementing and evaluating rural development projects and in decision making on CDF activities.
4. The study would articulate the challenges that perpetuated gender inequality and disempowering women.
5. These findings in terms of the utilization of the CDF, the distribution of benefits and the factors that have defined it would provide impetus for further studies on how public resources can be harnessed for the empowerment of women. However, researchers who may wish to study about rural women and CDF projects in Kenya would find the results of this research to be of invaluable use.

## **1.6 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

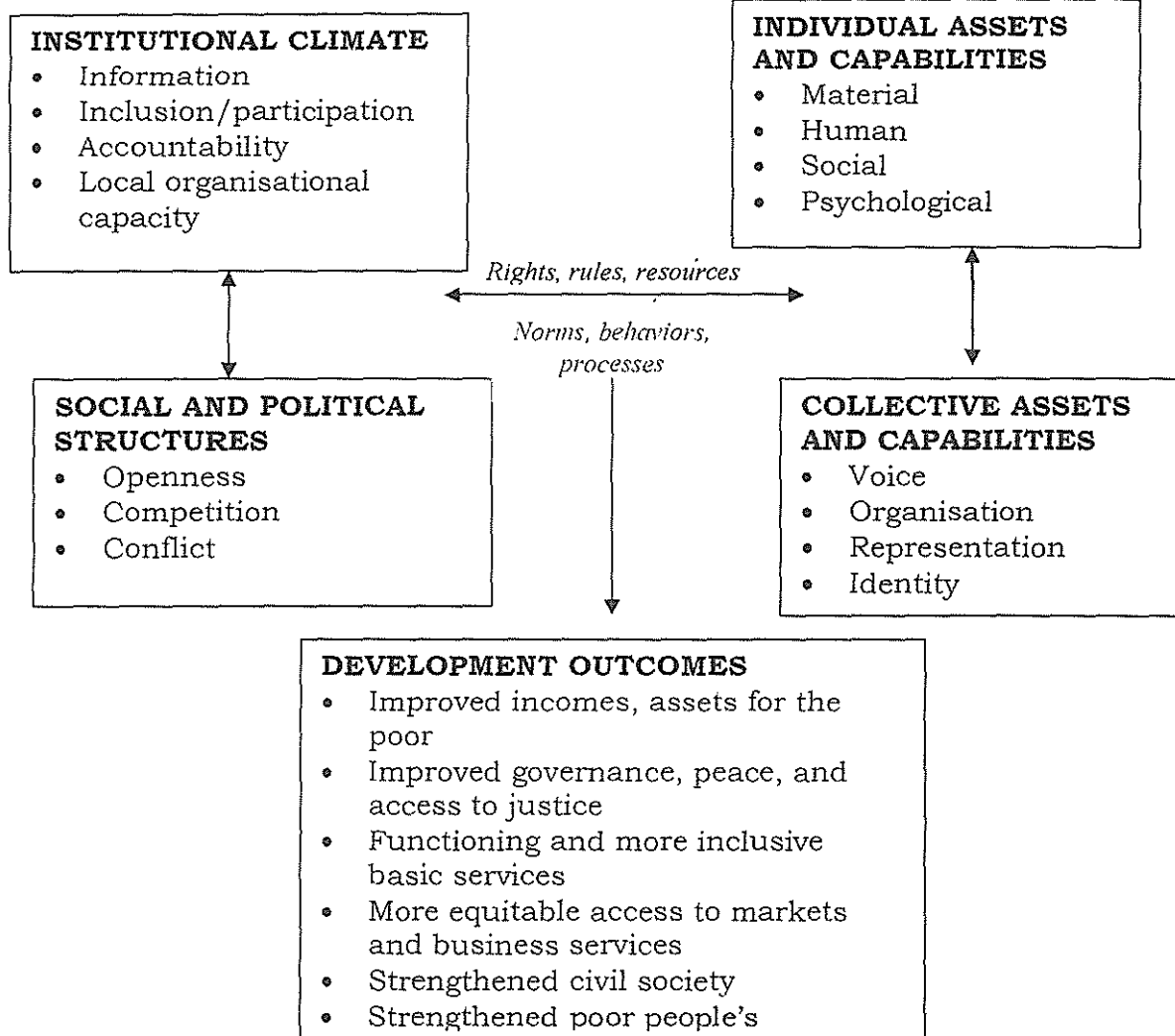
This study was based on the concept of empowerment approach focusing on increasing women's control over the choices in their lives. It seeks to increase their self reliance and self confidence so they will become more active players in society. Through increased control over crucial materials and non-material resources, women are then expected to take steps to influence the direction of social and economic change.

Empowerment refers broadly to the expansion of freedom of choice and action to shape one's life. It implies control over resources and decisions for poor

people, that random is severely curtailed by their powerlessness in relation to a range of institutions, both formal and informal (Marayan 2005)

### **Opportunity structure**

### **Agency of the poor**



Four aspects of this conceptual frame work are worth highlighting. First, empowerment is fundamentally a relation concept, emerging out of the interaction between poor people and their environment. This takes place through the rights, rules, resources and incentives as well as the norms, behaviors, and processes governing the interaction between poor people and more powerful actors. The relationship plays out at multiple levels, from the global down to he state, community and household levels, and in different arenas (state, civil society, and market).

Second, poor people's assets and capabilities are usually conceptualized as individual attributes. However, poor people's collective capabilities and organisations are often critical in helping them break through constraints of powerlessness and 'voicelessness'.

Third, empowerment of poor people on a large scale requires both top down changes in institutions and organisational processes and bottom up changes in poor people's organisational and network and in their individual assets. Fourth, the intervention of entry points varies depending on the nature of the constraints and barriers, on what is feasible, and on the development outcomes desired. The appropriate intervention points will also change over time.

Investment in poor people's assets and capabilities on a large scale requires changes in the opportunity structure within which poor people pursue their interest. This involves the removal of formal and informal institutional barriers that prevent the poor from taking effective action to improve their well being – individually or collectively and that limit their choices. It also implies the need for changes in social and political structures that perpetuate unequal power relations.

The institutional climate creates incentives for action or inaction. Key formal institutions include the laws, rules, regulations and implementation processes upheld by states, market, civil society and international agencies. Informal institutions include norms of social solidarity, superiority, social exclusion, helplessness and corruption that can subvert formal rules.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter reviews various contributions and modalities by scholars, international financiers and independent organisations advocating diverse views to the concept of women empowerment through participatory rural development for the purpose of poverty reduction.

#### 2.1 POVERTY VERSUS DEVELOPMENT

Yunus, (2003) believes that each country has its own definitions of poverty (25 acres of land can make you poor in a desert country, but rich in a fertile country). Without firm demarcation lines, anyone trying to alleviate the worst poverty can easily slip from the poverty zone into the non-poverty zone without realizing it. Wherever a poverty alleviation programme allows the non-poor to be co-passengers, Yunus says, the poor will soon be allowed out by the better off. In the name of the poor, the non poor will reap the benefits.

The problems of the rural poor, in the final instance, cannot be solved by anyone but themselves and all solidarity efforts must be aimed at strengthening their own capacity for independent action (Selhi, 1983). To Yunus changing the quality of life of the bottom 25 % of the population is the essence of economic development. Economic growth and development are not synonymous. It is sometimes suggested that the different strata, of society are linked together like railway carriages and that all that is needed is a locomotive to pull them forward. Yunus acknowledges that without growth nothing moves forward. But he says in human society each economic group has its won engine. As Yunus Nobel Prize citation says, lasting peace cannot be achieved unless large population finds ways in which to break out of poverty. Humans are not born to suffer the misery of hunger and poverty.

Friedmann (2006) believes that the people in this "unflat" world will never get into a vicious cycle until there is a real humanitarian push by "flat" world businesses, Philanthropies and governments to devote more resources to their problems. "The only way out is through new ways of collaboration between the "flat" and "unflat" parts of the world." He quotes Bill Gates.

About 3 billion people are caught in trap of vicious cycle. Poverty and ill health prevent the poor from getting even on the first rung of the ladder toward becoming part of the flat world. The "flat" world should help, not by clarity, but by the enabling the poverty stricken people to cooperate in their own liberation and becoming involved in the new economy of the flat world. It will be in the flat worlds own interests to do so, if it is to avoid a threat to what it has achieved.

According to Burkey (1993), one of the major causes of poverty is the economic and mortal dependence of the poor on others who are more wealth and more powerful are able to play the poor off against each other. The poor family feels isolated and important.

Wignaraja (1984) has it that, it is difficult for the poor to break away from the vicious cycle of dependence and poverty individually. It is only through collective effort and organisation that they can reduce dependence and initiate a course of participatory, self-reliant development. Thus participation implies mobilization, conscientization and organisation in that order. Poor people knew they are poor, sick among others, but often do not want to confront the situation. Many of them think the problems they face are their individual problems and they can do nothing to change the situation. By getting the people to look at their problems collectively we help them see the commonality of their problems and to understand the structures which are oppressing them. Khushi Kabiro, Nijere Kori worker, Bangladesh. in (Burkey 1993). But it should be realized that if you have big and small fish together in pond the big fish will not let the small get any feed if you want the small fish to develop, you have to take out the big fish from the pond. (Bhasin 1979). Development is the increase of capacity and capability of individual to make use of the available resources to improve one's life.

Women who comprise more than 50% of total population for a long time lagged behind their men. It has therefore all along been necessary to uplift them to level of the positions of men. This would be so through special attentions to their needs and interests.

According to Kafeero(2007) lecture's notes an ethically based development should be pro-life, pro-people by and through democracy; it should be by priorities by conscienslisation and awareness, based on justice and relevant to people's world's view. Development goals are, freedom, self esteem and life sustenance. Mawa (2002) quoted the declaration on the right to development (Article 1, 1) of 1986 in defining development as an inalienable human right by virtue of which every person and all person and all people's are entitled to participate, in contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized. Mawa stress that for free, active and meaningful participation and fair distribution of the benefit some of the basic principles, dimension and issues of development includes; human-centered development, participation, democracy, self determination, international cooperation, social justice and integral development. Mawa added that a right based approach development advocate for human rights as goal and objective of project, emphasize on accountability, empowerment, participation and non discriminative.

If the people themselves are to participate in formulating projects then organisation of the people will have to precede formulation of projects. Such as a health clinic, water system, among others. But by getting to know the people, establishing good rapport with them, analyzing with them their situation and problems and discussing what needs to be done and how our efforts should be to help people from their own organisation and obtain necessary knowledge and skill to initiate a process of development Projects should mean towards people's development and strengthening of people's organisation and not ends in themselves, Bhasin (1982, in Burkey).

## **2.2 Women Status on development matters.**

Women are never simply women; they are daughters, widows, married mothers of small children, unwed mothers, wives of migrant labourers, mothers in law, the authority, autonomy, responsibility, obligations and work load they have in the family vary accordingly. And so does their ability to participate in a project have affected women's role in the family.

UNDP quoted Sen, freedom is both the end goal of development and the chief means for achieving it. If development progress is best measured by how well the freedoms of people have been enhanced, then gender-disaggregated statistics show how very far we have to go;

- Of the world's one billion poorest people, three-fifths are women and girls.
- Of the 960 million adults in the world who cannot read, two-thirds are women.
- Seventy percent of the 130 million children who are out of school are girls.
- With notable exceptions, such as Rwanda and the Nordic countries, women are conspicuously absent from parliaments, making up, on average, only 16 percent of parliamentarians worldwide.
- Women everywhere typically earn less than men, both because they are concentrated in low-paying jobs and because they earn less for the same work.
- Although women spend about 70 percent of their unpaid time caring for family members, that contrib 12 to the global economy remains invisible.
- Up to half of all adult women have experienced violence at the hands of their intimate partners.
- Systematic sexual violence against women has characterized almost all recent armed conflicts and is used as a tool of terror and 'ethnic cleansing'.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, 57 percent of those living with HIV are women, and young women aged 15-24 are at least three times more likely to be infected than men of the same age.

- Each year, half a million women die and 18 million more suffer chronic disability from preventable complications of pregnancy and childbirth.

For a meaningful participation of women in the development process, all the above mentioned inequalities need to be fully addressed.

Yunus advocates that economic development and reduction of poverty should start with women and why Grameen has come to focus almost exclusively on lending to women and which inevitably produced opposition from husbands, money lenders and civil servants. It is the same in other lesser developed countries. In most development planning women are seldom reckoned as an economic force. Giving women access to credit in Bangladesh is tantamount to a social revolution.

Women are more open to change than men. Women instinctively listen to the opinions of others as this has been part of their upbringing. When women are convinced of the need for change, they will fight far more courageously for it than men. Aruna Roy, social work and research center, India (In Burkey, 1993).

Yunus found that credit given to women brings about changes faster than when given to men. Women experience hunger and poverty more intensely than men as the unwritten rule is that one family member has to starve, it has to be the mother. Being poor are tough in Bangladesh, but a being a poor woman is toughest of all. Women give top priority to the family. Money going through a woman is more likely to bring benefit to the family as a whole than through man whose priorities are different. Theodore on accepting the (1979) Nobel Prize in economics, stated, we have learned that poor people are no less concerned in improving their lot and that of their children than those of us who have incomparably greater advantages. Nor are they any less competent in obtaining the maximum benefit from their limited resources. The majority of the women in the third world belong to this category of poor people they have the right to expect that development aid will also improve their competence to improve their lot.

Rural development strategies can realize full potential only through the motivation active involvement and organisation at grassroots level of rural people with special emphasis on the least advantaged in conceptualizing and designing policies and programmes and in creating administrative, social and economic institutions including cooperative and other voluntary forms of organisation for implementing and evaluating them. Peasant's Charter FAO.

According to Burkey, (1993) participation of the rural poor in their own development has been measured as a key factor in the success of projects. Participation is an essential part of human growth that is the development of self- confidence, pride, initiative, creativity, responsibility and cooperation. Without such a development within the people themselves all efforts to alleviate their poverty will be immensely more difficult, if not impossible. Unfortunately participation in project design and decision, making is limited with poor of poorest community. In nearly every single rural community females are in a majority, especially among the adult. They are responsible for well over 50% of all productive activities, even if those households where men are present. Any rural development programme that does not include the active participation of woman will be a programme benefiting primarily a privileged minority; men. However in addition to women's key role in rural economies, there are other characteristics of rural women which make them better suited as recipients of development assistance.

Even today, the target groups for development projects are often identified as genderless categories. According to (Ostergaard, 1992) is an implicit assumption that the effects of development projects are projects are potentially benefit to both men and women in reality quite often the advantages of development to go to the men in the form of increased earnings or labour saving techniques and the disadvantages go to the women in the form of an increased and unremunerated work load. Planners must realize that development goals will only be reached by securing the active involvement of women as well as men, and by bringing women into the mainstreams of economic development so that each gender plays its own important role in the process.

There is need therefore to change attitudes towards women and their various roles in national development. This attitude should also change at the individual, local and national levels in order to adequately reward women and encourage them to improve on their quality of participation.

### **2.3 REALITY IN AFRICA**

According to (Ostergaard, 1992) in developing countries women are poorly represented in district development committees and other local planning bodies. Women roles in their community are characterized by the separation of males and female spheres and activities and by women's lack of access to the political arenas in which decisions about development are made. Women needs and wishes are not communicated to the relevant organs of local governments and administration. Information about development programme opportunities and procedures is not disseminated in ways which makes it available to women.

Development planning, whether national or international has traditionally been gender neutral or even gender blind. This was partly because until recently we lacked information about women and their contribution to their religions and because aid organisations were administered with very little insight into gender roles.

As a result there was a tendency to marginalize of women. The development planners have often seen them only as passive beneficiaries of social and health services, women's active and productive roles in their society were not recognized and not included explicitly in development planning. (Ostergaard, 1992)

Despite worldwide evidence of the low levels of female participation in social educational, economic & political spheres, there still tendency to see it as a real problem. Only in developing countries especially Africa, yet gender disparities exist even in countries without a living male – denomination; and measuring these disparities is a necessary steep towards implementing corrective policies.

## 2.4 WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment of women is a process through which men, women, boys and girls acquire knowledge, skills and willingness to critically analyze the situation and take appropriate action to change the status quo of women and other marginalized groups in society. The empowerment of women concerns women gaining power and control over their own lives. It involves, awareness raising, building self confidence, expansion choices, increased access, control over resources and actions

According to Anderson (1992). The empowerment approach recognizes the triple role of women. It champions the use of a bottom-up approach to raise women's consciousness so they can challenge their status in society. It works on practical gender needs to build a support base in order to address strategic gender needs. This approach advocates that development necessarily helps all people and women want to be integrated into the mainstream of western designed development.

But according to Rowlands (1997) any organization working towards women's empowerment should use their own power deliberately and thoughtfully in ways which actively encourage empowerment, knowing that this process may take sometime, that cannot control the process; and that in some cases it may mean, they themselves as well as men within the society, having less of some forms of power. They must remain fully aware of and be flexible to the changes in social relationships which empowerment brings about.

The participatory development is a process and it takes time. Leger in Burkey (1997) quoted that the tree is not uprooted with the first gust of wind. Persistence is needed for everything. Everything takes time..Bhasim (1976) said if you try to pluck away all of the feathers in one go it will be painful for the chicken. The chicken will scream, shout and resist. It is easier to remove the feathers one by one although it takes longer.

According to Anderson (1997) women are relevant to all projects in development cooperation. They represent half population of every country. But they are relevant to different projects in different ways.

Empowerment is therefore the stage when both men and women realize their full potential. This means the rights responsibilities and opportunities of individuals will not be determined by the fact of being born male or female.

#### **2.4.1: Elements of Empowerment**

Four elements of empowerment must underline institutional reform are access to information, inclusion and participation, accountability and local organizational capacity.

#### **2.4.2: Access of information**

Information is power two ways information flows from government to citizens and from citizen to government are critical for responsible citizenship and responsive and accountable governance. Informed citizens are better equipped to take advantage of opportunities, access service, exercise their rights, negotiate effectively and hold state and non state actor accountable.

#### **2.4.3: Inclusion and participation**

An empowering approach to participation treats poor people as co producers with authority and control over decisions and resources developed to the lowest appropriate excluded groups in priority setting and decision making is critical to ensure that use of limited public resources reflects local knowledge and priorities and to build commitment to change.

#### **2.4.4: Accountability**

State officials, public employers, private provides employers and politicians must be held to account making them answerable for their policies and actions that effect the well being of citizens. Political, administrative and social or public accountability.

#### **2.4.5: Local organizational capacity**

Refers to the ability of people to work together, organize themselves and mobilize resources to solve problems of common interest organized communities are more likely to have their voices heard and their demands met than communities with little organizations.

#### **2.4.6: Social and political structures**

More powerful group control the entry and the exist options of the less powerful and prevents or limit there participation and voice in economic, political and social life. While those who "belong" benefit, the unequal access of power based on ethnicity can generate conflict ( Bates,1999)

The true women empowerment or Gender equality is therefore measured by comparable decision – making power, equal opportunity for education and advancement and equal participation and in all walks of human endeavour.

#### **2.5. Evaluating 'distribution' and 'benefit' of CDF**

Though there exists a variety of tools to enable research scientists to undertake an analysis of the gendered outcomes of public expenditure, they are mainly qualitative in nature. 'Benefit Incidence Analysis' (BIA), on the other hand is on well- established quantitative method that has been used to infer the distribution outcomes specific public expenditure choices (actual). This tool, which work retrospectively what the specific distribution of benefits of expenditure on publicly- provided services is.

Benefit incidence studies have been undertaken to help determine the degree to which government spending can (if correctly and effectively targeted) alter the income distribution and living standards of the poor in developing countries. By quantifying what has been directed towards specific social groups within a society(Usually defined income quintile), the tool is able to shed light on the potential distributional impacts of these capital transfers( whether in cash or in kind).

Monetary transfers (such as bursaries) can directly improve the current well-being of beneficiaries in addition to their longer-term income generating potential. Indirectly, they (such capital transfers) change the rate of economic growth of a country, otherwise referred to as external and non-recipient benefits growth of a country, otherwise referred to as external and no-recipient benefits (Selden and Wasynko,1992). This knowledge that is provided through benefit incidence analysis- whether by income <sup>17</sup> or variables (e.g, by gender, race or tribe) – can, therefore, prove important in reallocating public resources towards programmes that benefit them and increase their productivity most benefit incidence studies, until fairly recently, ignored ‘gender’ either as a cause of concern in itself or as a means of interpreting findings (Demery, 2002)

### **2.5.1 Expenditure tools for gender responsive budgeting**

In countries where gender responsive budget initiatives have implemented, these tools have been used selectively, usually on an incremental basis. Often their use is informed by: i) Their perceived utility in addressing the gender issues within society, ii) Their compatibility with public policy management systems and procedures and iii) whether governments or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are responsible for implementing the initiative.

### **Tool 1: gender aware policy Appraisal**

Gender aware policy appraisal is the analysis of the policies and programmes funded through the budget, which asks: 'in what way are the policies and there associated resources allocations likely to reduce or increase gender inequality?'

### **Tool 2: Gender disaggregated public expenditure incidence analysis.**

Gender – disaggregated public expenditure incidence analysis estimates the distribution of budget resources (all change in resources) among male and female by measuring the unit cost of providing a given services and multiplying that cost by number of units used by each group.

### **Tool 3: gender disaggregated beneficiary assessment**

Gender disaggregated beneficiary assessment is a means by which the voice of citizens can be heard. In this exercises, the actual or potential beneficiaries of public service are asked to access how far public is meeting their needs, as they perceive them. This can be done through opinion polls, attitude surveys, group discussion or interviews. Question focus on overall priorities for public spending or upon the detail of the operation of public services.

### **Tool 4: Sex- disaggregated analysis of the impact of the budget on time use.**

Sex-disaggregated analysis of the impact of the budget on time use is a calculation of the link between budget allocation and their effect on how household members spend their time, using household time use surveys.

### **Tool 5: Gender- aware budget statement.**

Gender –aware budget statement is a government report that reviews the budget using some of the above tools, and summarizes it implication of gender quality with different indicators such as the share of expenditure targeted to gender equality, the gender balance in

government jobs, contracts of training, or share of public expenditure used mainly the women.

**Source:** Adapted from Elson (1997)

## **2.6. KEY PROVISIONS WITHIN THE CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND ACT OF 2003**

**Section, 21:** Defines the types of projects to be supported. Section 21 (1) provides that: Projects under this Act shall be community-based in order to ensure that the prospective benefit are available to a widespread cross-section of the inhabitants of a particular area. "All projects shall be development projects."

**Section, 23 (2)-(4)** describes how projects will be identified. Communities, under the stewardship of the constituency development Fund communities (CDCs) have the mandate of identifying and prioritizing these development projects section 23 (2)-(4) of the Act.

- 2)** The elected Member of Parliament for every constituency shall within the first year of a new parliament and at least once every two years thereafter, convene locational meetings in the constituency to deliberate on development matters in the location, the constituency and the district.
- 3)** Each location shall come up with list of priority projects to be submitted to the constituency development committee.
- 4)** The constituency development committee shall deliberate on projects proposals from all the locations in the constituency and any other projects which the committee consider beneficial to the constituency, including joint efforts with other constituencies, then draw up a priority projects list both immediate and long term, out of which the list of projects to be submitted to parliament in accordance with section 12 shall be drawn. Once these have been identified and prioritized, provided they fall within the parameter and budget of the constituency, provided the projects list has been scrutinized by a District project committee (DPC) to ensure that there is no unnecessary duplication the list is submitted by the member of parliament with cost estimates for each project to the clerk of the national assembly who upon receiving and scrutinizing the list, convene a meeting by the parliamentary Constituencies Fund

committee to deliberate over the list and make their recommendations on the proposals to be forwarded to the minister for eventual inclusion in the printed estimates of the following financial year.

**Section 23:** This address the selection and composition of CDCs. Under the Act, MPs are conferred the role of the patron of the CDCs. Under their guidance, CDCs are constituted to manage and execute the Funds objectives. The criteria for selection are provided as follows:

- a) The elected members of parliament;
- b) Two councilors in the constituency;
- c) One district officer in the constituency;
- d) Two persons representing religious organization in the constituency;
- e) Two men representative from the constituency;
- f) Two women representatives from the constituency;
- g) One person representative the youth from the constituency;
- h) One person nominated from among the active NGOs in the area if any:

Other than above, the Act provides no guidelines on how these individuals shall be selected. It also does not provides any minimum educational and/or professional requirements, or address issues of consanguinity and other potential disqualifying factor. The composition of CDCs does, however, present a problem for the promotion of female representation, due to the fact that women continue to under respect in the majority of the offices that is referred to.

**Section 23 (1)** provides that committees must have a minimum of 12 and up to a maximum of 15 members.

**Section 30 and 39;** these address responsibility for implementation and monitoring. Although the CDCs have played a key role as both managers and coordinators of the implementation process, under section 30 implementation is supposed to be done by the relevant department of government in a district, with all payments through cheques or other wise shall be processed and effected in accordance with the government regulations for the time being in force.

**Section 39;** further provides that the district project committee will be responsible for coordinating projects within their districts that come under the fund.

Under section 30 (4) , CDCs have the responsibility of monitoring the implementation. The Act does not spell any role of communities in this regard, although they have played a key role in the implementation of projects as suppliers of goods and services.

**Source:** section extracted from the CDF Act 2003, in SID, (2007)

The provision governing the constitution and mandate of the CDC are not effective. The act provides no guidelines on a democratic process of selection. The criteria for selection are so loosely framed as to be easily subject to abuse. Check and balances against abuse and the consequences of such abuse need to be enhanced within the Act in order to effectively protect the interests of communities.

## **2.7 CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES**

The most women related problems in community development projects include:-

### **2.7.1 The Economic Issues**

Lack or little productive assets, access to "inputs" (land, credit, water, fertilizer, information) technology, training among others and access to markets is considered to be a great problem in ensuring women empowerment. Sustainable development policies impact on agriculture, particularly food security on such marginal groups as poor women and especially on female headed households as well as on family nutrition.

Given the economic situation of female headed households and their increasing numbers in most third world countries this group can hardly be ignored as legitimate beneficiaries of housing policies. Discrimination occurs by the means of advertising the project and the application procedures. As women in the third world have considerably less access to education than men and are geographically tied to the home or the neighborhood written information kind of information is less likely to reach them. To assist women in managing of

completely and substantiating application forms, project staff should attempt to reduce women's fears of formal institutions minimize and simplify paper work and personally assist in questionnaire completion. Bureaucratic activities can be decentralized to areas where the target group lives. Other helpful actions are the provisions where necessary of house-to house visits, child care facilities and the use of women professionals. (Moser in Ostergaard, 1992)

Modernization and development to date has increased woman's burden. Their men folk have abdicated much responsibility which the women have consequently taken over. Modernization has therefore caused social stress to Kenyan woman. It is important that modern research should fully recognize that, women's problems are multi- faceted and they require interdisciplinary approach. Women should be given the opportunity to explain themselves with interests, needs and hopes in life (Thairu, 1984)

Women's participation in decisions regarding services and the location of settlements is limited by the fact that such decisions are often made before the beneficiaries are selected. Another difficulty is that a community has to be created among people who probably do not know one another. A survey of a suitable proxy group for the target group could yield valuable results about women's needs and priorities. If project staffs are gender-aware, they can develop organizations appropriate to the participation of women from the beginning. In male dominated households women may be excluded from decisions although their spouses know little about house work and spend little time in the dwelling and other social services institutions. (Moser, 1992)

Women's efforts are fundamental in many other sectors of economy. However the general participation of women in contribution to the economy is under – rated. Social, economic and cultural factors make claims on their time. This affects the extent to which they take advantage of new methods of productivity, information, knowledge and available skills. This limitation is compounded by the high dropout rates and illiteracy among older women which is great hindrance to their self reliance & ability to acquire knowledge. Their ability to acquire skills is associated with overburdening household chores impartially

negatively on access to opportunities for gainful live hoods. Major decisions influencing their participation in the economy are made without their being consulted.

### **2.7.2 The Planning Issues**

Inadequate gender differentiated and disaggregated data as well as data gaps with regard to rural women which results in overlooking gender issues for macro (national and regional) and micro (intra- household, farm, community among others) planning. Chronically biased; causing skewed policies in favour of male farmers and men in general. Lack of appropriate methodologies that recognized and value women's contribution: actual and potential to productive activities and which result in women's marginalization in projects and programs. Women are marginalized in planning process existing institutional structures and practices exclude or at least do not facilitate women's participation, especially in terms of gender differences in the design, monitoring and evaluate gender differences, or to provide feedback (especially to women).

According to Moser (1992) women are the prime users of housing and settlement level infrastructure settlement, planning affects them more than any other group and their inclusion in decision making at this stage is critical. Insufficient attention to women's culturally economic and domestic needs in the development of the settlement level plans and infrastructure can result in a grave deterioration of their life styles and living conditions. Planners all too often ignore the needs of users and tend to emphasize technical financial or economic criteria for the most efficient use of space. In the provision of services at settlement level, women as the main users of them may be in the best position to decide the relative merits of different types of services. Women may give priority to water supply and sanitation services over electricity provisions in order to reduce their workload significantly.

Billions of dollars spent on infrastructure in Africa have improved the roads, railway lines, airports and electricity supply, but usually not in the region where people are dying of hunger. The orthodox approach is oriented to the technical fix for technical problems. Advanced agricultural know how, equipment and

training is the response to food problems. Immunization and health services are offered to tackle problems of sickness. And "structural adjustment" is the response why people cannot afford to eat why the poor are exposed to diseases or why international forces are causing third world countries to collapse. Organizing the poor to stand up for their rights, demanding access to the clean water supply (Clark, 1991)

Any poverty reducing effects that economic reforms may bring , may not reach women directly because of their lack of command and over production resources and control over outputs as well as their lack of time ( Baden,1977). Gender – responsive budgeting (GRB) seek to enable women and girls to engage more broadly and more effectively with development endeavors, thereby positively impacting upon poverty eradication efforts, economic growth and development out comes overall ( UN Millennium project)

For effective planning integration of a gender perspective in the budgetary process should be ensured. Most planners have failed to provide funding for specific programs that will address gender inequalities.

### **2.7.3 Political Issues**

Institutional barriers to women's political participation and organization (patriarchy, non organization of women rural isolation. Lack of gender equality in remuneration opportunities, conditions of service and access among others. Covert and overt policy biases against, women due to policies overlooking or excluding gender equity considerations. Mandates in regard to women are either absent weak and not enforced. Human rights documents are not explicit on women's rights. There is little monitoring of human rights protocols and instruments and even less accountability. Agricultural policies do not articulate gender issues so they are not considered. The Inter Parliamentary Union reports a world average of only 15.6% in combined houses of parliament are women. The absence of women from structure of governance inevitably means that national regional and local priorities such as how resources are allocated- are typically defined without meaningful input from women. (ICRC report 2005)

The community level of politics may also exert influence on the nature and extent of women's participation. Most importantly planning authorities often dictate house design standards and guidelines within which beneficiaries may build. The design process is a major area for female participation in project formulation. The planners or public authorities often do not appreciate the ways in which culturally insensitive designs can have negative effects on women and their families. As female social life was almost entirely confined to the home, the reduced inner courtyards led in some cases to psychological depression, neuroses and even suicide among women. (Mosser, 2001)

Beside the numerical characteristics of political representation there is the equally important question of participation. Where such participation includes being under represented in strategic decisions making institution.

#### **2.7.4 Social Cultural Issue**

According Dhizhala (2007) lecture's notes, lack of gender awareness of all levels in all cultures stereotypes, social and cultural constraints on women's participation, for example, women's triple burden, male orientations in policy making, low status and disadvantaged position of women resulting in lower education, little access to training, non participation in decision making, lower income, nutrition, health among others has greatly challenged the women empowerment. Fewer property rights, and limited access to resources has also negatively affected the level of women empowerment. Traditional knowledge systems becomes distorted, eroded and undermined while new knowledge is often inaccessible to rural women.

By recognizing the potentials in indigenous knowledge women are playing an active role as agent of social change through out Africa. In Senegal the women of Malicounda empowered them selves to put an end to the local practices of female genital mutilation. (World Bank 2004). Most programmes fail to consider existing inequality between men and women and instead reinforce the subordinate role of women, or traditional gender stereotypes( Elson,2006).

Abbot Susan, (1974) Thesis at Kagongo Nyeri District found that changes that have occurred over the past decades like introduction of new crops and new agricultural technologies, the money economy, new systems of government, new religious and the availability of foreign culture through records, radio and movies. The study focuses on modern day socio-cultural change and describes the impact of socio-cultural and economic change on the life experience of these women. It identifies fears of their current situation which are most conducive to individual stress. The author finds that stress for these Kikuyu women results from two social conditions the structures of the domestic unit itself, and the wide an aforementioned changes that have affected the social and economic ordering of the community.

The traditional male-female power imbalances women's multiple roles responsibilities in society, negative attitude towards the girl-child, the feminization of poverty, the fact that typically women are the victims of gender-specific crimes are factors that combine to pose unique challenges for women's access to justice and the effective delivery of justice.

### **2.7.5 The Ecological System**

On complexity of ecological issues, their impact on gender at macro and micro levels require examination of the relationship between women and men in access to and control over common property resources "family" land, water resources such external inputs as fertilizers, credit, technology and so on. Conflicts over natural resources need to be anticipated and addressed in order to protect the interest of women and vulnerable (powerless/ asset less) groups. Women should be held responsible for environmental degradation and restoration of the natural resource base even though they are disproportionately affected "user pays" principle should be adopted. Women in developing nations are usually in charge of securing water, food and fuel and overseeing health and diet. Therefore they tend to put into immediate practice whatever they learn about mutilation and preserving their environment and natural resources. (UNIFEM, 2003)

The international bodies have promoted a style of development that has often been insensitive to the need of ordinary people and to the environment. Indeed,

the focus on wealth production rather than wealth distribution, protection for export rather than for the needs of local populations, extraction of natural resources rather than environmental protection and western-style technologies, for example in agriculture have often compound the problem we now regard as critical( Clark,1991).

In his lecture's note Endroma, (2007) stated that sustainable development means of achieving a quality life or standard of living that can be maintained for many generation because it is socially desirable, economically viable and ecologically sustainable (support ecosystems). As consumers women should be exposed to informal as well as formal environmental education to enable them to play a more significant role in all conservation programmes. As vehicles for environmental education, women if adequately equipped with the necessary information and skills are in a favored position to demonstrate practically the value of trees and need for their protection, the food value of fruit trees e.t.c. They can emphasize in a practical way good health habits. They can therefore guide the younger population in conservation and improvement of the environment (Gachukia,1979). Sustainable development is therefore development that meets needs.

There are certain environmental issues which have specific relevance to women, either the negative of these environmental concerns have disproportionate effect in female population or women have special skills and knowledge in resolving environmental problems. In subsistence economies women are major users of energy for domestic use. The challenge in energy utilization is in development and acquiring energy efficient solves and modernization of power systems. In utilization of water sources, government need to include women in the decision making process on policies, economic instruments and appropriate infrastructure to ensure access to adequate water.

#### **2.7.6 The Moral and Ethical Issues**

Macro policies are usually concerned more with economic growth than the will and equity of the people. There are major gaps between policies, attitudes (to resource allocation for example) and practice. According to Dhizhala, (2007),

women's lower status/ position and their access to opportunities, resources and assets; women's rights as human rights; 'Structural Adjustment' and economic growth models disregard many critical moral and ethical issues, these affect women disproportionately.

Full participation of women is often constrained by the attitudes of men against their participation in "men's work" and the women end up in "a secondary role, doing such heavy tasks as carrying materials and water, preparing cement and digging among others. Obtaining services like water, sanitation, electricity, road and social services from local authorities requires a considerable amount of effort and organisation at the level of the community. Women, because of their reproductive activities, are affected most by the lack of these services. Thus in spite of the burden of their triple role, the women is frequently expected by the community and the planners to take the prime responsibility in this area. In doing so they often jeopardize their other work. Here again women loose out because of planners false assumption that they have "free time".

According to Onyango (2000) said when discussing the issue of poverty and its relationship to human rights, he stated that it is essential to adopt an holistic perspective eradication of poverty is as much as a political and legal question as it is a moral issue. Onyango quote Oxfam report on poverty by saying that: when it comes to understanding poverty, the real experts are the poor themselves. Popular participation, improved accountability and transparency must be central to any project for the poverty reduction that is to have a chance. Thus, the eradication of poverty must be viewed as a struggle for all peoples, approached from a variety of fronts.

Gender inequality is the distribution of control and rights over assets and the incomes to which individual, are entitled have also been described as having inefficiency effect. Such issues sharply reduce a society potential for productive investment, innovation and human resource development (Bardhen, 1999). Declaration on the right to development( Art1.1) define right to development as an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person an all people

are entitled to participate in contribution to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized. Women obtain land rights strictly through their husbands as long as the marriage endures, and they often lose these rights when they are divorced or widowed (World Bank, 2003)

A study carried out by Saito et al (1994) found that, in Kenya female-headed households owned less than half the farming equipment owned by male-headed households. The survey also found that more than 92 percent of women use hand cultivation tools only, whilst 38 percent of men use mechanized technology or oxen.

Poverty among women cannot therefore be isolated as a purely economic feature since its causes and effects are diverse. The basic objective of any development initiative is to enlarge people's choices by facilitating equal access to opportunities and ensuring that they are sustained so that both men and women are able to participate and benefit from the development process.

## **2.8 STRATEGIES ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

Countries which do not capitalize on the full potential of one half of their society (women) are misallocating their human resources and compromising their competitive potential. Despite worldwide evidence of the low levels of female participation in social, educational, economic and political spheres, there is still a tendency to see it as a real problem only in a limited number of countries. No country in the world has achieved true gender equality as measured by comparable decision making power, opportunity for education and advancement and equal participation and status in all walks of human endeavor. ICRC newsletter Sierra Leone (2001-2002). Empowering of women is to be achieved through equality with men in five critical areas.

### **2.8.1 Economic Participation**

The present study attempts to capture the gap between men and women in terms of economic participation by comparing unemployment levels, the levels of economic activity and remuneration for equal work. The larger percentage of

women who participate economically in the informal sector and who in some parts of the world provide upwards of 70% of agricultural labour, and produce over 90% of the food yet. Are nowhere represented in budget deliberations can be taken into account in the economic adjustment measures which might directly affect their welfare. More women than men live in poverty economic disparities persist partly because much of the unpaid work within families and communities fall on shoulders of women and because they face discriminations in the economic sphere. (UNIFEM 2006)

Women are employed as teachers, secretaries, nurses, and domestic help or bar maids. Other women are house wives, while general other are involved in petty business both at the market and in other parts of the town. On religious participation 59% of women attend religious services compared to the 41% of the men. Women have formed and are active members of various groups, such as those related with the catholic religion, harambee groups, women's guild, maendeleo ya Wanawake, East African women's league, YMCA e.t.c. (Dotto,1975)

There is need therefore to create enabling environment for women and men; girls and boys to participate economically.

### **2.8.2 Economic Opportunity**

Concerns is that the quality of women's economic involvement beyond their mere presence as workers. Women's poverty is directly related to the absence of economic opportunities, lack of access to the economic resources; including credit, land ownership and inheritance, lack of access to education and support services. (Beijing PFA 1996)

Women involved in trade unions would be one of the ways though which solutions to the problems of women workers could be found (Oprong, 1977)

Ramachadrian (1976) urges the women's organizations to spearhead negotiations with policy makers and employers and to disseminate to women the information on employment opportunities available to them. Butterfield,

(1977) advocates that employers should be directly induced to hire and promote women in greater numbers.

Yunus, 2003 turned his attention to the problem of the most destitute- the land less and the asset less. The land less without those ties, are likely to be more mobile and receptive to new ideas; they are fighters for survival free from the traditional lifestyle. He added that being poor is tough, but being a poor women is toughest of all. Yunus found that credit given to women bring about changes faster than when given to men. Yunus also questioned that basic banking premise of collateral which he said that it creates financial apartheid.

Prahalad, 2005 urges us to stop thinking of the poor as victims or burden and start recognizing as resilient and creative entrepreneur and value conscious customers. If we do so a whole new world of opportunity will open up.

To enable women and men to have equal access to economic and employment opportunities the government needs to undertake and /or support appraised action which will facilitate gender sensitization and empowering skills.

### **2.8.3 Education**

Very little information is available on the flow of education in attendance, transition and retention rates, continuation data, specialization and non formal education. Planners need such data in order to study and assess the differential effects of various policies. Like the encouragement of equal educational opportunities or the introduction of school fees. (Evans in Ostergaard, 1992)

Education is intrinsic to development. Research has also established that a mother's education enhances the probability of child survival. So, to raise health standards, we must also raise education levels in the less developed countries there is a disparity between male and female literacy. Generally two out of every three illiterates are women. Furthermore female illiteracy is three to four times higher in rural than in urban areas.

Whereas admittance of girls to school is strictly limited, the drop out rate of those who actually get started is proportionally high. For a vicious cycle operates in regard to women because of overwork, women seek the help of their daughters which deprives the girls for schooling and access to literacy, whereby they in turn are handicapped in relation to vocational training. Under certain circumstances girls are not sent to school because their parents do not expect to benefit from it. (Ostergaard 2001)

Education refers formal and informal instruction aimed at training and accumulation of knowledge skills, ability and change in attitude, education will lead to economic growth and development. It helps in eradicating backward attitudes, practices, superstitions, beliefs, cultural institutions and values that are disincentives to economic change. Education affects the fertility level of women in an economy and influences the health and nutrition level of a country (Maicibi, 2003)

A mother's illiteracy, illness and dependency on others were also found to deprive her of knowledge and self – confidence, weakening her ability to nature, to invest in and to protect her household more specifically her children- (World Bank- 2002). A mother's schooling was found to have positive impacts upon child immunization, and child survival and nutrition (Thomas, 1990). A study carried out in Kenya found increasing the input or education levels of female farmers (to that of their counterparts) could increase their yield by as much as 22% cut (Quisumbing, 1966).

The education system should be redesigned to ensure that women are better prepared for effective  $\frac{3}{4}$  participation in national development and to enhance productivity of their labour ( Boserup,1970). Employers should initiate and assist with the establishment of day care centre to curtail female absenteeism from work and that they should offer uniform terms of services for men and women. A comparative study should be done to establish the degree of male and female absenteeism from work. Publicity should be given to the important role of the informal sector in total national development while planning should consider the provision of the basic facilities which would enhance the

development of this sector. Lack of education aggravates their effects whereas sufficient education alleviates their most devastating consequences. Education is means of overcoming poverty, increasing income, improving nutrition and health, reducing family size and not least important, raising peoples self confidence and enriching the quality of their lives. Educating girls is the best investment a country can make in future economic growth and welfare, because of women's almost exclusive influence in the home on health, nutrition and fertility and because of the formative influence of mothers on the next generation. Educational Attainment is the most fundamental prerequisite for empowering women in all spheres of society, for without education of comparable quality and content to that given to boys and men and relevant to existing knowledge and real needs. Women are unable to access well paid formal sector jobs, advance within them, participate in and be represented in government and gain political influence. (Ostergaard 2001)

According to (Sen. 2001) women are seen as important agents of change and development of the freedoms. Their increasing education and involvement in the world of work have given them voice and influence. Women often have much influence and where are empowered, child mortality is reduced.

In order to enlarge and sustain measures to eliminate gender disparities in access retention. Transition and performance in education, there is needs for appropriate actions which ensures quality and gender responsive education to guarantee a firm foundation for the population

#### **2.8.4 Political empowerment**

This refers to the equitable representation of women in decision making structure both formal and informal and their voice in the formulation of policies affecting their societies. Social and legal institutions still not guarantee women equality in basic legal and human rights, in access to control of land or other resources, in employment and earning and social political participation. Laws against domestic violence are often not enforced on behalf of women. (UNIFEM,2006). Mugo, (1975) recommended are examination of the present

society in which the image of women in particular relationship to that of males has been degraded.

Wipper (1972) called for increased aid to enhance the advancement of African women. The women's potential contribution to development should be recognized and their equal sharing in scholarship and training should be ensured. One of the strategies empowered by the power elite respond to women's protest is the ceremonial affirmation and tokenism. Further the "patron" who for political wealth and status reasons get involved in association work is preferred to the "militant" woman who is far more dedicated to the calls of women and far more active in the equal rights movement usually besides her dedication to full-time professional job. A third strategy is termed "verbal ploys". Through "double talk" humorous sallies and references to women's character defects women are considered to belong to a category of persons, not full fledged adult, who can be placated by jokes of personal, and specious arguments. Women requests and rights are thus taken slightly or are completely misinterpreted. The basic problem facing the governments in newly independent countries is to cope with the raising expectations of and a multitude of demand from a heterogeneous populace without losing large sections of support (Wipper, 1977).

Masembe, (1964) strongly challenges the women of East Africa in general not to sit back and to be led politically but to search for political education which would enable them to participate fully in the political affairs of their respective nations. She suggested ways and means of stimulating women's interest in political education. She proposed aggressive use of the mass media and literature discussion and live political involvement by women.

Mohammed, (1964) he then president of Umoja wa Wanawake wa Tanganyika, take time to explain the value of Swahili language. She challenged the East African women to recognize their important political role in their countries and communities arguing that there is politics in every activity. She urged women to come forward and take an active role in government because it is only by doing so that they can then progress to holding important position in the government

machinery. She challenged women to spearhead the recapture of African culture by themselves proudly dressing, speaking and behaving generally according to the African culture.

To attain gender parity in political participation and decision making, there is need for institutionalizing mechanisms to promote the appointment of women to high level decision making positions, great awareness and prompt the active participation of women in political and decision making process at the grassroots levels. Ensure equal access to training opportunities and promote gender sensitive training for women and men.

#### **2.8.5 Health**

Development and health are intrinsically interrelated; without a certain level of economic and social development; we cannot provide the population with basic health care. And without a basic state of health, the population does not have the physical and mental energy necessary to develop the society. A nation gives birth to healthy babies with health mothers.

According to Ostergaard (1992) the concept of health covers a complex human condition (Human beings in its environmental context). It should not tend to deal with corrective measures (medicalised) but also preventive health care where it must identify all kinds of pathogenic and biological, cultural, economic, social and political and respond to them through an interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach that involves the total community. In this totality, gender plays a decisive role. Health planners and practitioners, who are themselves often male and western, may implicitly view the needs for health care and the effects of health projects from a male and western perspective.

Kenya's service provision assessment survey of 2004 revealed that nationally only 65 percent of facilities have running water and only 50 percent of hospitals surveyed operate for 24 hours. Significantly only two-thirds of hospitals and health centers provided all the basic services in terms of HIV/AIDS management the survey revealed that only 24 percent of facilities surveyed

offered prevention of mother to child transmission services, only 15 percent (out of these) offered anti-retroviral therapy for women and eligible family members while 8 percent (of all facilities) offered post-exposure prophylaxes. On link HIV/AIDS and gender roles Gupta (2001) gender inequality funds the pandemic gender norms that restrict women's access to productive resources such as education, land, income and credit create an unequal balance of power in society that favour men and actually comprises women's ability to protect themselves against infection cope with illness once infected or care for those who are infected by far the most disturbing form of male power is violence against women a daily reality or threat in the lives of too many women world wide that is aggress violation of women's rights and acts as a significant deterrent to prevention treatment, care and support.

To achieve the highest attainable standard of health & population concerns into gender inequalities pertaining to access and use of basic health services and facilities at an affordable cost. Expansion and strengthening of community based services and empowerment of communities to take care of their own health should be a priority. This should be incorporated with strengthening of primary healthy care (PHC) by integration of gender related health and population concerns into the overall socio – economic development framework.

## CHAPTER THREE

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.0 INTRODUCTION

The focus of this chapter was scientific approach employed by the researcher in conducting the study. The chapter contained research design where the researcher opted for a case study. Area of study and the population has been defined and explained. Several methods of data collection were applied. The data was then analysed and presented into a meaning full information.

#### 3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design (model) used to evaluate the role of CDF in women empowerment was a case study. This design was used to narrate facts and establish the real situation on the ground in respect of impact and strategy of CDF on women.

According to (Maicibi, 2007) case study is an intensive investigation and analysis of a single instance of a phenomenon structure or organization being studied. It tries to discover unique features and common traits shared by members of the group or classification. The case study was useful design because it helped the researcher to intensely analyse the CDF's contribution in empowerment of women. The design effectively helped to analyse the impact, challenges and strategies in respect to the empowerment of women. The design relied on multiple sources of evidence and would enable the researcher to use qualitative, descriptive and quantitative approach in collecting data.

#### 3.2 AREA OF STUDY

Nyeri North District has two constituencies: Kieni and Mathira. Mathira constituency has diversity of activities and highly populated. It has one municipality council unlike Kieni constituency. The researcher has vast knowledge on the constituency. Therefore by employing purposive method the researcher selected Mathira because of its representative population. Mathira

constituency main activity is agriculture farming and livestock keeping. The population does practice business especially at Karatina municipal town. Mathira constituency (division) is within Nyeri North district with an area of 257.5 square KMs and density of 586. The total population by 1999 census was 150,998 with 72,614 males and 73,384 female. The constituency is sub divided into seven locations where the seventh one is Karatina municipality. The division has 39 sub-locations. The division headquarters are at Karatina town. The constituency has the tallest mountain in the country, Mount Kenya (5199m) as main physical feature. The constituency is the source of biggest river in the republic of Kenya that is Tana River. There are numerous streams that traverse the constituency making division self – sufficient in surface and sub surface water for domestic agricultural and other uses. The average temperature ranges between a low of 8 degree Celsius to high of 28 degree Celsius with the hottest season running from January to March and coldest season being June to July. The division's location within the highland equatorial zone makes it receive equatorial rainfall with long rain occurring from March to may while short rainfall from October to December. Its monthly average rainfall is between 500 and 2,400mm per annum. The division has Mount Kenya forest ecosystem, under the jurisdiction of the forest department.

### **3.3 POPULATION OF STUDY**

The population of interest to this study was the women whom CDF projects are meant for positive effect in the constituency. Population is defined as a complete set of individuals, cases or objects with some common observable characteristics.

The researcher chose to the population of study to be 200 community members of Mathira constituency. This group of people included the beneficiaries and the non beneficiaries. The population comprised the CDF officials, youth group members, business people and farmers, opinion leaders and CDF committee members. The population was arrived at through a sampling method. The purposive sampling method was employed to select the intended target population. The researcher employed stratified sampling technique by dividing the population in terms of sex (male & female) within the 7 locations of Mathira

constituency. Simple random technique was applied to get 10 representatives from every location.

**Table of various groups and their number**

	<b>Questionnaires</b>	<b>Interviews</b>	<b>FGDs</b>
CDF and Government officials		5	4
Church members	14		2
Youth group members	21		2
CBO/Business people/farmers	21		4
Opinion leaders	7	2	2
Location CDF project committee	7	7	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>

### **3.4 METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION**

Various instruments for triangular purposes were applied in order to ensure the validity of the data. The type of data collected was both primary data (filling questionnaires, interview, discussion and observation), and secondary data (analyses of the CDF records and women information on development projects). The introductory letters were administered to the intended offices and persons. Preparation of questionnaires was done and pre test was administered to the chosen respondents. The researcher therefore analyzed and interpreted the data before the actual exercise started.

#### **3.4.1 Interview method**

Unstructured interview guide was employed in these interviews. The researcher therefore provided an opportunity to an interviewee without much restrictions (Maicibi, 2007). This method ensures flexible interviews which permits both interviewer and the interviewee to probe for more clarification and modify questions. The advantage of this method was that it helped to get additional information got from the questionnaires (provide in-depth data), guard against confusing the questions, more flexible, probing, complete and honest information and obtain data required to meet specific objectives of the study.

The researcher applied unstructured interview type in order to provide opportunity to respondent to give information without much restriction. Key informant interviews were used to solicit information from respondent who would be drawn from CDF official and administrators, government officials and officials from other stake holders. The idea of having the key informants was to cross check, authenticate and validate the results of other sources of information. The respondents were purposively selected based on their knowledge and professional experience in CDF. 14 key informants drawn from different sectors; CDF, and government officials were interviewed.

### **Focus group discussion (FGDs)**

The topic guides were developed for this instrument. Focus group discussions (FGDs) instrument was applied by the researcher to get more and indebt information which helped to enrich the results of study. Two focus group discussions with 8 members were conducted the purpose of discussions was to clarify and contextualize information on attitudes, beliefs, experiences and perceptions of the role of CDF in empowering women. The topic discussed includes the impact, challenges and strategies of CDF initiatives. The FGDs was carefully planned and designed to offer maximum opportunity to all group members to contribute. To ensure the widest possible coverage, the participants were drawn from different diversity according to age, professionals, religion, and region and on bases of beneficiaries and CDF officials. In this method, purposive sampling was therefore used to get the intended persons. The sampling process considered the CDF officials and the beneficiaries of the CDF resources.

### **3.4.2 Questionnaire method**

The researcher applied closed ended questionnaires tools. They are economical and easier to analyse. They are important tools especially for busy people who do not have adequate time for interview. Seventy closed- ended questions questionnaires were administered to a selected sample of 70 respondents. The sample of 70 respondents was arrived at by the use of stratified sampling where the sample population was divided by sex (male and

female), Simple random sampling was employed to get a representative and unbiased sample.

### **3.4.3 Observation**

On observation method the researcher did employ observation check list. The observation check list used for recording what one observes during data collection. The researcher therefore defined the behaviors observed and then develops a detailed list of behaviors. Observation of behaviors should be tested, root too many behaviors should be observed, number of subjects must be controlled (Mugenda, 2003). The observation supplemented information collected in questionnaires and interviews by getting silent information.

The researcher opted for non- participant structured check list. In the check list, the researcher observed the attitudes of women in terms of freedom of expression and confidence in the prescence of men. The representation of women in CDF committees was also in the check list. Taking of photograph was also considered to be valuable in conveying important case characteristics to outside observers. To increase the reliability of observational evidence the research employed more than one observer

### **3.4.4 Document analyses**

The study employed documentary information by reviewing secondary material. The documentaries evidence were acquired from unpublished secondary data such as development plans, progress reports, financial reports, memos, magazines, etc. The documents were carefully analyzed before being collaborated from other sources. The document helped to verify information in interview. Systematic searches for relevant document were conducted in data collection plan.

### **3.4.5 Data analysis**

Quantitative data from the questionnaires was coded and analyzed. The qualitative data from FGDs and interviews was transcribed manually. A theme was then developed to aid in the categorization of the data. Relevant themes were identified which constituted the basis of the conclusions.

The researcher analyzed data by use of processing tools such as editing and tabulation.

Editing was done by identifying errors after a complete interview scheduled and the questionnaires. The researcher then coded the data by classifying all responses gathered and translates them to numerical terms to facilitate analysis.

Data from questionnaires were entered and later analysed by the statistical package for social scientists (SPSS version 12.0). The SPSS was the manipulated to generate frequency distribution, tables and cross tabulations.

FGD and semi- structured interviews were analyzed under particular themes from the FGD and interview guides. These include;

- Impact of CDF to the women conditions.
- Challenges facing the CDF initiatives in enhancing women's welfare.
- Strategies in place to overcome women challenges.

#### **3.4.6 Presentation of Data Analysis**

All quantitative data was expressed in figures then calculated and expressed in form of percentages. The technique of data analysis was by transformation of information into tables, bar graphs, pie charts. The qualitative data was read, grouped the related views together and then compared to get a variety of information. Documentary review was read through analyzing the contents, sum each idea then arrange the same ideas according to themes and objectives. Finally the data was synthesized into meaningful information.

#### **3.4.7 Limitations of the study**

- 1) The length of the reference period (2003- 2007) long term outcome
- 2) Exert a strong influence on what is actually measured by statistic and what is not
- 3) Dominant perception and attitude about what information is important or relevant.
- 4) The language in which interviews are conducted
- 5) Elections mood / interviewed/ interviewer.
- 6) Measurement technique chosen

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

#### 4.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter gives the outcome of the study carried out. The results were presented quantitatively and qualitatively. Analysis of data by use of processing tools such as editing, tabulation and coding was done. The analyzed data was transformed into tables, bar graphs and pie charts. The interpretation was done and generalized conclusion was done on existing condition by rating below (minimum) average or above (maximum) with percentage of the respondents.

#### 4.1 CONTRIBUTION OF CDF IN PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S WELFARE

According to Annual report year 2005/06 Mathira constituency was ranked among the best constituencies managed CDF allocations. The constituency management structure has three levels. At the top of the management is the constituency development committee (CDC) which consist 16 members among them 3 women. At the constituency headquarters office the committee has employed 4 staffs. They include; Manager (coordinator), accountant office, assistant and a messenger. According to CDF hold meetings once per month and whenever an emergency occurs. The CDF organize project visit tour to monitor and evaluate these projects. The CDC is constituted by Act of parliament where members are selected for a period of two and half years.

The second level of management is location development committee. According to interviewed staff the constituency has got seven location and they are headed by chairpersons. The operational locations were six and researcher observed that out of six chairpersons none of them is chaired by a woman. The location committee includes 10 persons from every sub- location. The committee holds three meetings in a month. The role of the chairperson is to monitor funded projects. The lowest level is project committee (PC). This committee constitutes the community members where they earmark a project like school, health, water, or security facility. They come together with a project

proposal and form a committee then forward it to locational chairperson for recommendation before it is handed over to the CDC. The source of the information is both primary and secondary.

#### 4.1.1 Access to information.

Table 1: Showing Knowledge about CDF

	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE	
YES	67	95.6	
NO	3	4.4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>	

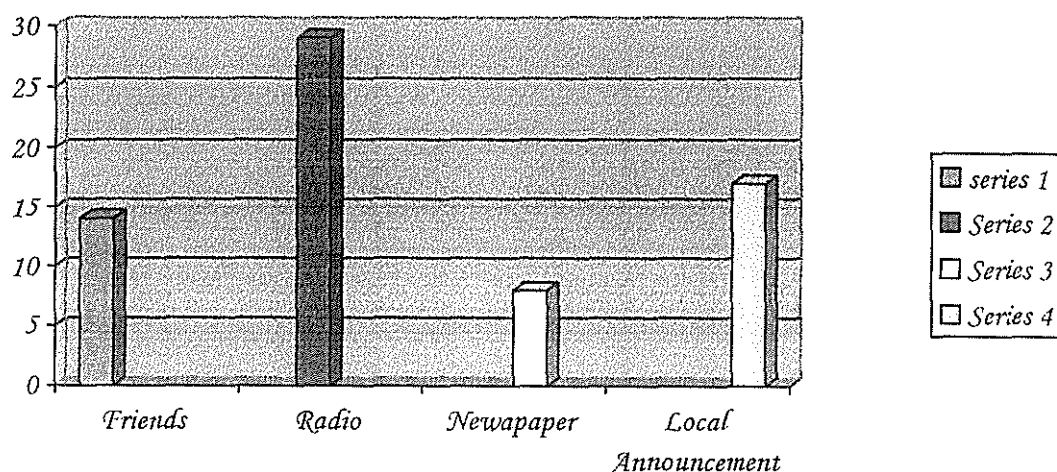
Source: Primary Data

Table 2: Channels of communication

	Friends	Radio	Newspapers	Local announcement	Total
FREQUENCY	14	29	8	17	70
PERCENTAGE	20%	42.6%	11.8%	25%	100%

Source: Primary Data

Figure 1 Channels of information flow about CDF from the management to the beneficiaries.



Source: Primary Data

Majority of people interviewed have knowledge about existence of constituency development fund (CDF) and they were ready to participate in CDF projects. According to the study about 96.6% of the population interviewed confirmed the knowledge about CDF. Most of respondents get the information through local vernacular radio broadcast. The percentage of respondents who receives CDF information through radio was 42.6 %, local announcement in church meetings and market places rated 25%, through friends, 20.6% and through news papers- 11.8%.

Looking at the issues of general awareness about CDF, the constituency showed high level of awareness among the respondents although difference were noted between genders where females scored lower than males (table 3) On being able to identify the CDF manager and location Chairmen, some complained that gaining access to them is a challenge. Many in fact did not know who their CDC members and location chairpersons were. For example the researcher observed that most of female discussants didn't know any of the women representatives on the CDC. Others had little idea on how CDC members were selected. In all discussions there were calls for greater community involvement in the selection of representatives to the CDF committees, greater transparency and accountability on the types of projects that were implemented. Most discussant confirmed the low level of understanding among the community as to the parameter of their role and responsibility towards the attainment of the objectives of the CDF.

According to CDF senior staff, most of the communication channels are phone calls to the members of CDC, posters, announcement through local broadcast, churches and public meetings. The CDC has put sign boards and notice boards, indicating their projects and their expenditures. One of the key person interviewed confirmed that the CDC do place list of school bursaries beneficiaries on the constituency office notice board. Although the researcher observed that the data was not on gender disaggregated basis.

Most respondent access CDF information through local vernacular radio broadcast. One discussant stated that women have less access to radio

because in most rural setup radio set are important men's asset and also because of a lot house work women and girls are in the kitchen preparing super, fetching water, firewood or at the market, while men are resting listening to the radio and may be reading newspaper. Therefore most women would not get relevant information broadcasted through radio.

#### 4.1.2 Inclusion, participation and accountability

The outcomes indicates considerably low participation level which suggests significant challenges for the CDF mission of people driven development. As the table shows female participation levels were lower than that of males. Most of the female discussants responded that they have been largely participated only in the bursary interviews

**Table 3: Women's level in decision making on CDF compared to men.**

	below	equal	Above	Total
Frequency	62	6	2	70
Percentage	88.6	8.6	2.8	100%

**Source: Primary Data**

In respect to the issue of project identification most discussants know how projects were supposed to be identified but, few knew which project had been implemented under the CDF or even the amount involved. Most respondents complain of lack of transparency in selection of CDF committee members where the participation CDF projects. The exercise was done without adequate participation of community members. According to the records the constituency women were the minority at all levels of management of CDF resources. The researcher observed that women's position in various committees is treasurer, some women discussant spoke of massive domination of men numerically in the project committees, location and constituency committees, often times they pay lip services to participation by women.

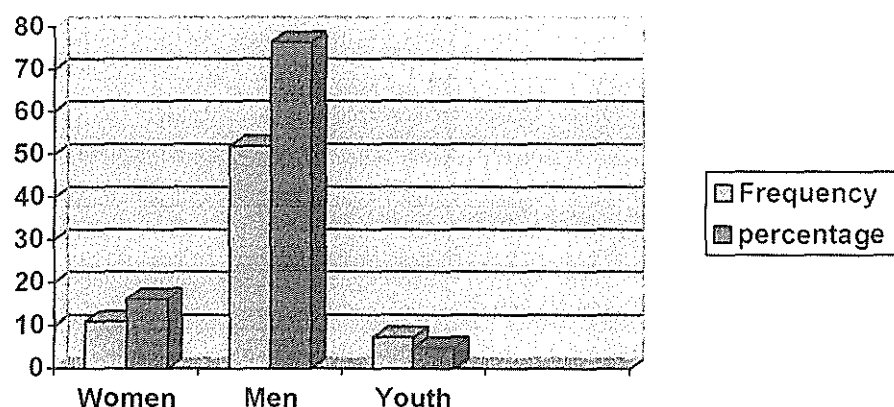
**Table 4: Attendance of development meetings**

	Frequency	Percentage
Women	11	15.7%
Men	54	77.2%
Youth	5	7.1%
total	70	100%

Source: Primary Data

The study found low attendance of women in CDF or development meeting. According to (Table 4) & (figure 4), 15.7% of women against 77.2% men and 7.1% of youth attend development meetings. One respondent stated that most meetings are announced at chief Barazas where women rarely attend.

**Figure 2: Attendance of development meeting.**



Source: Primary Data

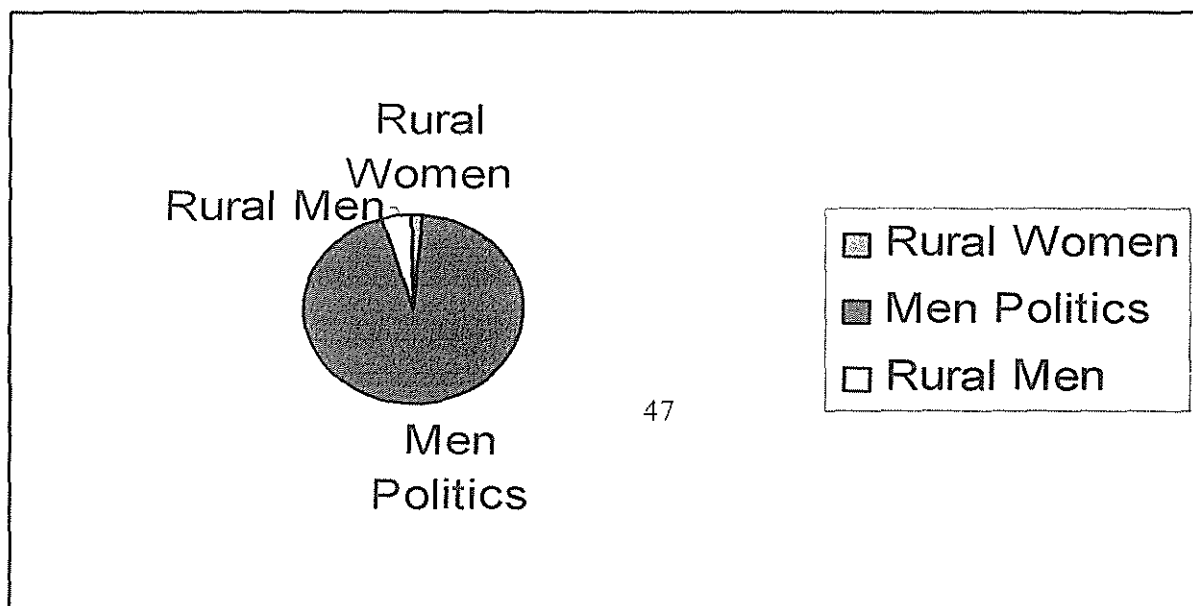
Most women discussant complained of development meetings being organized in the morning section or late hours of the day where most women are busy attending house chores. This therefore prevents many women to attend those meetings.

Table 5: "Say" in CDF identification, implementation and management of projects.

	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
RURAL WOMEN	2	2.9%
RURAL MEN	4	5.7%
MEN POLITICIAN	64	91.4%
	70	100%

Source: Primary Data

Figure 3: "Say" in CDF projects.



Source: Primary Data

The greatest say in decision making about CDF is vested on men politician (Figure 3). The study found that rural women scored only 2.9% where rural men got 5.7% and men politician got 91.4%. Therefore men politician have the greatest say in determining the decision about CDF resources. One of the key person interviewed raised an issue about CDF Act which vested a lot of power to the MP on selection of CDC members and monitoring responsibilities. All that poses greater danger of abuse, for example one of female discussant complained that even when communities were asked to nominate representatives (whether male or female), they found that the decision as to who was selected was often determined by political exigencies. The female discussant said;

*“The selection process itself can also be tailored to the benefit of particular interested parties”*

Due to the fact that most political leaders are men, they tend to appoint persons who are loyal to them ignoring any other aspect like women representation. The issue of political cronyism was said to present a challenge to women leaders because they are generally not active political players.

**Table 6; Community Participation in CDF projects**

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	27	38.5%
No	43	61.5%
Total	70	100%

Source: Primary Data

**Table 7 ; participation by gender.**

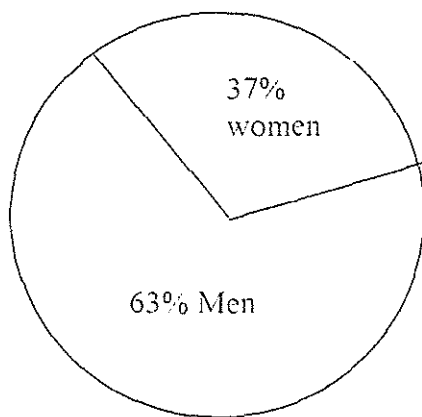
		Frequency	Percentage
Yes	Male	17	63%
	Female	10	37%

		Frequency	Percentage
No	Male	17	39.5%
	Female	26	60.5%

Source: Primary Data

On participation of women in CDF management and project identification and implementation, the study realized low participation of women. For example women were the minority in all committees of CDF for instance there is only 3 women in CDC and no single woman chairperson in the six location committees. The findings correspond with the outcomes of the IEA study, (2006) where it was found that of the 25 constituencies surveyed, female constituted 20 percent of the CDC's membership.

**Figure 5; Participation in CDF projects.**



**Source: Primary Data**

The outcomes indicate considerably low participation level all- round which suggests significant challenges for the agenda of people driven development. According to (table 7) female participation level were lower than that of males. In term of general participation of local community in project identification and management 38.5% agreed while 61.5% of the respondent said they have never been involved in CDF initiatives. Among the female respondents who agreed that they were involved in the management and identification of CDF projects, scored only 37% while 63% of the total respondents have never been involved. According to the CDF administrator women only appears in great number on the issue of education bursaries. Also most discussant agreed that women were only actively involved in implementation of projects. Due to men's attitude that there are some work of female and male, women ended doing heavy duties. One female respondent complained over heavy responsibility women are allocated when it comes to water projects.

*"Men takes less tasking role like supervision while women carries construction materials, dig trenches and ferry water pipes".*

It implies that women are in many aspects perform most of the casual and unproductive duties which at the end of the day go unnoticed and these therefore undermine their effective participation in developmental activities.

The outcomes of the focus group discussions realized that in leadership especially in development project women just play a distant role. For example

studies of community water and sanitation projects have found that when women have a strong say in project design and implementation, projects are more effective and sustainable than when women's participate minimal ( Gross, Van Wijk and Mukcherjee, 2001).

On accountability the CDF Act presumes that locally owned and driven initiative would be more accountable to the local communities of how they utilizes their recourses (Cohen and Peterson, 1996). The researcher observed the absence of specific provision in the CDF Act regarding the selection process (or Election) the constituency therefore adopt its own selection process based upon the structure that were placed and also depending on the sitting member of parliament. The study by Mapesa and Kibua ( 2005) found that appointment were made from friends and supporters of these MPs and also that CDC's exhibit greater allegiance to their patrons rather than the communities they are intended to serve. Most discussants did express dissatisfactory with the manner in which the constituency development fund is being handled by the CDC. Yet CDC are not required to respond to queries or clarify their actions to their communities and many community members have found themselves unable to obtain redress ( IAE,2006).

According to CDF official CDC accountant does frequent the constituency projects to monitor their progress. The CDC holds annual general meetings where location representatives attend and audit financial reports presented to members. The researcher observers inadequate financial management and tendering system (within the CDF Act). One key person suggested need of strong system to safe guard the interests of the communities. Budget allocation alone (as a proxy for development action) can be misleading when institutions are weak (SID, 2007). In the discussions it was agreed the important of establishing an annual budget day for the CDF money. In these meetings community members would be able know the CDF's income and expenditure and also they would air their view.

#### 4.1.3 Local organization capacity

**Table 8; If women given chance to work today for development.**

	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
YES	40	57.1	1
TRAIN FIRST	20	28.6	2
GO TO SCHOOL FIRST	3	4.3	4
LET MEN DO	7	10	3
	70	100	

Source: Primary Data

According to (table 8) most women were ready to work in CDF projects 57.1 of the respondents said that they are ready to work for development work while 28.6% said that they require training first, only 10 % of respondent would leave development work for men when 4.3% suggested that they need to go to school first.

Majority of women are willing to work together, organize themselves and mobilize resources to solve problems of common interest if given chance. Most female discussant complained that lack of information (figure 9) workload at household, lack of self confidence would hamper women's ability to participate in development process.

#### 4.1.4; Socio-economic and political structure

**Table 9; social- economic and political status of women compared to men**

	BELOW	EQUAL	ABOVE	TOTAL
FREQUENCY	64	5	1	70
PERCENT	91.4	7.2	1.4	100%

Source: Primary Data

According to the result (table10) the socio- economic and political status of women compared to men in the constituency is very much far below. The study found that 91.4% of respondents supported that women status is below while 7.2% said, it is equal to men and only 1.4% of the respondent agreed that women status is above men when considering socio- economic and political level. One of the female respondent lamented that due to the socio-cultural bias which is common among communities to woman this result to discrimination and exclusion of women in development processes the respondent added that;

*"A man will tell a woman to take the route he has taken politically and in any other decision without questioning it".*

It therefore implies that most women lag behind men in decision making. Generally a large number of women get influenced by men in their decision making.

Most women discussants agreed that to improve their status it must start with women themselves by actively supporting each other. They also said that, there is need to change the way in which women brought up their children and work towards raising boys and girls to see each other as equals and having equal responsibilities within and outside the home. The fact that women have not had much opportunity (relative to their male counterpart) to gain leadership experience and differences in the ways that women and men approach the issue of leadership, were both considered challenges to the selection of women on CDF communities.

#### 4.1.5 The extent which CDF improve women's welfare

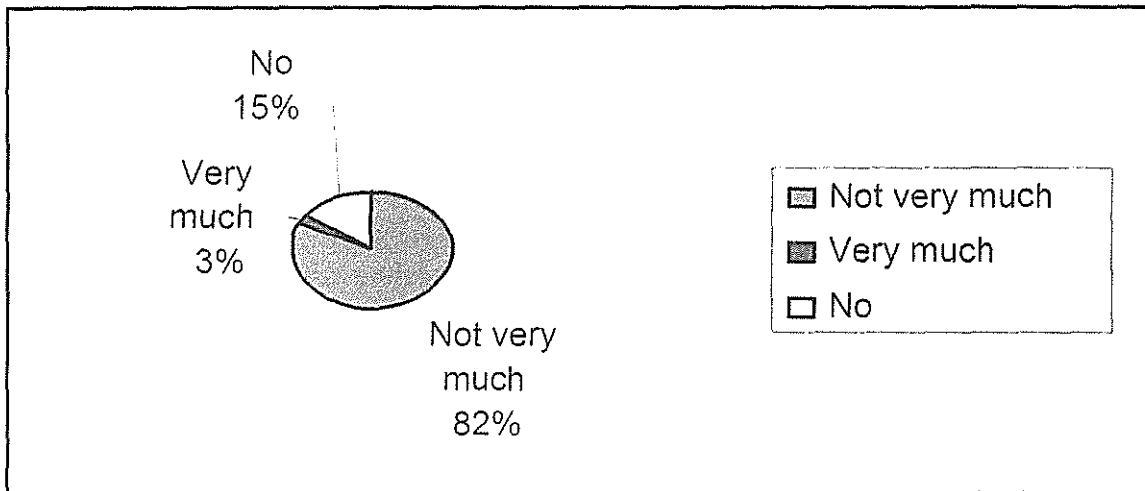
**Table 10; Benefits of CDF to women.**

	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE	RANK
Not very much	58	82.4%	1
No	10	14.7%	2
Very much	2	2.9%	3
Total	70	100%	

Source: Primary Data

The study findings on CDF improvement of women's welfare ranked moderate (or not very much). This study therefore found that the respondent who said not very much improvement scored 82.9%, those said no improvement at all got 14.3% and the group which agreed that was much improvement only scored 2.8%.

**Figure 6; Benefits of CDF to women.**



Source: Primary Data

Although the constituency development officials concluded that there were enormous improvement of women's welfare in terms of access of water, education, health, facilities, road and electricity infrastructure has also been improved since the introduction of CDF resources.

The researcher observed no proper records at the CDF office indicating the distribution out comes, for example although school bursaries were allocated to the most vulnerable pupils there , were no disaggregated date showing girl and boy child beneficiaries. Being able to determine and monitor who the recipient of these benefits are (i.e. the distribution outcomes) is imported influence in determining progress towards the attainment of the intended out comes( Selden and Wasylenko, 1992).

Although it is difficult to determine the full impact of the CDF in terms of the employment opportunities that it has generated because of the lack of records at the CDF office most project undertaken has long term impact on employment

(SID,2007).It was generally agreed by the focus group discussants and CDC officials that men had taken the majority of the tenders, contracts and paid jobs. Various reasons were given for this male discussant referred to the fact that most of the available jobs were physically demanding and menial and most women seemed averse to this. However, many female discussants said they were ready to take on these jobs, but they rarely know when opportunities came up. Women also referred to the fact that they felt overburden with work. Referring to their many domestic responsibilities and jobs, some said;

*"It was too much to go the building site like water intake  
especially when you knew that you would go home to find the  
work waiting for you".*

Due to heavy work load at house hold level, most women are attached or fixed at home by many house responsibilities which would undermine their participation in many other relevant duties.

Another female respondent said opportunities under the CDF were limited due to the fact that most projects were infrastructural in nature. This put most women at disadvantage in terms of experience; women at these sites either sold food or collected water. The study therefore found a greater parity and transformation of the status of women and girls. Women find it difficult to benefit from employment and other income generating activities under the CDF. The CDF Act (2003) does not make provision for financial support to business. Opportunities under the CDF have been limited to areas where women are facing discrimination or lack the skills and time to take advantage of them. One key person concluded that the potential gains for women's in terms of income generating opportunities and wealth generation are addressed fully in the impact of CDF onto women welfare remains low.

## 4.2; The challenges facing CDF initiatives in enhancing women's conditions.

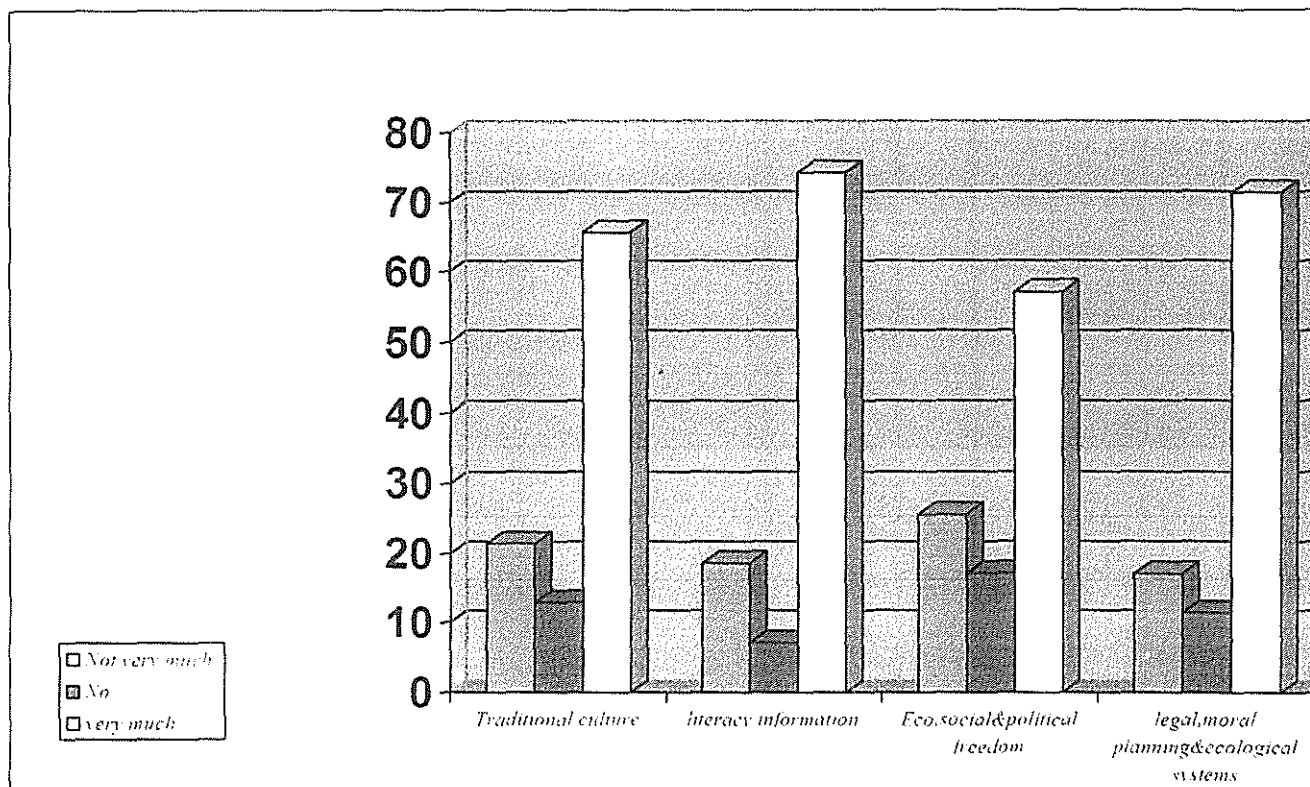
**Table 11; Challenges for active participation of the women in CDF initiatives.**

		Not very much	No	Very much	Total	Ranks for v. much
Traditional/cultural value.	Frequency	15	9	46	70	3
	Percentage	21.4	12.9	65.7	100	
Low literacy & Access to information	Frequency	13	5	52	70	1
	Percentage	18.6	7.1	74.3	100	
Econ, social and political freedom	Frequency	18	12	40	70	4
	Percentage	25.7	17.2	57.1	100	
Legal, planning & ecological systems	Frequency	12	8	50	70	2
	Percentage	17.1	11.4	71.5	100	

Source: Primary Data

Looking at the challenges on active participation of women in CDF initiative(table 11 and figure 7), the study found that tradition and cultural values, literacy and lack of information, legal, moral, planning and ecological system and also economic, social and political freedom have greatly affected the level of participation. According to (Figure7) all factors ranked very much, although low literacy and access of information scored higher 74.3% than other factors. Freedom of women scored second with 71.5% while traditional and cultural values followed closely with 65.7% and the last challenge was legal, moral planning and ecological system which scored 57.1% .

Figure 7; challenges for active participation of women in the CDF initiatives



Source: Primary Data

#### 4.2.1 Low literacy and access of information

Low literacy and access to information among women has generally rank highest contributor of low participation of women in CDF initiatives. Most of the discussants agreed that due to majority of aged women lack formal skills and knowledge often women shied away from joining CDF communities and other activities for example one female respondent said that due to rural women being poor- English language they tend to fear or lack self- confidence especially on leadership issues. This is so because most CDF report budget and advertisement is in English language. One key person said that women are less experienced than men and therefore they are less likely to be effective. On the other hand, female discussants said that women do not often see themselves as capable of being as good as or even better than their counterpart.

Most of female respondent said they are not aware of what they are supposed to do and therefore there is need for sustained awareness programmes. Some discussants (both male and female) complained of the lack of transparency on such issues as the meetings that determined when and where the projects would be identified. Study by (SID, 2007) found that others who attended these meetings said they did not understand how the final list of projects was rationalized and prioritized by the CDC, once the list of projects was received from the location and sub- location level.

#### **4.2.2 Economic social and political freedom.**

On economic-social and political freedom; Most respondents agreed that most women depend on men when they want to make any decision. Women's lack of education often results in their having fewer job opportunities and lower incomes than men enjoy; this in turn perpetuates their dependency on men's earnings and a consequent need to be submissive to men's decisions and desires.( Narayan,2005). The outcomes of the focus group discussions in most social setup, women seeks advice or permission from men before they make any social, economic or political action, for example one of female discussant at Kirimukuyu group said;

*"Men determine the purchase of main assets like land, vehicle, or even type of job a wife should be employed. Also in most cases one must inform him or seek permission before she goes outside homestead.*

*A woman has to follow the man's decision even if it is wrong".*

Woman discussants agreed that lack of economic, social and political freedom would greatly curtail the effort of active participation of women in development process.

#### **4.2.3 Tradition and cultural values.**

Tradition and cultural values has been found as another major barrier of active participation of women in CDF initiative by most discussant. For example one respondent cited an instance where women are rarely selected by both genders. Women discussant said that women will more likely support a male

candidate standing against a female candidate notwithstanding their respective development records. The study by (SID, 2007) concur in Dagoretti, one of the female discussant spoke of the fact that

*"We [society] punish ambition in women, but men  
Appreciated it in value gentleness, quiet- spoken ness and humility"*

It suggests, therefore, that ambition and leadership are considered to be more acceptable in men, as opposed to women, and these would seem to be based upon societal understandings about what is an acceptable female and male behavior.

**Table 12; Women work-burden.**

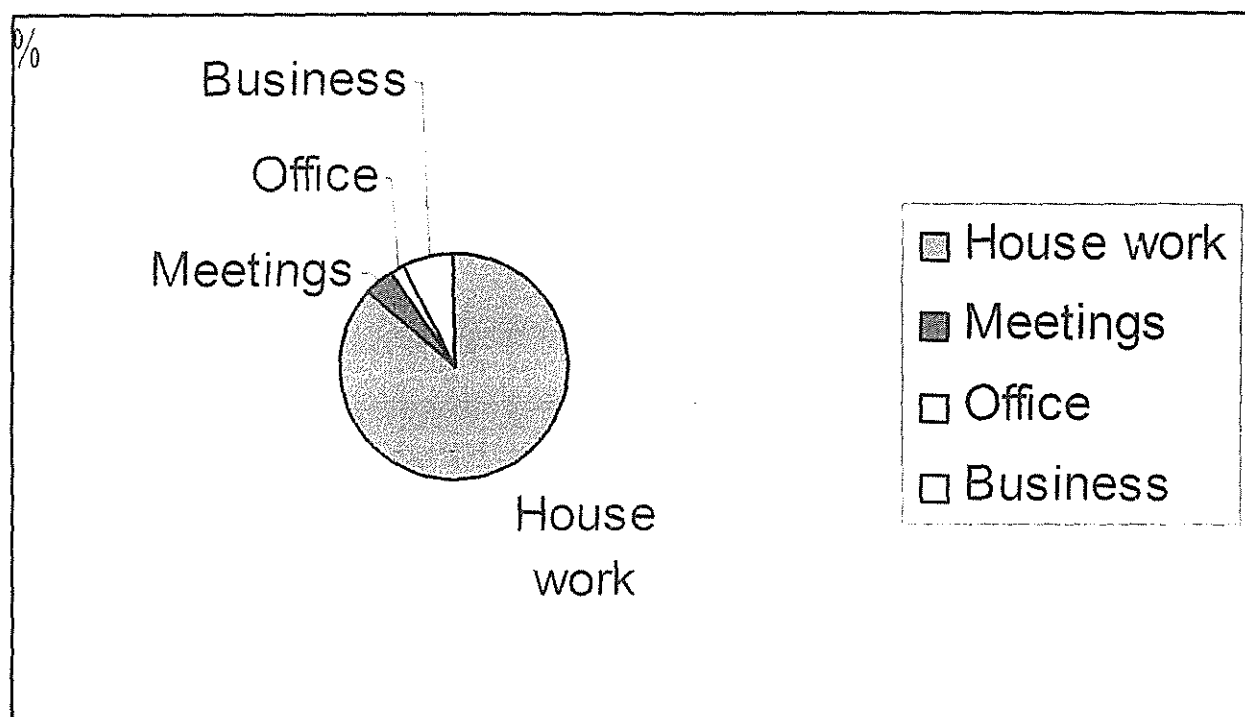
	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Meetings	4	5.7	3
House work	50	71.4	1
Business work	13	18.6	2
Office work	3	4.3	4
Total	70	100%	

**Source: Primary Data**

The result of (table 12) and (figure 8) indicates women spend a lot of time in house work. According to the findings 50% of respondents said most of women spend their time at household doing house work, 18.6% business wok, 5.7% in meetings and lastly 4.3% spend time in office work.

**Figure 8; Women work burden.**

Source: Primary Data



Most discussant said that women had many responsibilities, in the home which men often did not share. This made it difficult for them to participate in public offices. It is evident from the outcomes shown in (figure 8), where quite a lot of time spent by women is reproductive work at home. Therefore where active participation in development is required from women it implies a higher cost, (as compared to men) both in terms of time and finances. It was felt that unless this situation changes the role of women will continue to be limited (SID, 2007).

#### **4.2.4 Legal, planning and ecological systems.**

Although the above mentioned systems ranked forth, a reasonable number of respondents agreed that they have played a part in hampering active participation of women in CDF initiatives. On legal issue most discussants complained about the operational framework of the CDF Act (2003). The issues which were raised include failure of representation and participation in the CDF initiatives as a vehicle for the transformation of how women are viewed in society in terms of their role as decision-makers. Another female discussant added that CDF projects should be gender-responsive. This will

help women to articulate their practical needs and strategic interests. Most programmes were regarded as failure because they didn't consider existing irregularities between men and women and instead reinforce the subordinate role of women, or traditional gender stereotypes (Elso, 2006). For example CDF Act (2003) has limited areas where women would take advantage to generate income. A female discussant cited CDF Act lacking provision for financial support to business. This therefore suppresses women's potential gains in terms of income generating opportunities and wealth generation.

#### 4.3 The strategies put in place by the CDF committees to over come the problems faced in promoting women's welfare in the constituency.

**Table 13: CDF allocations to projects**

Projects	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7
Water		10.75%	13.6%	17.18%
Agri/livestock		0.60%	4.32%	
Health		41.58%	6.65%	18.26%
Security		-	1.99%	1.15%
Road		-	28.26%	6.45%
Edu-building		1.07%	26.60%	21.07%
Bursary		-	2.83%	10.00%
Office Adm		3.10%	2.84%	3%
Emergency		5.72%	5.59%	5%
CDF Office		-	2.66%	-
Other projects		34.39%	-	-
		100%	100%	100%

Source: Primary Data

The constituency development fund ( CDF) resources distribution records for the three consecutive years, since year 2004 showed the largest amount of fund went to the health sector that is 21.6%, followed by education-21.6%, then others un-identified projects- 19.3%, road -13.6% water- 13%, electricity 2.4% security 2.3% and lastly agricultural sector 1.3%.

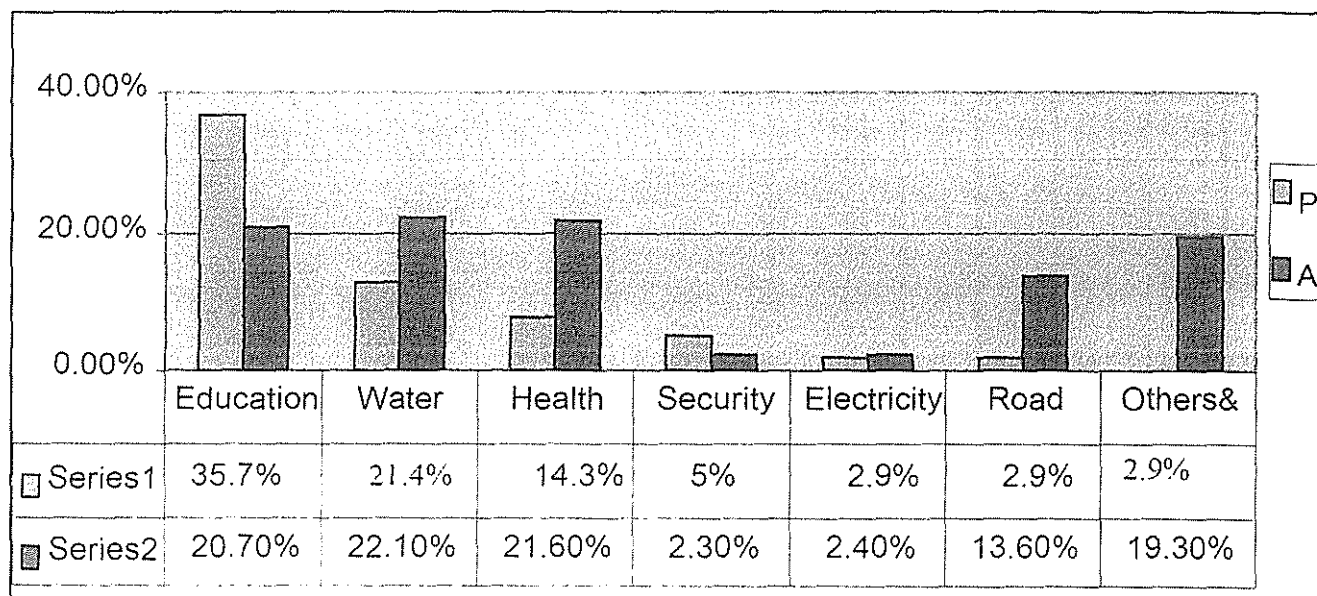
**Table 14: priority of development projects**

		Respondent (frequency)	Percentage	Ranks
a	Electricity	2	2.9%	6
b	Water	15	21.4%	2
c	Education	25	35.7%	1
d	Roads/bridges	2	2.9%	6
e	Enterprise	8	11.4%	4
f	Security	5	7.1%	5
g	Health	10	14.3%	3
h	Industries	1	1.4%	7
i	Agri & livestock	2	2.9%	6
		70	100%	

Source: Primary Data

Figure 9 presents the priority rates of development projects to articulate needs and interest of women. According to the study most respondents gave education the first priority 35.7% followed by water 21.4%, health – 14.3%, enterprise 11.4%, and security 7.1%. Security, road and agriculture sector rated last with each 2.9%.

**Figure 9: CDF allocations and women priorities**



Source: Primary Data

According to the CDC administrator the CDC decided to give great attention on improving the deteriorated social amenities and infrastructures, in their allocations. Although the researcher observed that the committee lacked adequate tool for proper distribution and benefit analysis. Based on how they are structured, firstly they lead to the distribution of resources from them through expenditures made. Secondly, they also recover resources from them through taxes and other measures and, thirdly, they produce secondary impact via their influence on job creation, the type of economic growth that the budget support and inflation(Elson,2006). How an individual benefits is determined(in part) by where the individual is located within the society and this is determined significantly by that individual's gender. Let, budgets in Kenya are often presented in " Gender Neutral" terms instead of it being gender - responsive(SID,2007)

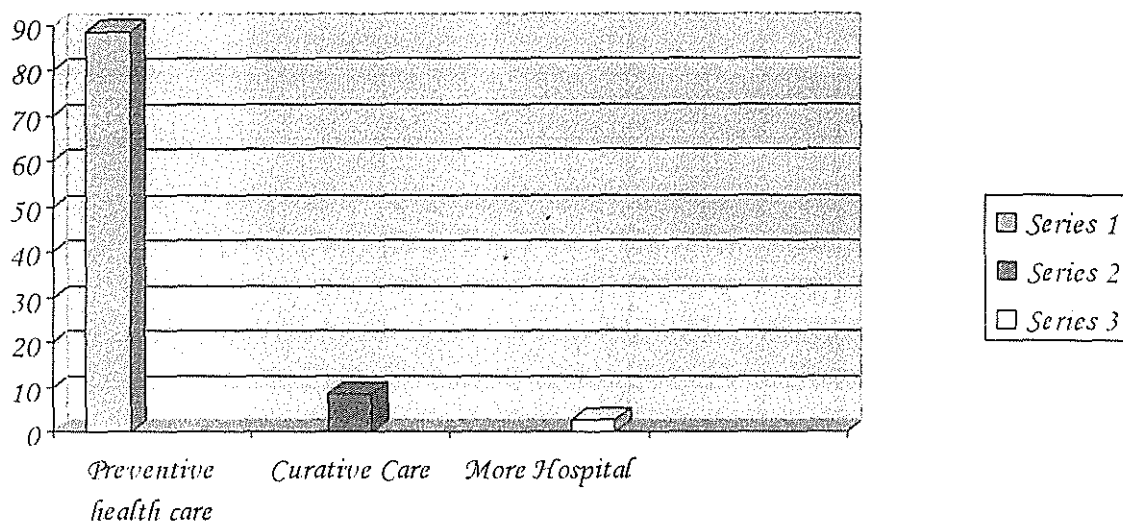
The CDF administrator confirmed that by CDC largely supported, health, education and water it is a strategy to help the poor (whom majority are women) to escape from poverty. For example increasing the accessibility to basic utilities would ease the work load of women and girls.

#### **4.3.1 Health**

Health sector being at top of the funded sector in the constituency, the bigger portion went to the construction of new dispensaries. The reason given by CDF administrator was that by building new dispensary and improving the already existing hospital project will boost the publicly- run health facilities and make it easier for the ministry of health to assume, control once the work has been satisfactory completed could be described as qualitative in nature, i.e better services and rooms. For example in Kirimukuyu location there was no single health facility. But now with three years of CDF initiatives there have been five completed and operational dispensaries. The CDF administrator added that the mission of CDC is to have a dispensary in every sub-location. The reason given was when health services improves it lead to increase in productivity by reducing the distance traveled by sick persons. This also in long term brings up healthy people who tend to be more productive. It also reduce time spend either by congestion at one main Karatina district hospital or distance traveled

to seek medical attention by patients therefore the time saved can be utilized positively hence reduction of poverty level in the area.

**Figure 11: Health Provision**



**Source: Primary Data**

On (figure 11) the study found that to articulate women needs and interests through CDF initiatives health sector was ranked third priority although CDC has given it the first priority in terms of resource allocation. According to (figure11) it was also realized from most respondents that on provision of health preventive health care would address women issues effectively than curative and building of more hospitals. The results of (figure11) shows 88.6% of respondent were in favour of provision preventative health care and awareness, 8.6% curative care while 2.8% of respondents supported building of more hospitals. Most female discussant agreed that due to their reproductive health needs, women specifically asked for maternity facilities and quality care especially access to vital health measures. In focus group discussion, women were realized to be major users of health services.

The study by (SID, 2007) also found that health is recognized as a critical indicator of welfare is evidenced by the significant investment that have been made to this sector through the CDF. Health is also important to an individual's

ability to be productive and contribute to the economic growth of the society. Therefore while there is need to be careful about over simplifying the links between investing in health sector and good health outcomes, the CDF has been responsive to the needs of women and development. Never the less more women should be selected in health projects. One female key person added That women in Kenya are responsible for food production, processing, storage, marketing and cooking for the family however decision making which determine feeding pattern, food purchasing and intra familial distribution is a male prerogative. Most discussants therefore agreed that educating women on how to prevent diseases through good nutrition and cleanliness, sanitation and immunization and on what to take when illness occur in the family would be effective for provision of health. Health care therefore should be stressed through comprehensive measure affecting several factors simultaneously in order to break the vicious circle of carriers of ill health. For example immunization programme should be paired with health and nutritional education. In public budgets priority should be given to primary health care and essential drugs rather than to high technology treatment (Ostergaard, 1992). A key person said without knowledge/ information no one will know where to seek advice and how to prevent diseases.

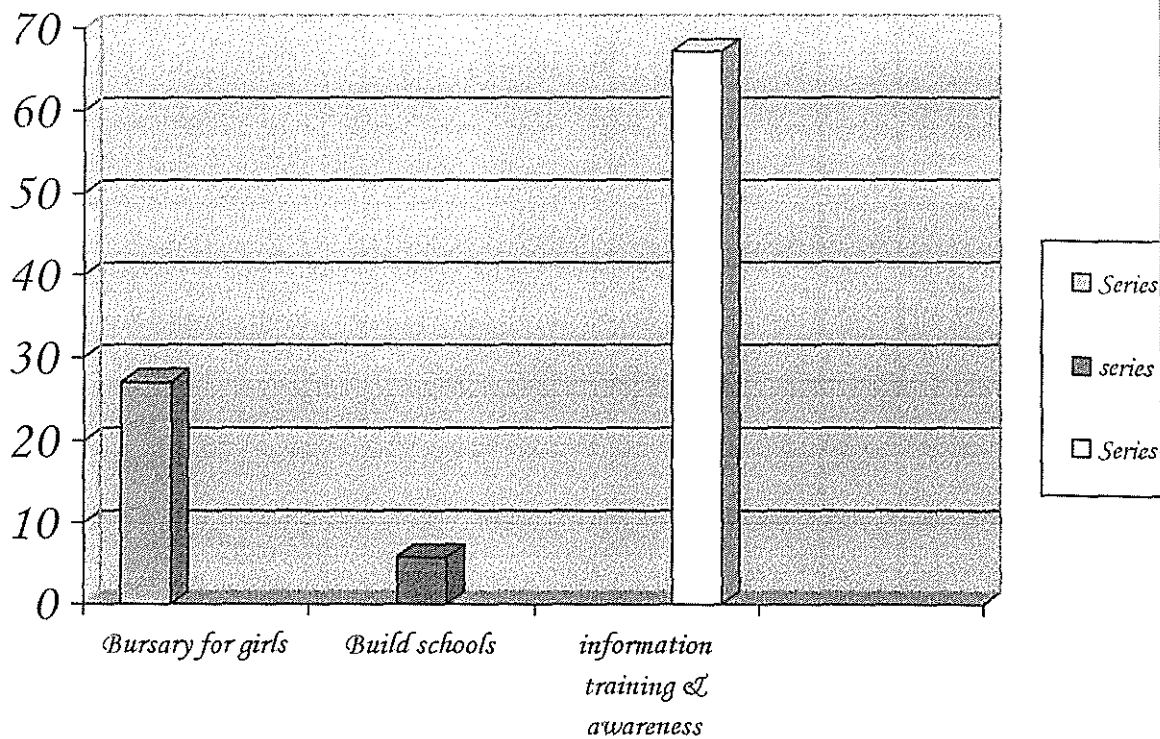
#### **4.3.2 Education**

Education sector has been allocated the second largest CDF resources for three financial year since 2004. This is in accordance to the CDC records. The reason given by CDF administrator was that education sector is very important tenet of improving people especially women. The CDC argued that in accordance with introduction of free primary education there was a need of improving primary school facilities and increasing of bursary allocation for secondary school and tertiary college students. This would enhance access retention; transition and performance in education more importantly eliminate gender disparities.

On improving school facilities the CDF official said most parents tend to transfer their children from public schools to private due to their pathetic

conditions. Most public schools lacked window panes, doors, better roofing, cemented floor and congestion. The schools were therefore prone to jigger infection, diseases like common cold and water diseases to the places where classes are situated in water logged areas. Most of the pupils who goes to the public schools seemed to be condemned with poverty and psychologically believed they are inferior against those attending modern private schools with well ventilated classrooms , better roofing and cemented floors. This was there fore believed to have greatly affected the performance of public school pupils. But with introduction of CDF recourses many public school has been improved through renovation of classrooms supply with equipments and electricity. The performance of public schools has improved in consequential. The evidence was witnessed with improvement in primary educational performance where the constituency got into the first position within the district in the year 2007 from position seven in the year 2002.

Figure 10; Education provision



Source: Primary Data

According to the study (table 13) 23.8% and 6.4% was allocated for school building and bursaries respectively, the financial year 2005/2006 to 2006/07. This was interpreted that greatest amount of CDF recourses to education sector went to provision school buildings. The outcomes of the study showed that on education sector the most strategic needs to improve women welfare is through informal training and creating awareness amongst women.

The findings as shown in (figure 10) indicated 67.1% of respondent suggested informal training and creative awareness among women would address effectively their needs, 27.1% supported improvement of bursary allocation for girls and 5.8% suggested building of more schools. According to the findings (table 14) education was ranked the first priority. This idea was supported by most discussants. One key person quoted saying;

*"Educating a woman is to educate a nation. A woman is at the centre of development starting with bearing a child and nurturing him/her. She is also responsible of health and nutrition of a family. Therefore the quality of life is greatly determined by the knowledge status of a woman".*

Ostergaard (1992) said that educating girls is the best investment a country can make in future economic growth and welfare, because women's almost exclusive influence in the home on health, nutrition and fertility, and because of the formative influence of mothers on the next generation.

On bursaries allocation the researcher observed that a large support is being directed towards the education of females. If bursary funding is sustained it can positively impact upon the educational attainment. Although studies in Kenya have shown that female transition rates to post- secondary school education levels are low such education can increase an individual chances of employment and earning capacity, thereby boosting incomes and productivity at the household and community levels.

**Table 14 b. Education status in Mathira constituency**

<b>Primary schools Mathira division</b>	
Boys	16,227
Girls	15,914
i) There are more female than male primary teachers 362 male 600 female teachers.	
<b>Secondary school (Mathira Division)</b>	
More male than female secondary teachers.	
There are 33 secondary schools out of which more girl school than boys. NB/ i) More boys drop out than girls. ii) there are more girl than boy students. iii) Girls perform better than boys in (K.C.S.E.)	
<b>Post- secondary (Mathira Division)</b>	
More boys than girls join post secondary institutions	

**Source: Secondary Data**

Report from Mathira Education Office August (2007)

The above report showed that the enrollment rate of boy out numbers the girls with a slight margin in primary school. This is opposite in secondary school where many girls join secondary schools but the rate of girls in post- secondary school is out done by male students. This is evidence by the higher number of secondary school teachers in the division compared to female ones. On bursary scheme analysis, it is evidence that an increase of female students in secondary school goes with higher allocation of bursary fund to female students.

On the other hand the decline of bursary allocation to female student at post-secondary level goes with reduction of number of female in post-secondary school institution. This suggests that more support needs to be directed to support post-secondary education especially to girls if we are to make significant progress in the constituency.

Both CDF officials and most respondents suggested an increase of bursary allocation against 10% of annual budgetary transfer provided by CDF Act. This was evidence by high demand for bursaries. Most discussant accused the sub-location assessment committee in-charge of bursary allocation over favoritism. Given the lack of clarity around issues of eligibility and the need to ensure that the amounts awarded under the bursary are reasonable, it is also suggested that such guidelines be developed and incorporated within the CDF Act(2003) (SID,2007). Such guidelines should be widely disseminated to do away with any malpractice and allegations of favoritism. All in all most discussants agreed that education enable women to make better plans decisions for themselves their families and the nation as a whole.

#### **4.3.3; Water**

Water ranked fifth on the amount allocated by CDC although it was prioritized second by the respondents (Figure9). According to the survey by (SID2007) up to one in four households still relied on collecting water from rivers or streams, 70% relied on traditional pit latrine for sanitation, whilst 20 percent had facility to speak of. These statistics implies significant challenges for women and girls who continue to bear the brunt of responsibility for water and firewood collection. This poses challenges for their educational achievements. Furthermore, for many women and girls inadequate sanitation has been a source of indignity and insecurity. The absence of these basic utilities has the combined effect of reducing economic growth through lowered individual productivity, perpetuating gender irregularity and disempowering women and girls.

A CDF administrator said one important reason of provision of water in the constituency is to reduce the distance covered and time spent by women in

fetching water. He added that this time would be an alternative use. The prevalence of diseases would also reduce through provision of water supply which consequently improve the hygienic levels. WHO estimates that 80 percent of all diseases are related to unsatisfactory supplies of water and sanitation.

One of the key persons plus most female discussants agreed that women are the water providers and main users of water. But they are undervalued when it comes to establishing water projects. The CDC was also pointed out as one of the barriers to the provision of water supply where it allocates inadequate funds to the sector. In one of the focus group discussions, women were cited to be most affected by poor access of water and therefore it would be more efficient, cost-effective and hence sustainable if women are largely involved in identifying, design, installation and maintenance of water projects.

#### **4.3.4 Road**

Road construction ranked fourth in constituency on fund allocation while it was ranked the lowest priority among the respondents (figure 9). The CDC official gave a reason of deteriorated situation of the constituency road; hence CDC allocated monies to buy a grader (tractor) worth about 27,000,000Ksh. The officer argued that the cost of maintaining or leveling road by hired grader is 50,000Ksh per kilometer. But with constituency grader the cost reduces to about 10,000Ksh per kilometer. Most discussants argued that there was no need of buying a grader for the constituency. They lamented that the decision about the purchase was made by few CDC members and the project unnecessarily costed a lot to the constituency. The discussant said there are other stakeholders who take the same role of road maintenance in the constituency, for example country council, District road levy board, ministry of road and public work and Kenya tea development agencies. One key person suggested proper coordination and linkages between stakeholders, relevant ministries and local authorities should be effected to minimize conflict, overlap of project and wastage of resources.

#### **4.3.5 Electricity**

Electricity ranked sixth in CDF allocation while respondents' priority ranked it number six. According to the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) while 50 percent of urban households had electricity, only 4.6 percent of rural households had electricity (CDS et al, 2004). According to the (SID, 2007) survey 85 percent of rural households were found to rely on firewood or straw. Most discussants and CDF officials agreed that great attention should also be directed on increasing electrification in rural areas as doing so would improve rural life especially to women and girls who spent a lot of time collecting firewood. Elson,(2006) said we have to talk of basics, even as we talk about promoting women and girls in ways that will change their social position.

#### **4.3.6 Security**

Security, was considered as strategies of improving women needs and interest, for example CDC allocated funds for building police post in all location, although most respondents interviewed talked of putting proper mechanism in fighting crime like community policing and increase job opportunity to the youth who mostly are involved in crime.

#### **4.3.7 Agriculture and industries**

Most female discussants who are mainly farmers advocated for agriculture provision especially on marketing and processing of their produce. In Kenya rural women are responsible for storing crops. Despite this facts the field of nutrition have been dominated by the bio-medical approach almost no attention has been given to women economic role as producers, marketers, and processors of food within a set of constrains that prevent them from fulfilling this roles effectively.( Thairu,1984)

In group discussions extension training on agricultural techniques and technology among women would boost the productivity of this sector UNECA, (1974) advocated that education and training widen women's horizons and improve their ability to use new techniques, and aspect which are vital to the process of development.

#### 4.3.8 Enterprise

Enterprise did not feature in CDF allocation as the CDF Act (2003) does not provide any provision of channeling fund to such activities. Most of discussants advocated the amendment of CDF Act to support women enterprise groups. In Kenya there are over ten thousand women groups, most of which are allocated and operate in rural areas. The organizations try to help the women to accept their responsibilities and to reach their full potential as citizens contributing to rapid development of Kenya. their major activities includes provision the welfare of the group member's family, make effective use of local resources such as personnel and materials to strengthen women groups.(Thairu,1984) The outcome of (table 14) indicated enterprises as a fourth priority in addressing needs and interests. One key person suggested the amendment of CDF Act (2003) to facilitate support for many rural women who engage in small business. One of the respondents said most women have organized themselves to women groups to buy items of furniture to pay school fees or hospital bills. They have also started and developed income generating activities. Majority of women therefore are engaged in informal sector and it was noted that the development of some of this activities was greatly hampered by lack of capital. It is therefore ideal for CDC to boost women activities by supporting women groups' financially and training.

Participation of women in decision making and the attainment of economic independence must constitute part of the development process; otherwise the negative trends brought through the process o modernization will only be replicated. Development strategies need to concentrate on the implementation of viable economic enterprises not only of labour skills but also of management skills. This way the proceeds from the enterprises may benefit the respective families (Palmer,1976).

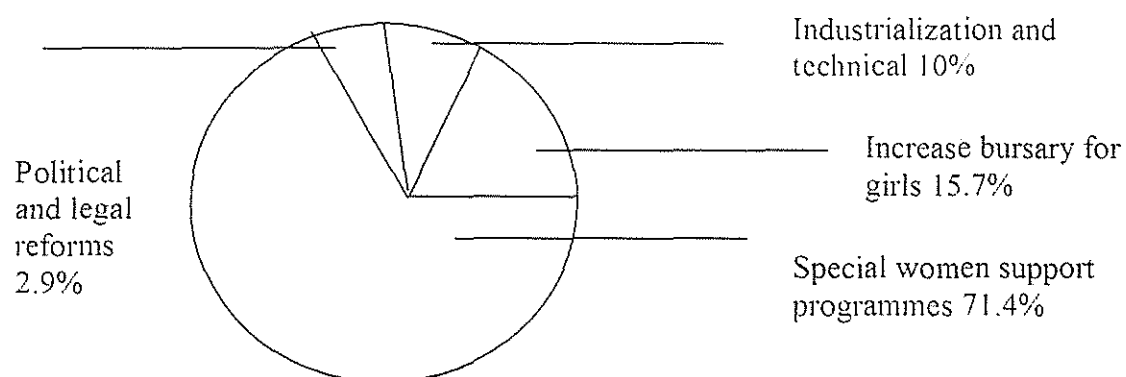
Many training courses for women have emphasized the acquisition of general activity, however should now be reflected in the curriculum of future training course for women.

**Table 15: Showing suggestions on the improvement of women wellbeing through CDF**

	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Special women support program (funding & training)	50	71%	1
Increase bursary for girls.	11	15.7%	2
Industrialization and technical advancement.	7	10%	3
Political participation and legal reforms.	2	2.9%	4
	70	100%	

**Source: Primary Data**

**Figure 11: Suggestion on the women empowerment.**



**Source: Primary Data**

According to the results of (table 15) the best way forward for improving women's well being through CDF; special women support programmes ranked first with 71.4%, second-was increased of bursary to girl students with 15.7%, industrialization and technical advancement was third with 10%,lastly political participation scored 2.9%.

According to most female discussants the most practical and strategic means of empowering women and improving women's well being through CDF is by building capacity of women. This was by establishing special women training and funding programs. One women respondent said that; 'Maeondeleo ya Wanawake' association has greatly build the women capacity through raising their consciousness by exposing them to relevant information. The study found that through information and training an individual would upgrade ones ability to know, analyze and understand their situation and their problem hence ownership of the intervention undertaken. This leads to sustainability of the projects.

For active participation women therefore requires special programmes on financial and training support to uplift their low level of involvement in development processes. People participation generally means involvement of the community in decision – making process and governance issues. People's participation in decision-making is a key ingredient in poverty reduction and tackling regional inequalities. By participation, people can articulate priorities of projects that can be implemented based on felt needs. Participation ensures the proper and equal distribution of services provision among all the target areas by participation people can also help in mobilizing resources to compliment government efforts participation should start at the project initiation stage to enhance ownership.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 5.0 Introduction

This chapter gives a summary of the study, conclusion and the recommendations or proposals for the interventions.

#### 5.1 Summary

This study carried out an evaluation on the role of CDF in the empowerment of women where the fund was initiated as a vehicle for development. The CDF is founded (in part) on the idea of people- driven development concept based on the view that local people have a better knowledge of their problems priorities and opportunities. The study therefore explores the impact, challenge and strategies by CDF initiative in empowering women.

On the impact of CDF initiatives as a vehicle for the transformation of women's livelihoods and welfare of women and girls in the society, the study focused on distributive outcomes (defined by transfers in cash or in kind and other tangible gains) have been ( so far) by gender, "gender- responsiveness". Some of the issues assessed include female representative and participation, baseline information and structure of CDF in terms of distribution of resources and opportunities.

On how women engage within the CDF structures, it has a bearing on the extent to which they benefit from the same. The study found low level of awareness on CDF and participation in terms of the management, project identification and implementation by women which also implies minimal benefits by CDF initiatives.

Most of local community are not aware of what they are supposed to do. There is need for sustained awareness program for women to know that they are supposed to participate in there the CDF and it is not only men. The selection

of CDC members is done without adequate participation of community members. Also the CDF Act does not compel CDC members to keep communities informed of their actions, these communities often find themselves in the dark about the decisions that are being made at the CDC level.

About participation of women, they are the minority in the CDF committees, lack of transparency on such issues like meetings that determines when and where the projects would be identified denying women an opportunity to articulate their needs and priorities.

The finding seems to suggest that opportunities under CDF have been limited to areas where woman face discrimination or lack time to take advantages to them. Unless these issues are addressed the potential gain for woman in terms of income generating opportunities and wealth generation are likely to be minimal, but with better CDF consultative process would provide an avenue through which women can play a more visible role in CDF initiatives resulting to great impact to the welfare and live hood of women in the community.

Secondly the study found that although the CDC mission is focused on getting broad citizen participation it faces several challenges on enhancing women welfare. Those challenges include;

Literacy level and access of information among women was found to be the leading factor hampering CDF committee in improving women's welfare. Education and access to the relevant information featured as critical to the country's progress in human development. Thus low literacy level and access of information was considered to be the major challenge. Educational opportunities and outcomes need to be increased in order to enhance the income- generating capacities of females. Such efforts are also important in that they boost the benefits of investments that have already been made through the CDF in the education sector. There is a positive correlation between education and an individual's earning and the better educated an individual, the more productive he/she is.

Women Economic, Social and Political freedom in terms of decision making was a challenge in woman enhancement of women's well being. This is where

the well being of an individual can be measured through enjoyment of Social, Political, Civil rights. The study found that the low level of Political, Social and Economic participation of CDF was due to decreased capacity in terms of knowledge mobility to perform better. For example, the fact women have not had much opportunities ( relative to the male counterpart) to gain leadership experience, and the differences in the way that women and men approach the issue of leadership were both considers challenges to the selection of woman on CDF committee .The absence of basic utilities (basic needs) has the combined effect of reducing economic growth through lowered individual productivity perpetuating gender inequality and disempowering women and girls.

Legal, planning and ecological system was found to have negative impact on women empowerment. For instance the accountability to stake holders should be improved through proper legal and planning systems. Responsibility to stake holders can be assured by drafting and enacting clear policy on community concerns. The operation frame work of the CDF Act of 2003 has raised a lot of concerns to most communities. They expressed dissatisfaction over it inadequate provisions on the criterion for selection, the manner in which fund is being handle by the CDF, coordination and monitoring of projects between CDF and relevant ministries, role of members of parliament and closed nature of CDF processes among others. This provisions especially the checks and balances against abuses and the consequences of such abuses need to be enhanced within the Act in order to effectively protect the interest of communities.

Lastly, the strategies put in place by the CDF committee to curb the problem facing women welfare in the constituency the study focused on the allocation of CDC and the woman priorities in addressing their practical and strategic needs. The study found that the provision of education followed by Water and Health project were the priority although supporting women's groups enterprises have been found to be the most strategic way of transforming the status of women and girls. All in all strategies needs to be devised that ensure access to

information on CDF for communities because information determines level of participation.

## **5.2 CONCLUSION**

The Government introduced Constituency Development Fund (CDF) with an intension for broader development and wealth creation. The conclusion that can be drawn out of the out come of this study was that although the CDF initiatives has significant potential to bring out important gain for the country's development, women attained less in terms of their empowerment. Most women often found themselves in the dark about the decision that is being made at the CDC level. Women require ample time; gender sensitive CDF Act, awareness, leadership skills and self-esteem so that they could participate efficiently with men without necessarily raising conflicts. All in all there is need to strengthen community participation at all level i.e. project identification, management, monitoring and evaluation.

For a meaningful empowerment of women in CDF initiatives the study concluded that low literacy and access of vital information among women is the greatest challenges. On priority of development projects which addresses women's needs and interest, education and training was identified to be the most effective and strategic means. In order to ensure that these different needs remain catered for, it is important to boost female representation in the CDF committees. The reason given was that education can be a means to attain all other aspects of life. For adult women to be active actor of development they need special credit for enterprises with informal training to increase their full realization of their potential. Such efforts also increase overall productivity for the community, thereby maximizing the role of CDF in empowerment women.

## **5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The CDF Act (2003) should be amended to provide for affirmative action for women in the Act. This will enable selection of more women in CDF committee.

Women also need to be empowered through training and awareness in order to be effective leaders in their communities.

High priority to literacy should be given to female and especially to adult's women. With introduction of free primary and secondary education much of resources aimed for provision of education may be directed to the provision of skills and awareness for adult women where literacy level is still low among woman compared to men. This will boost women negotiation capabilities as well as their skills and confidence.

Strategies needs to be devised that ensure access to information on CDF for communities, because information determines the level of participation. Exposing people to relevant information especially about the real underlying and basic causes behind their problems, this will translate to effective participation especially in informed decision making. The strategy should include effective communication process by announcing and disseminating information about CDF at Markets places, Churches and Women Self help groups where women frequent. The CDF documents and announcements needs to be translated into vernacular languages which most local community understands better.

Special programs for women should be introduced to uplift the low status of women in the society compared to men. This would give women power of decision thus increasing their self esteem and self-confidence. This would engage them in action to fights for their rights and to gain more control over the resources they need. Training programmes for women are necessary by equipping them on leadership skills, accounting, record keeping, proposal writing, civic education and business management among other courses. Financially, the CDF Act should be expanded to facilitate support to women business groups. Although most of the CDF projects were infrastructural in nature, therefore this put most women of disadvantages in terms of experience needed for employment opportunities. Never the less, most of unemployed women dominate in self-help groups to improve their livelihood. It would be therefore ideal if CDF provide support to women self help groups both

financially and training. Therefore capacity building by raising people knowledge would help better understanding in the decision making process to communicate more effectively and to take decision eventually instilling in them a sense of confidence to manage their own destinies and therefore leads to more sustainability.

A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system needs to be established to enable communities to set clear goals and target for change with opportunities to assess whether such change has occurred and to what extent people's lives have improved. Such a framework should also include areas of collaboration, gender issues and capture data by gender in order to ensure that any disparities are captured and actively addressed. Capacity- building of CDF committees on project design, monitoring and evaluation from a gender perspective would need to be undertaken to ensure effectiveness.

The CDF committee should embark in projects that free women from workload at the household level. Fostering actions that decrease the work load of women would therefore lead shifting of more reproductive time to productive activities and increase participation of women in CDF meetings.

#### **5.4 FUTURE RESEARCH**

If development policies, programs or projects are to be effective in raising the standard of living of the poor women empowerment would be central point to approach equitable development. We need to (ask) the following questions:-

- I. How does public expenditure bring about change in gender inequalities?
- II. To what extent do the development projects free women from workload at the household level?
- III. How does access to information lead to development process necessitate effective participation of women?

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## **Appendix 1: Interview Guide for constituency development fund officials**

1. What is CDF?
2. What is the CDF Mission and Objectives?
3. Do CDF have organization structure?
4. If so how and who constitute the structure?
5. WHAT is nature type and numbers of projects \ programmes established by CDF committee in the last three years?
6. In which way has CDF addressed women's needs and interests since the
7. Introduction of the fund?
8. Does the CDF committee have a system of women's inclusion and participation in planning implementing monitory and evaluation of CDF projects/programmes?
9. To what extent does women participate in CDF planning and implementation?
10. What is the nature of the information flow found between the committee and the beneficiaries?
11. To what extent does the flow of information perfected CDF operations?
12. Does the CDF committee have an accounting system?
13. What are the types of accountability mechanisms found within the committee (political, Administrative and social or public)?
14. How does the accountability helped the performance CDF activities?
15. What are the challenges faced committee by CDF in enhancing women's well being through CDF?
16. How does the CDF committee attempted to overcome these challenges?
17. What is the way forward on empowerment of women through CDF?

## Appendix 2: QUESTIONNAIRES

### A. Knowledge about C.D.F

1. Do you know about C.D.F ?  
A. Yes                      B. No
2. How do you get the information about CDF?  
A. Friends                  B. Radio                  C. Newspaper                  D. Local  
announcement
3. What is the social economic and political status of women in the  
constituency compare to men?  
A. Below                  B. Equal                  C. above
4. What is the status of women economically compared to men in the  
constituency?  
A. Below                  B. Equal                  C. Above
5. Compared to men where are women in decision making on CDF?  
A. Below                  B. Equal                  C. Above
6. Who of these people usually has the greatest say in the decision on  
utilization of CDF?  
A. Rural women          B. Rural men          C. Men politician
7. Who attend most development meetings?  
A. Women                  B. Men                  C. Youth
8. Have you ever participated in CDF projects either in identification,  
Implementation, Management or evaluation?  
A. Yes                      B. No.
9. Do CDF improve women's welfare?  
A. Not very much      B. No                      C. Very much

### B. Challenges

10. Do tradition and cultural values affect women's participation in CDF  
initiatives?  
A. Not so Much                  B. No                      C. Very much
11. Do women depend on men to make economic, social and political  
decisions?  
A. Not so much                  B. No                      C. Very much

12. Do legal, planning and ecological system have impact on how women participate in CDF initiatives?  
 A. Not Very much                      B. No                      C. Very much.
13. Does the low level of literacy and access of information to women affect the active involvement of women in CDF?  
 A. Not so much                      B. No                      C. Very much
14. Where do women spend a lot of time?  
 A. Meetings                      B. Housework                      C. Business work                      D. Office work
15. Do women want to appear the best in your area?  
 A. Yes                      B. No                      C. Not necessary
16. Which place do women prefer to compete in the society?  
 A. Politics                      B. Place of work                      C. Every where                      D. Beauty

### **Strategies**

17. If women are given a chance to work today for development, will they be able to do it?  
 A. Yes                      B. Need training first                      C. Need to go to school first                      d) Let men do it
18. According to you what is your priority of development projects to address women needs and interests?  
 A. Electricity                      B. Water                      C. Education                      D. Roads and bridge  
 E. Enterprise                      F. Security                      G. Health                      H. Industries                      I. Agr. & livestock
19. On education provision what is the most strategic needs to improve women welfare?  
 A. Increase of Bursary allocation for girls                      B. Build more schools  
 C. Informal training and awareness.
20. On health provision what is the most strategic needs to improve women welfare ?  
 A. Increase preventative health care and awareness                      B. Increase curative care  
 C. Build more hospital.
21. According to you what is the best way forward to improve women well being through CDF?