

**AN ANALYSIS OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN MALAWI. THE
CASE OF PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS FOR GOVERNMENT AND NON-
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

MA (DEVELOPMENT STUDIES) THESIS

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UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI

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MA (DEVELOPMENT STUDIES) THESIS

By

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BSW (Arts) – DMI-SJBU

Submitted to the School of Law, Economics and Governance in partial fulfilment of
the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts (Development Studies)

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DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been submitted to any other institution for similar purposes. Where other studies have been used, acknowledgements have been made.

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CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

The undersigned certify that this thesis represents the student's own work and effort and has been submitted with our approval.

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DEDICATION

To my late mother and my dad, thank you for the support and prayers. You are my source of inspiration and blessings in countless ways.

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ABSTRACT

Community Participation is one of the factors that leads to successful implementation of development projects. Public Works Projects (PWPs) in Malawi are categorized as one of the developmental projects. Fewer studies have examined the participatory approaches between the Government and Non-Governmental Organisations in PWPs. This study contributed to the debate on community participatory approaches in Malawi. The study used MASAF 4, a PWP project implemented by World Vision (an NGO) and Government project in Zomba district under traditional authority (TA) Chikowi. Based on a qualitative approach, the study used key informant interviews (KII) guides with project facilitators and focus group discussion (FGD) guides. The approach was selected because of the study, in order capture lived experiences. This helped the researcher an opportunity to understand and interpret social changes and interactions. The study investigated; how the community participated in project selection, maintenance of PWPs projects and how communities were involved in monitoring of PWPs implemented by the Government and NGOs. Interview audios were transcribed into English and were coded using deductive and inductive methods. Thematic analysis was used to analyze data in Atlas.Ti software. Community participation was measured using Arnstein's ladder of community participation. Overall, the Government led project demonstrated more community participatory qualities as compared to the NGO led project in all the three phases examined. Community participation can only be achieved where only the local community is empowered, which calls for early inclusion of community members in project decision making and activities.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT.....	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	vii
LIST OF TABLES.....	x
LIST OF APPENDICES.....	xi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	xii
CHAPTER ONE	1
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Background of the study.....	1
1.3 Introduction.....	4
1.4 Problem statement	7
1.5 Research questions	9
1.6 Objectives of the study	9
1.6.1 <i>Specific Objectives</i>	9
1.7 Significance and Purpose of the study.....	10
1.8 Organization of the thesis	11
CHAPTER TWO	12
LITERATURE REVIEW	12
2.1 Introduction.....	12
2.2 Revolution of Development theories and community participation	12
2.3 Community participation in public works programs.....	15
2.4 Selection and identification of projects	15
2.5 Community Participation in Government implemented projects	17

2.5.1 Monitoring	18
2.6 NGO as Development agents	19
2.7 Typologies of participation	20
2.7.1 The Framework of Typologies of Participation	20
2.7.2 Relevance of the theory to the study	24
CHAPTER THREE	26
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	26
3.1 Introduction.....	26
3.2 Research Design.....	26
3.2.1 Qualitative Research.....	26
3.2.2 Research approach	28
3.3 Study area	29
3.4 Sampling Techniques	29
3.5 Data collection Methods and Tools.....	31
3.5.1 Focus Group Discussion and Key Informant Interviews:.....	32
3.6 Pilot Study.....	33
3.8 Ethical Consideration	35
3.9 Limitations of the study	37
3.10 Conclusions	37
CHAPTER FOUR.....	39
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS	39
4.1 Introduction	39
4.2 Respondents Background Characteristics.....	39
4.3 Assessing Community Participation in project selection in the Government and Non-Governmental implemented Projects	41

4.3.1 <i>Selection of Public works projects in the community by government and non-government organizations.</i>	41
4.3.2 <i>Discussion on community participation in project selection in the Government and NGO's implemented projects</i>	43
4.4 The role of beneficiary Community Participation in the maintenance of Government and the NGO's implemented public works projects.....	47
4.5 Discussion of findings of the role of beneficiary community participation in maintenance of Government and Non-Governmental implemented public works projects	50
4.6 Assessing monitoring of public works projects by the community in the Government and Non-Governmental implemented Projects	53
4.6.1 <i>Findings on Monitoring of Public Works Projects by beneficiaries in the Government and NGO's</i>	54
4.6.2 <i>Discussion of findings concerning monitoring of public works projects activities</i>	57
4.7 Conclusion	59
CHAPTER FIVE	61
CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY.....	61
5.1 Introduction.....	61
5.2 Summary of results.....	61
5.3 Areas for Further Study	61
5.4 Implications and policy recommendations	62
REFERENCES	63
APPENDICES	69

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Ladder of Citizen Participation (Power and control).....	22
Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Background Characteristics	40

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Interview Guides (FGD)	69
Appendix 2: Key Informants Interview Guide	75
Appendix 3: Request for Permission	78

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADC	AREA DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
EU	EUROPEAN UNION
FFA	FOOD FOR ASSETS
FGD	FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION
GOM	GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI
GVH	GROUP VILLAGE HEADMAN
KII	KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW
LDF	LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
MGDS	MALAWI GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
MASAF	MALAWI SOCIAL ACTION FUND
MPRSP	MALAWI POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY PAPER
NGO	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
PWP	PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS
RIDP	RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
IRLADP	IRRIGATION RURAL LIVELIHOODS AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
TA	TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY
WB	WORLD BANK
WFP	WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 Introduction

This chapter outlines the background information, states the problem statement, the objectives of the study, research question and significance of the study.

1.2 Background of the study

Community is a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common. This study looked at how community participation was exercised between actors from the government and non-governmental organization in public works projects. Community participation is exercised through different projects some of which are collectively called public works projects. In Southern Africa public works initiatives have been implemented since the 1980s, e.g. in Zimbabwe since the late 1980s, in South Africa since early 1990s mainly concerning water projects, and in Botswana since 1992, (Chirwa, 2000). While in Malawi, Public works projects date back to the 1995 and are mainly implemented by the Malawi Social Action Fund (MASAF) with funding from the Malawi Government with credit from the World Bank (Chirwa 2000). The projects are mainly implemented by the Malawi Social Action Fund (MASAF) and other Non-Government institutions. The first phase of public works projects commenced in 1995 was financed by the government (Chirwa, 2003). The projects do not only provide a direct safety net in form of employment and cash income; they also enable communities to invest in the creation and strengthening of basic economic infrastructure (Mvula et al., 2000). This is evident in

the fact that community members achieve effective results through community ownership of projects. World Bank (2002) stipulates that public works programs operate under a “pure community model”, in which demand for sub-projects is intended to come from communities, without any intermediation by government or Non-government agencies (World Bank 2002).

The public works are generally associated with both large capital intensive construction projects in the public sector such as government buildings, hospitals, universities, large dams, national housing schemes, and community level smaller high labor intensive efforts such as water point rehabilitation, small dam construction and maintenance, irrigation scheme set up, feeder road grading in low income areas, and construction of classroom and clinic blocks, latrines and dip tanks (Mutihero 2009).

The fundamental aim of participatory development approach is to empower local communities to take the lead in defining their influence regarding the planning and implementation of development programmes instead of reducing them to mere project recipients or beneficiaries to realise sustainable outcomes (Chambers, 1993; Petty 2000). However, some studies on public works in Malawi e.g. by Dulani (2003), revealed that participation was not administered and that the local communities played very minimal roles at the need’s assessment and project selection levels. This was ironic because, as a developing country, Malawi needs projects to be effective and sustainable, which can be done only by ensuring that communities take ownership of public works projects from inception to implementation. Therefore, as a result, for a public works project to be effective, community participation needs to be practiced in all its stages.

Despite the concept of community participation gaining popularity over the past years. There are challenges associated in pursuit to achieve community participation in development programmes (Chitalo, 2017) in Malawi. In support of the concept the government came up with policies and programmes such as the Vision 2020, Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, national decentralization policy and Local Development Fund to improve community participation in public works projects. Regardless of these efforts to ensure efficient and effective results in community projects, community participation remains a challenge. These programmes are implemented through a national decentralization policy which recognizes local government structure as a means for effective rural communities' participation in development projects. (Malawi Government, 1998). Malawi's public works programmes are implemented to address pervasive poverty in the rural and urban areas, with close to 54 percent of the population living below the poverty (World Bank, 1995).

These policies were put in place to achieve sustainable community development through local participation. Specifically, the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy 3 (MGDS III) spells out clearly that efforts to achieve sustainable development are inadequate if they are not people-centered (Government of Malawi, 2017). With specific reference to development projects that share the same benefits, Mezuwa (2013) notes that projects implemented by Non-government organizations (Food for assets) and government (MASAF) were oriented towards a demand driven project in practice by their design. Community participation in MASAF (Public work projects) is said to take the form of "active" local community involvement in "decision making at all stages of the project cycle, which includes project

identification and preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and maintenance of completed projects,” (MASAF, 1999). These public works focus on alleviating poverty. According to Mezuwa (2013), the poor are identified as main actors in the processes of social change and rural development. But in practice this has worked only to a limited extent. In many instances, the poor, who in most cases are the lowest ranked community members, who are targeted beneficiaries of safety net programs such as; public works programs, still lack authority in official decision-making bodies. Their voices may not be heard at public meetings in communities where it is customary for only the elites or people with power to influence their decisions. It is rare to find a body or an institution that adequately represents the poor in a certain community or area. As Dulani (2003) argues, it is the elite, people with power, whom government officials invariably find more profitable and congenial to converse with, than with the uncommunicative poor.

1.3 Introduction

The study is a comparative analysis on community participation in the government and non-governmental organizations. This is due to developing countries facing challenges towards attainment of development. Currently, there is growing awareness that successful implementation of development projects and the achievement of development goals are largely dependent upon enabling people affected by the development decisions to participate actively and meaningfully in determining outcomes of the development processes (Mezuwa 2012). As Hoddinott (2001) points out, it is increasingly being recognized that local communities and project beneficiaries should be involved in the identification, design, and implementation, but also in monitoring of interventions meant to reduce poverty in developing countries.

In the 1980s, development interventions were heavily criticized for pursuing a bureaucratic, top-down and centre-outwards approach. (Chambers 2008). The origins of the bureaucratic, top-down and centre-outwards approach can be traced back to the perceived failure of previous technocratic and top-down development initiatives. However, a new community participation paradigm argues that it represents a shift of initiative by transferring agency for initiating action from outside agents to beneficiaries themselves (Dulani, 2003), hence the concept, community participation. This study is a continuation on community participation in public works projects by comparing how participative projects facilitated by the Government and Non-Government Organizations are. It seeks to investigate the nature of community participation in public works projects implemented by government and Non-government organization by examining levels of community involvement in the following project implementation phases; project selection, maintenance and project monitoring.

The concept, community participation has strong links to concepts of sustainable development, and participatory development which attracted remarkable attention from development scholars, researchers and practitioners and generated increased interest among them. In Malawi, it is almost synonymous with attainment of all development goals. Unsurprisingly, the central place that the concept occupies in development debates remarkably influenced some of the best-known development practitioners to refer to it as a “new orthodoxy” (Henkel and Stirrat, 2001) a new development paradigm” (Chambers, 1997). This is significant not only because, the concept is singled out as one of the factors that explains successes in reaching out to

the poor (Rawlings et al., 2001) but also bearing in mind that development discourse generally recognizes the fact that despite the widespread appeal and prominence of the notion of “community participation”, there are different degrees and kinds of participation both in theory and practice (Arnstein, 1969; Pretty, 1995; White, 1995).

In the context of community participation in development, Rahnema (1996), defines, participation as an instrument for greater effectiveness as well as a new source of investment. Similarly, Dulani (2003), defines community participation as the active involvement of local communities in development initiatives, where specified groups, sharing same interests or living in a defined geographic area, actively pursue the identification of their needs and establish mechanisms to make their choice(s) effective. Likewise, Marsden (2000), defines community participation as ‘an active process by which beneficiaries/client groups influence the direction and execution of development projects with a view to enhancing their well-being in terms of income, personal growth, self-reliance or other values they cherish. Therefore, community participation can be said as a concept where the poor are conceptualized as masters or controllers of their own development. Thus, for this study, community participation is defined as a group of individuals living and effectively working within the same topographical area with, shared socio-economic characteristics, challenges or common interests in achievement of a common goal.

According to Devitt (1977), for many years, the problem with development projects worldwide was that, the poor were often inconspicuous, inarticulate and unorganized. Their voice was not recognized towards decision making. Thus, as early as the 1970s, radicals (Freire, 1970) advocated for Participatory Action Research which created

suitable learning environments for people to express their needs and achieve sustainable development. Other studies found that the poor were unorganized hence the perception that they could not make decisions on their own, contrary to contemporary research findings due to failed projects. In support of the development radicals, this study will focus on comparing which approach is more sustainable towards development between the government and non-governmental organizations.

1.4 Problem statement

Community participation at high levels empowers communities, increases self-reliance, self-awareness, and confidence in self-examination of problems and seeking solutions for them (Chitambo, 2002). The belief is that community participation in Malawi remains a key item in sustainable development in Malawi, but achieving sustainability remains a challenge (Ahmed, 2011; Wasilwa 2015 & Richard 2017). Several challenges have been identified concerning achieving sustainable community development through community participation. These challenges have led to current poor status of community participation responsible for continued underdevelopment (Dulani 2003; Tizifa 2010, Kishindo 2003, Chinsinga 2008).

Studies on community participation in the government led organisations have found that although community participation has the potential to offer meaningful and sustainable development, the approach has not been fully and well implemented (Dulani 2003, Macpherson 2013). As observed by Dulani (2003) that MASAF projects, less participatory, community members did not understand their roles and that resulted in the failure to reach its goals and potential unsustainability of the

projects. Dulani (2003) findings reveled that community members had very little opportunity to participate in the planning phases.

Literature on community participation implemented by NGO's postulates that, evaluating community participation from NGOs, found out that the potential for NGOs to be effective and efficient in ensuring participatory development at the micro level is not always realized because of the politics of participation Makuwira (2000). Centrally; this type of Community Participation centers on the incentives given to them, they use the bottom-up approach. Chinsinga and Kayuni (2008), contended that despite their phenomenal contribution to community development, most of them use bottom-up approaches.

There are studies that have compared NGO's and government implementations. These studies have looked at on community participation on project effectiveness between NGO's and government led interventions (Eliason 2015). Mphande (2018) compared NGO's and government implementation, and found out that both the NGO and Government do not play their roles efficiently. The named studies did not go further looking into studies with the same project scope such as public works projects. In addition to the literature gap on cross-comparison studies, this study will go further comparing public works projects that share the same scope. This study focused on adding cross comparison cases on public works projects in community participation, specifically on project selection, maintenance and monitoring and evaluation phases of project implementation in the government and non-governmental organisations.

1.5 Research questions

The main objective of the study is to compare public works projects in the government and non-government led. The study addressed the following questions.

1. How is community participation in project selection is done by the Government and Non-Governmental Organizations implemented public works projects? The aim of this question was to compare how project selection is done by the government and non-government led organisations. Which sector is more participatory at this stage?
2. How is community participation in maintenance of Public works projects in Government and the Non-Governmental Organizational projects? The aim of this question was to find out which sector involves the community when maintaining their projects?
3. How monitoring of public works projects by beneficiaries is conducted in the Government and Non-Governmental Organizational? The aim of this question was to seek and find out between the government and non-government projects which projects are more sustainable and monitored?

1.6 Objectives of the study

To investigate the nature of community participation in public works projects implemented by government and non-government organization.

1.6.1 Specific Objectives

To achieve the main objective of the study had three specific objectives.

1. To examine and compare community participation in the project selection phase in public works projects led by the Government and Non-Governmental Organizations .
2. To investigate and compare community participation in the maintenance of public works projects in Government and the Non-Governmental Organizational projects.
3. To examine and compare how monitoring of public works projects by beneficiaries is conducted in the Government and Non-Governmental Organizational.

1.7 Significance and Purpose of the study

With continued funding in Government and Non-governmental organizations towards improving developmental initiatives in developing countries. The immediate purpose of this study is to contribute on comparison studies on Community participation in PWP's. Consequently, if participation is seen as key to the achievement of sustainable development and the enhancement of democracy to the communities, hence it must be implemented in its highest form; such that, requires the promotion of those factors that would result into generation of such outcomes, which this study fully sought to establish.

This study, therefore, is noteworthy in the sense that it generates potential knowledge of NGO and government comparative studies and how they conduct their projects in the community relationship in defining what may bring growth towards a community and their needs. It contributed to the body of knowledge on community participation to expand frontiers knowledge and information on comparative Public Works Projects. Therefore, this has been a vital way of gap filling in the knowledge and

literature of community participation and development projects particularly in NGO-initiated and facilitated projects in rural areas across Malawi in Public Works Projects. In addition, by understanding nature of participation employed by the two actors is significant as it may influence on the nature of development approach needs to be taken into consideration by development practitioners, policy makers, Non-Governmental organizations, communities as well as researchers, among others. This study contributed to the literature body in Malawi on the nature of implementation and perhaps it would help explain the outcomes of such projects over time.

1.8 Organization of the thesis

Chapter 1 provides background information about the concept of community participation, identifies, and describes the research problem, and presents objectives and significance of the study. Chapter 2 reviews related literature and presents the theoretical framework of the research study. Chapter 3 describes the study's methodology while Chapter 4 presents and discusses the study's findings. The study is concluded in Chapter 5.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of community participation in public works programmes. It discusses, development theories and participatory approaches, maintenance of public works programs, and how selection and identification is done. The chapter also discusses the theoretical framework of the study.

2.2 Revolution of Development theories and community participation

Different schools of traditional development theories have emerged in the past few decades and a range of views are reflected by different theorists. One of the basic argument of traditional development theories is the Modernization theory. According to modernization theorists, the first world industrial countries are modern, and the third world countries are traditional Development is only possible when “primitive” values and norms are replaced with modern ones (Evans & Stephe, 1988; Simpson, 1987).

Dissatisfaction with the above traditional development theories lead to a reexamination of the purpose of development towards a search for alternative conceptual explanations. A host of development scholars (Roodt, 2001; Pendirs,

1996; Rahman, 1993; Chambers, 1992; Conyers & Hills, 1990; Dodds, 1986) answered to this challenge, articulating to a concept known as Participatory, or “People Centered Development”. In support of people centred approach, and enforcing the focus of participatory development to become for the community people (Mohan and Stokke, 2000) supported that where community members take charge and control of their own developmental projects, effective results and sustainable development can be achieved. Consequently, in most developing countries a reorientation of characteristically top-down strategies to embrace a participatory development philosophy happened in the wake of democratization in a bid to reinvigorate rural development efforts (Chinsinga, 2003). Therefore, the study complimented the use of modernization theory where community is actively involved in development process, from project selection to evaluation. The belief of participatory development theory,

The answer to the problem of successful third world development is not found in the bureaucracy and its centrally mandated development projects and programs, but rather in the community itself. This needs its capacities and ultimately its own control over both its resources and its destiny (Korten, CM, 1986).

For participatory theorists and practitioners, development required sensitivity to cultural diversity as well as other specific points that were ignored by modernization theorists. The lack of such sensitivity accounted for the problems and failures of many projects (Coetzee, 2001). The main essence of participatory development theory is an active involvement of people in making decisions about implementation of processes,

programs and projects, which affect them (Slocum, Wichhart, Rocheleau, & ThomasSlayter, 1995).

2.3 Community participation in public works programs

While in Malawi, the adoption of grassroots, people-driven, or bottom-up approached came as a results of rapid spread of criticism against the top-down strategies which were seen to have failed the poor (Chilowa, 2005), these are the traditional methods as defined by (Dinbabo, 2003). Thus, Community participation has been promoted by its proponents as a mechanism through which development actors can achieve legitimization, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of development programmes and projects while at the same time ensuring that rural people's lives undergo massive economic, political and social transformation (Williams, 2004). A prominent example is from India where one of the community-based projects yielded significant results using community participation (World Bank 1998). By taking into consideration the needs of the communities using a bottom-up approach which aims to understanding the target group's perceptions of poverty and well-being and to, in turn, enable them to identify and formulate their own priorities and desired futures (livelihood outcomes) and plan and act accordingly (Chambers 1997). In all this, the target communities achieve by recognizing and drawing upon already existing resources (Hickey & Mohan 2004; of Chambers 2008).

2.4 Selection and identification of projects

Some studies across Africa on public works programs have been done, these have concentrated solely on community participation in the selection of the community projects. Vajja and White (2008) studied community-initiated projects under social funds in Zambia and Malawi to establish whether social funds projects build social capital. The study found that social funds projects were not merely producing social capital but they were also consuming accumulated social capital. Nevertheless, the

study found that social funds enhance capacity of communities and empower them to act on the development challenges they face. Even though social funds projects targeted the whole communities, selection of the projects both in Malawi and Zambia was done by the community elites/prime movers. These are termed professional people found in the community e.g. head teachers, or health workers) and other community leaders.

With the increasing realization that urgent solutions are required to improve livelihoods, especially through participatory programmes (Mansuri & Rao, 2013), participation remains a key item in sustainable development in Malawi, but achieving sustainability remains a challenge. This assertion was agreed by Ahmed (2011, Wasilwa 2015 & Richard 2017), that one of the notable ways of empowering the community was by giving power to the community during needs identification process of the project, he observed that community empowerment is affected in the community if needs are not put into consideration.

Consequently, a study focused on how community projects under MASAF were selected, Kishindo (2000) found that projects do not address what communities want. The study established that selection of infrastructure projects was done by development conscious leaders and this led to uneven distribution of MASAF projects. Likewise, Mezuwa (2013) found that, to a large extent, the degree and kind of participation exhibited during project planning, initiation and designing was low-level. The community was not actively involved in identification of the project of integrated fish-farming. What this means is that these reviewed studies failed to address the first stage of participation which allows beneficiaries to have a voice in

project selection in both Government implemented and Non-government organizations, however studies from Kishindo and Mezuwa represented different actors, for Kishindo it represented the state while Mezuwa represented the non-state organization. Against this background, the present study explored the participation of communities in identification of public works projects in the study areas at hand in both the state and non-state sectors by comparing them.

2.5 Community Participation in Government implemented projects

MASAF (1999), emphasizes that all people from all the areas that will make direct use of the project members of the community should participate fully in the need's assessment and project selection stage. MacPherson (2013) agrees that low participation of the community projects usually offers less meaning of a project, thus complimenting modernization theory. In details Dulani (2003) argued community participation was lacking in a MASAF implemented project. Using a qualitative approach Dulani's study compared people's participation at project selection and needs assessment levels in three communities and found that the participation was inadequate. For example, traditional leaders and a Member of Parliament identified a road as a priority community, this was done, without consulting the community. Hence when the project phased out, it was difficult for full ownership to be administered. These findings underscore the challenges associated when projects fail to accommodate higher community participation levels at the earlier phases, especially needs identification and prioritization, they are very unlikely to be owned by the people and to secure the people's commitment to maintain them. Thus, the present study also endeavored to look at how communities perceived maintenance of government implemented and non-Governmental Organization implemented public

works projects. Maintenance will be looked at and compared between the two sectors (government and non-government). Subsequently, the study went further by comparing how community participation in the public works projects conducted between the government and non-government organisations, the previous studies focused more into researching on projects implemented by one actor of the few that did cross comparison, none looked into PWPs despite the funding that it attracts from donors.

2.5.1 Monitoring

Studies on PWPs have solely concentrated on researching more on MASAF projects which is implemented by government, (i.e Dulani (2003), Ng'ong'ola (2001), Vajja and white, (2008). The focus of the studies “aimed at improving the living standards of the poor in the rural communities and how community projects are selected” (Kishindo, 2000). However, another phase which is equally important in PWPs is monitoring. It helps to determine whether the project will be sustainable once the project phases out. Furthermore, Soransora (2013), on monitoring which is the analyzing of the project's progress, identifying problems facing the community or the project and finding solutions, ensuring all activities are carried out properly by the right people and in time, and also using lessons from the project may promote accountability, satisfaction and trust among community members. This study went further by looking at community participation in public works projects in the government and non-government organizations.

2.6 NGO as Development agents

It can be argued that NGOs are ultimately accountable to their beneficiaries because their stakeholders receive more services and in addition, they provide more incentives and give room to beneficiaries' voices thereby enabling them to exercise the right to be involved in decisions that affect their daily lives (Robson, Begum, & Locke, 2003). Hyndman and McDonnell (2009) and Smith (2010) furthermore argue that organizations that are not paying attention to accountability towards their beneficiaries possibly undermine their own performance. Centrally; this type of Community Participation centers around the incentives given to them, they use the bottom-up approach. Chinsinga and Kayuni (2008), contended that despite their phenomenal contribution to community development, most of them use bottom-up approaches. The focus is usually on pleasing donors and not the communities (Chinsinga and Kayuni 2008).

Consequently, empirical research on accountability towards beneficiaries let alone research focusing on the beneficiaries of NGOs themselves is scarce, (Benjamin, 2013; Crawford et al., 2002; Wellens & Jegers, 2011). Mphande (2018), however attempted to study community participation in NGO's and Government, he found that community participation was not different between government implemented and Non-Governmental organization implemented public service projects. The study used mixed methods approach and found that identification of projects that were selected revealed lack of genuine community participation. Against this backdrop, the study partly endeavored to establish how communities perceive their participation and to establish driving forces behind existing understanding of the relationship between

beneficiaries and implementers as well as to establish how activities are monitored and evaluated by the communities and implementers.

2.7 Typologies of participation

2.7.1 The Framework of Typologies of Participation

The study used Arnstein's ladder of citizen participation, this was done to determine the degrees and kinds of participation used. In using this framework, the study analyzed and compared how community participation is exercised by the government and NGOs.

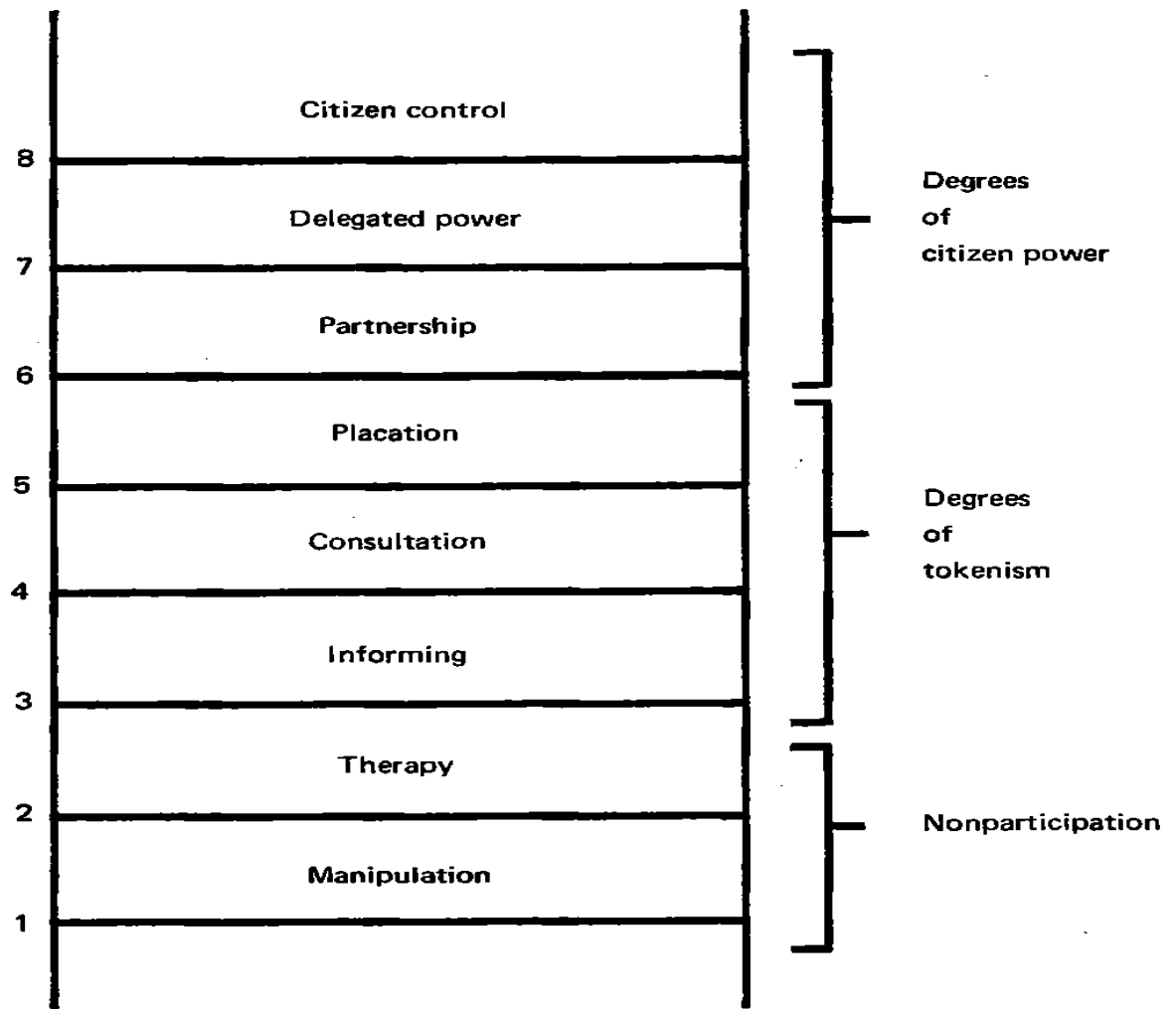
There are many frameworks used in community participation but the study opted for Arnstein's ladder which provides an analytical structure of how beneficiaries exercise their power when a project is being implemented by outlining redistribution of power, in the community hence it will help classifying a particular kind or degree of participation. The different rungs on the ladder relate directly to the degree or extent to which citizens have assumed decision making power to control with complete citizen control being defined as the highest degree. Thus, the degrees of participation ranges from the lowest level to the highest, thus according to Arnstein, these are; Non-Participation Tokenism and Citizen power (Arnstein 1969). While Arnstein's (1969) typology looked at participation mostly from the perspective of those on the receiving end, other typologies such as Pretty's (1995) normative typology of participation looks at participation from the angle of those that initiate participatory processes (Cornwall, 2008). The basic argument is that the many ways in which development organizations interpret and use the term participation can be summarized into seven clear rungs also known as forms of participation, from the lowest level of participation to the highest. These are Manipulative participation, Passive

participation, Participation by consultation, Participation for material Incentives, Functional participation, Interactive participation, Self-mobilization (Pretty, 1995). In this typology, he prescribes the good forms, kinds or degrees of participation and describes the bad forms.

This study analyzed participation in line with Arnstein's examination of power and control of the beneficiaries of development initiatives that have been put in place. This relates also with Pretty's (1995) assessment of participation which primarily emphasizes that true participation is one in which power rests in the hands of the community to control decisions and establish contacts that aid in the productivity of resources Mezuwa (2013).

Arnstein's typology of citizen participation is presented as a metaphorical "ladder," with each ascending rung representing increasing levels of citizen agency, control, and power (Arnstein 1969). In addition to the eight "rungs" of participation, Arnstein includes a descriptive continuum of participatory power that moves from *nonparticipation* (no power) to *degrees of tokenism* (counterfeit power) to *degrees of citizen participation* (actual power). Below is a table showing the ladder

Table 1: Ladder of Citizen Participation (Power and control)



Arnstein's (1969) ladder of participation.

Thus, to understand how participants participated in PWP's implemented by government and Non-government organizations, the study mainly looked at how power is exercised by the community members in their projects (government and Non-government). The typology aided the study's understanding of how power and control was distributed among the project beneficiaries. Participant experiences within projects were analyzed using the rungs and categorized as per Arnstein's categorization of participation.

According to Arnstein (1969), Non-participation, is the lowest level of community participation, bottom rungs of the ladder; (1) manipulation and (2) therapy, describe levels of non-participation that have are employed by some project implementers to substitute genuine participation. It is argued that the real objective is not to enable people to participate in planning or conducting programs, but to enable power holders to “educate” or “cure” the participants. Thus, local people are seen as backwards with nothing to contribute. On these two stages, the community is told what to do, without them deciding on what they want or being listened to. When this typology of participation is employed, projects may seem to flourish while implementers are there, but they lack sustainability due to lack of ownership by the local members.

Under Tokenism, where there is an extent of participation, project implementers allow the poor to hear and to have a voice (Arnstein 1969), hence the concepts (3) Informing and (4) Consultation. Under this typology, while the poor can be heard and can speak, there are no proper channels for feedback and no power for negotiation. In this case, the community are informed on already made decisions and are expected to deliver, in most cases, they heard and have the chance to give out views, however they are still deprived of power to ensure that their views adhered to. The case is the same in rung (5) placation, a higher-level tokenism because the system allows the poor to advise project implementers, but the power holders continue to decide on behalf of the masses.

Citizen Participation is ultimate level of community participation. Participation, in the development context, is a process through which all members of a community or

organization are involved in and have influence on decisions related to development activities that will affect them (Babu, 2018). Under this typology, rung (6) Partnership, is where power and control is restructured using negotiations between project beneficiaries and project implementers. Arnstein (1969) argues that this is most effective "when there is an organized power-base in the community to which the implementers are accountable to. For Delegated Power (7), this is a case where beneficiaries attain "dominant decision-making authority over a particular plan or program. Projects in the rung become significantly accountable to the local masses. Finally, the final rung Citizen Control (8), project participants can govern a program, thus they are in full charge of policy and managerial aspects and are able to negotiate the conditions under actors like Government and NGOs ' may change them. The last stage compliments the new paradigm, where citizens have the ability to make their decisions such as choosing projects of their choice.

2.7.2 Relevance of the theory to the study

Arsteins ladder was the most relevant construction of ideas for, it was used as a guide in formulation and implementation of objectives that sought to understand social behavior and action between the state and non-state and how they reveal the degrees and kinds of participation involved in the public works projects between the two actors (government and non-governmental organization). The ladder was used to categories the levels of participation of the citizens, this was done by comparing findings from the government and the non-governmental organization. The findings were ranged from high level to low level.

The assumption held by the theory that before participating in social interaction, individuals make calculative decisions by assessing the possible costs and rewards

involved in social interaction helped in understanding decisions and actions concerning participation taken by actors involved in the project (Mezuwa, 2013). Kishindo (2003) reinforced this observation by arguing that in community participation, the benefits expected from participation are compared with the costs in terms of time and effort and people will participate willingly only when the benefits are perceived to outweigh the costs

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The chapter outlines research methodology that was used in the study. Specifically, it discusses the research design, research approach, study area, sampling technique, data collection tools, ethical considerations, and data management and presentation that was used.

3.2 Research Design

3.2.1 Qualitative Research

Kothari (2004) defines research design as, the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure. This is referred to as an organized way of collecting data for specific focus. Similarly, Blanche et al (2006) defines research design as a plan or protocol for a piece of research. Thus, research design is referred to as an outline for data collection, measurement and analysis of data. In fact, the research design is the conceptual structure within which research is conducted; it constitutes the blueprint for the collection, measurement and analysis of data (Kothari 2004). Therefore, the design includes an outline of what the researcher will do from writing the hypothesis and its operational implications to the final analysis of data.

Marshall and Rossman (2006) explain that the qualitative paradigm aims at gaining a better understanding of complexities of human experiences and in some areas, to act based on the understanding. This justified qualitative approach as a suitable approach for this study because it enables the researcher to compare and contrast community participation in government implemented and Non-Governmental Organization implemented public works programs, especially considering that, the study required a better understanding of complexities of experiences faced by communities during selection, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public works projects. In agreement with Flick, (2004), the approach was relevant as it sought to analyze concrete cases in their temporal and local particularity and starting from people's expressions and activities in their local contexts.

There are four major types of qualitative research design that are commonly used, and these are phenomenology, ethnography, grounded theory and case study (Astalin 2013). In line with study objectives and research questions, the study adopted case study design to inform data collection processes and analysis. As a research design, the case study claims to recommend a wealth and depth of information which is not usually offered by other methods (Astalin, 2013). Therefore, Case study was chosen to give room for multiple perspectives, allow flexibility of different altitudes and observations experienced by the community. As Thomas (2011) defines a case study as an exploration of persons, events, decisions, periods, projects, policies, institutions, or other systems that are studied holistically by one or more methods. Yin (2009) further states that, case study aims at understanding complex social phenomenon and real-life events such as organizational and managerial processes. The case study was chosen, to generate a wealth and depth of information which is not usually offered by

other methods. With many variables, the case studies can be identified as a complex set of conditions which produce a particular demonstration. Astalin (2013) describes the concept case state as a highly multipurpose qualitative research method that is more flexible than various experimental techniques, encompassing a variety of accepted methods and structures. Hence, with exploration and depth understanding of public works projects, case study method was chosen and used in this study.

3.2.2 Research approach

The study adopted a qualitative approach. According to Kothari (2004), there are two types of basic approaches to research namely; quantitative and the qualitative. Quantitative research is based on the measurement of quantity or amount. It is applicable to phenomena that can be expressed in terms of quantity (Kothari, 2004). Qualitative approach to research is concerned with subjective assessment of attitudes, opinion and behavior (Kothari, 2004). The researcher used qualitative approach to explore community participation in public works projects implemented by the government and by Non-Governmental Organizations by exploring attitudes, opinions and behaviours of participants. Cresswell (2012) argues that, qualitative approach methods provide the most meaningful data, congruently help to develop an in-depth exploration of central phenomenon of the study and, for this reason, the researcher found the approach to be appropriate to the study. Furthermore, with regards to studying behavior trends and searching for opinions, beliefs, attitudes, motivations and practices, the approach, just as Flick, Kardon & Steinke (2004) argues, helped to contribute to better understanding of social realities and draw attention to processes, patterns and structural factors. The qualitative approach was chosen because of the nature of the study in that it concerned itself with lived experiences only.

Furthermore, the approach offered the researcher great opportunity to understand and interpret social changes and interactions.

3.3 Study area

The study was conducted in Zomba district, in Traditional Authority Chikowi, in the following group villages; Majawa, Chidothi, Mbembesya, Mkwanda, Makanjira, Mbwana and Mkwanda. To have a comparative study, the researcher needed a district which had projects of the same nature being conducted by government and an NGO respectively. Zomba is one of the districts amongst which, public works programs being implemented by a Non- Governmental Organization called World Vision and by the government, particularly MASAF 4. Thus, Zomba district offered an ideal study area for a comparative analysis of government implemented and the Non-Government Organization implemented public works. Particularly, the area gave the study a chance to gather views from the same group of respondents concerning their participation in both types of projects. Furthermore, for purposes of smooth operating of the research study, in terms of cost, Zomba was more convenient.

3.4 Sampling Techniques

The study adopted a purposive sampling method. Zomba District was purposively selected for having the same scope of public works projects implemented by government and non-governmental organisation. Having chosen the sampling method, the researcher collected a list of names of the beneficiaries from the district council offices of Zomba district. The list comprised of names that were benefiting from the MASAF 4 project, the respondents were then screened and communicated to, in advance in the community. In the community, the group village headmen confirmed

the list of the participants benefiting from the public works projects. The same was done with NGO participants, the chiefs were able to identify those benefiting from the non-governmental sector. The use of purposive sampling in FGDs enabled the researcher to select the respondents who had better knowledge of the public works projects that were being implemented and studied. This technique is justified by Punch, (2009); Chisaka, (2005); Strauss and Corbin, (1998) who argues that this sampling strategy is useful, because such type of participants usually has knowledge, ability and richness of lived experiences with the phenomenon.

As Gay and Airasian, (2003) define sampling as a process of selecting a number of participants for a study in a way that represents a larger group from which they are selected. There are two broad sampling types; probability and non-probability sampling. In probability sampling, the researcher specifies the probability or the chance that each member of a defined population will have to be selected from the sample. These include random sampling, stratified, cluster and systematic samplings. Under non-probability sampling, there is snowball, convenience, purposive and quota sampling (Gay and Airasian, 2003; Bryman 2001; and Marshall and Rossman 2006).

The selection of an appropriate sampling method was dependent with the aim of the study. As such the study adopted non-probability sampling, which is defined as a sampling procedure which does not afford any basis for estimating the probability that each item in the population has of being included in the sample (Kothari 2004). Under it the researcher selected purposive sampling, with the aim of identifying the people (beneficiaries), places and situations which has the largest potential for advancing her understanding of the concerned issues (Palys 2008). Purposive sampling is a type of non-probability sampling in which the units to be observed are

selected based the researcher's judgment about which representatives are most useful (Babbie, 2009).

Participants were selected on based on an understanding that they possessed the necessary information needed to address the research questions (Soy, 1997). The units observed were selected based on the researcher's judgment about which representatives are most useful (Babbie, 2009). Therefore, purposive sampling was applied to identify specific beneficiaries of public works projects with the help of stakeholders, basing on the knowledge they have about selection of projects, monitoring and maintenance in the government and non-government public works projects.

3.5 Data collection Methods and Tools

Kothani (2004), argues that, while deciding about the method of data collection to be used for the study, the researcher should keep in mind two types of data, namely primary and secondary. The researcher collected primary data to understand and compare how community participation was implemented in public works projects.

In relation to data collection, Kothari (2004) argues that a good design is often, characterized by adjectives such as flexible, appropriate, efficient, and economical. Qualitative design gives room for flexibility because it offers better understanding of complexities of participants. It also allows minimal bias and maximizes the reliability of the data collected and analyzed is considered a good design.

The researcher used two data collection tools; Key Informant Interview guide and Focus Group Discussion guide. Responses were recorded, transcribed and then

translated into English before it was coded to identify emerging themes concerning community participation. As Bryman (2008) observed, it is difficult to write down what people say and who has said it, therefore, all interviews were recorded using a digital recorder during data collection. The recorded data was stored in Dropbox folder, in a secured laptop, labelled by village where the interview was conducted. The data collection exercise was conducted over a period of 14 days.

3.5.1 Focus Group Discussion and Key Informant Interviews:

One of the guides used was an FGD guide, they helped ensure gaining insights about people's opinions or attitudes on the issues and to understand group processes (Esterberg, 2002). In other words, FGD's were used to collect a shared understanding from several individuals as well as to get views from specific people and are normally led by a moderator (Creswell 2012).

They are sharply focused and involve a prolonged engagement with a participant (Harper and Thompson 2012). These discussions comprised of men and women in the community who were direct beneficiaries of the project(s) implemented by either government or NGOs.

The researcher conducted a total of six Focus Group Discussions to collect data from the two implemented projects. The focus group discussions (FGD's) comprised of respondents from the two types of projects; to have a better understanding from both sectors interviews were conducted with the Project Officer, Meal Officer and the Project Foreman.

In addition, Six Key-Informant Interviews were also administered for the study. Participants included project officers, which were 3 officers from the NGO and the other 3 Government Field Officers this helped address all objectives on implementation issues. Consequently, the tool helped in collection of wide range of information, especially from implementers. As simply stated by Kumar (1989), key informant interviews involve interviewing a select group of individuals who are likely to provide needed information, ideas, and insights on a particular subject. KII was administered because FGD alone could have provided limited information for the study.

All in all, 46 participants were interviewed in total (for the FGD's and KII). Originally, 8 FGD's were proposed for the study, but the researcher stopped upon reaching a saturation point, when there was no new data coming in. As Brod et al. (2009) recommend constructing a 'saturation grid' listing the major topics or research questions against interviews or other sources and ensuring all bases have been covered.

3.6 Pilot Study

Tools for this study were piloted before conducting actual data collection to ensure quality data collection, this helped the study remove irrelevant sections from the questionnaire, and this also helped removing haphazardly words used in the study before actual data collection. This further helped the researcher to identify weakness concerning questions contained in the interview guide in the light of study, amendments were done, the tool was also translated and ambiguous word were also removed. Furthermore, it provided an opportunity to review the quality of translations of the study tools both FGD's and KII's used.

The piloted population were those who had knowledge on implemented public works project, they were selected to help give a reflection of the study because they had knowledge about the project. This helped the study collect data of high standards because of the guarantee of reliable and valid research findings. In addition the pilot gave room for improved research objectives, and allowing feedback before commencing of the actual study.

To achieve the outlined issues, two FGDs were conducted; one from the Government implemented projects and the other from the NGO implemented project, each of these FGD's composed of 6 participants of the same sex, through the use of purposive sampling, the researcher gained insights and sought knowledge and information about the public works projects from reliable community members.

3.7 Data Analysis

Data was analyzed qualitatively using thematic analysis. Themes were analyzed using Arsteins ladder of participation, associated with the research question. Kothari (2004) defines data analysis as the computation of certain indices or measures along with searching for patterns of relationship that exist among the data groups. According to Guest and Grey (2012), thematic analysis is one of the most common forms of analysis in qualitative research. It emphasizes pinpointing, examining, and recording patterns (or "themes") within data (Braun et al 2006). To achieve this, the Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews were translated and transcribed into English by the researcher. Here, the data was grouped into themes that were found, as derived from the specific objectives of the study. The named themes included degrees

of citizen power which is the highest level of participation, degrees of tokenism and non-participation, from Arsteins ladder of participation.

Further, the data was inspected, assessed, equated, synthesized and contemplated under themes deriving from 3 study objectives. Interview recordings were transcribed and transcripts were uploaded on a computer application called ATLAS.Ti (Hwang 2008). The application manages and analyses qualitative data. A codebook was developed deductively, guided by the literature available and inductively using a sample of transcripts. Data coding was conducted to systematically reorganize raw data into a format that was easy to analyze electronically. Transcripts were coded independently by the researcher, and revisions were made to keep the relevant data.

3.8 Ethical Consideration

Ethical behavior is defined as a set of moral principles, rules, or standards governing a person or profession. According to Fritz (2009), the major principles of ethical conduct include the following: that the researcher should not psychologically harm participants, that privacy and anonymity of participants must be protected, that confidentiality of information must be maintained, that informed consent of participants needs to be obtained, that inappropriate behavior must be avoided, and that data must be interpreted honestly without distortion.

To achieve these ethical demands, the researcher first sought consent and clearance from the district level and community level before undertaking the study. At district level the consents were obtained from Zomba DCs office and Non-Government Organization (World Vision). On the community level, the researcher contacted

gatekeepers, which were traditional leaders, chiefs and group village head men of the community, they were informed about the purpose of the study, duration of the interviews and proposed period, the leaders responded positively by issuing out permission was granted from the community level to conduct interviews. The gatekeepers were given assurance that the information that was being sought would be purely for purposes of this study to the extent that their personal identities and the tools used to collect data in the study would not be open for public consumption. In addition, the researcher explained clearly that the study was purely for academic purposes only, a point that was complemented by an introductory letter from Chancellor College (See appendix 1).

Thirdly, A consent form was issued to the respondents before the interviews were conducted, with assurance of anonymity, they were assured of confidentiality and freedom to choose to participate or to not participate in the study as well as to withdraw their participation at any time if they so wished. The participants were informed about the duration of the interviews, and they were clearly informed about why the tape recorder that was being used for data collection would be utilized and how (See appendix 2).

Consequently, the research ensured anonymity of individuals and organizations participating by not asking and recording names of participants and assigning numbers to each interview recording. To maintain the highest level of objectivity in data collection, discussions and analysis, the researcher personally conducted all the interviews alone and complemented the activity by taking notes and by observing everything that was taking place during the interview. To maintain quality of data

collected, all the interviews were audio recorded without identifiers and then transferred into a Dropbox folder for safe keeping. The researcher transcribed all the recorded interviews within 2 weeks after the interviews were conducted.

3.9 Limitations of the study

Qualitative research is mostly open-ended; the participants have more control over the content of the data collected. The research was based on case studies such that it is case specific hence the findings cannot be generalized beyond the specific cases. Therefore, the researcher-based responses from the participants. However, using two different methods concurrent (FGD and KII) helped in overcoming this limitation. For example, by getting perspectives from the community and implementers. In this was findings were verified using the other method.

However, some of the perceptions of the participants from one society to the other, might end up with different conclusions since public works projects are being implemented in 28 districts in Malawi. As Maxwell (2005), found out that, different conclusions are derived based on the same information depending on the personal characteristics of the researcher and participants.

3.10 Conclusions

This chapter has discussed the research methodology that was employed by the study. All in all; the study adopted an exploratory qualitative research methodology, which necessitated purposive sampling of respondents. The chapter has also shown that key informant interviews and focus group discussion to ensure collection of rich data which was eventually analysed using Atlas computer application.

CHAPTER FOUR FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter outlines findings and their discussions of the study. In order to address the specific objectives of the study, practical questions were directed at various respondents and implementers seeking their knowledge, perspectives, and information. Each sub-section provides an outline of the themes from the various data sources followed by an in-depth discussion of the same.

All the study objectives had a component of power dynamics, explaining which side plays the role of community participation in the projects; this was highlighted more when decisions in the community between the government and non-government were made. The dynamics shows how power was distributed between project implementers and amongst the beneficiaries or community members. From the responses the themes were identified and classified using Arnstein's (1969) classification of power and control. Arnstein's ladder looks at participation from the perspective of those on the receiving end.

4.2 Respondents Background Characteristics

The study targeted community members from the GVHs and Villages in which the projects/programmes were being implemented in TA Chikowi. A total of 46 participants were interviewed and identified. 4 KII's and 6 FGD's were conducted. 50% were males and 50% had participated in an NGO led project. On education, 54% had primary school education, 82% were married and average age was 27. Table 2,

describes a representation on gender, education levels, marital status and age of the participants.

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Background Characteristics

Characteristics	Government (Public works projects participants)	Non-Governmental Organization (Public works projects participants)	Total
Sex			
Male	11	12	23
Females	12	11	23
Education			
No education	4	8	12
Primary	11	14	25
Secondary	2	1	3
Tertiary	2	4	6
Age			
18-25	13	17	30
26-30	8	6	14
31-35	2	0	2
Age	Government (Public works projects participants)	Non-Governmental Organization (Public works projects participants)	Total
35 and above	0	0	0
Marital status			
Single	3	4	7
Married	20	18	38
Divorced	1	0	1

4.3 Assessing Community Participation in project selection in the Government and Non-Governmental implemented Projects

This section presents findings and discussion gathered from the beneficiaries and implementers through Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews to address specific objective 1 which sought to assess Community Participation in the project selection phase in the two Government and Non-Governmental implemented Projects

4.3.1 Selection of Public works projects in the community by government and non-government organizations.

The study investigated how project participants participated in the selection of projects. The participants were asked to explain how the project was introduced in the community and their roles in identifying the needs to be addressed in their community. An examination of the project selection phase using Arnstein's (1969) ladder of participation revealed that the Government implemented project fell under the typology of "partnership" and the NGO implemented project fell under manipulation (non-participation) on the same typology ladder.

Data collected from FGDs with participants from the government project revealed that community members participated actively in the project selection phase. It was reported that, the community held meetings for development planning for their community. The community members collaborated and planned of the crucial services that they needed; the identified needs were then ranked based on the most needed priorities. When government officers came with a project proposal in the thematic area, the community members were given a chance on what project they preferred (selection) in line with the nature of the implementers. Consequently,

through community representatives, community members with the guidance of government officers selected a project that had been identified by majority community votes during the meeting.

A male participant from the government project reported that.

For MASAF 4, we had a plan, and targeted it for 5 years. This includes a list of all the projects that we desire to be implemented in the community. So, when they came for assessments, and asked what we wanted as a community, we choose road construction, which was a priority on the list, from the needs of our community. The other projects that the community wanted included; school blocks, borehole. (Men FGD from the Government)

This finding, however, was contrary to findings from Non-Government Organisation implemented project whereby, the project was simply presented to community members. Findings from the KIIs with facilitators and FGD's with the community revealed that, the community members were just briefed on what the officers had proposed to be implemented in the community. The KII information revealed that NGO conducted a baseline survey, however the information that was collected was not used to inform the project, hence community member voices were not heard. FGD participants argued that to an extent this made participation less informed when implementing the public works projects in the community.

A participant from the Non-Government Organization reported that;

The dates when the baseline survey was conducted was after the project started its implementation on the ground. (Men FGD representing the non- government sector).

Another participant from the Non-Government Organization argued that.

The officials from the NGO already had a plan on how the work will be conducted and they simply came and imposed on what the work will involve. We were not given a chance to decide on what we wanted. The only chance we were given was to choose to participate or not, because the project needed required hard labor and we had to prepare. (Women FGD representing the non-governmental sector).

In addition, findings from KIIs with project facilitators of the NGO project cemented the sentiments of the community members. The facilitators revealed that needs identification exercise was not conducted. Thus, to an extent, the community needs were not addressed. The facilitators explained further that what was being followed was plans between the implementing partners and project donors on the proposal. Therefore, due to donor compliance, facilitators went ahead to advocate for projects that were fit to conduct. Project officers also reported that as an organization, they saw that the area had potential to develop through other existing NGO's that did similar work in the community.

We simply introduced the project first at the DEC, then ADC meetings. And then it was accepted. During this stage it was difficult to ask for opinions from the community people since, we rely on funds from donors, and we follow up with reporting as it was agreed between the organization and the donors. Speaking of which, breaching the agreement might portray a bad image. (KII Non-Governmental Organization)

4.3.2 Discussion on community participation in project selection in the Government and NGO's implemented projects

According to Arstein citizen of participation as portrayed from the findings, the approach taken by NGO was non-participatory as shown by the community members were invited to attend a meeting through the traditional leaders. During these meetings the project officers had a project of their choice, therefore the community

members were simply asked to register their names for the projects. There were minimal attempts by the NGO to conduct a formal identification of the needs of the community members prior to the introduction of the project. The community members were simply briefed of the nature of the job. They outlined that the job will require more man-power locally called magobo), further the NGO's officials explained that the youths will be in a better position according to the nature announced. This, according to Arnstein (1969), is known as nominal participation which falls under the lowest form of participation whereby community members participate simply by being told what has been decided or has already happened. It involves unilateral announcements by an administration or project management without any listening to people's responses Artsien (1969). Thus, the information being shared belongs only to external professionals. White agrees (1995) particularly argues that such kind of participation where NGOs or other such development actors are only interested in the number of beneficiaries that would make a project legitimate should be referred to as nominal participation as opposed to transformational participation. He adds that this is a minimal type of participation, whereby control of the project and decision-making power rests with planners, administrators and in some cases, the community's elite, the extent of people's participation being that of passive listeners to what is being planned for them. This kind of participation affects ownership of the project by the community members in that community members may feel they are not being represented by the type of project they are participating in. As stated in participatory development theory, the answer to the problem of successful third world development is not found in the bureaucracy and its centrally mandated development projects and programs, but rather in the community itself (Droban M.F 2003).

Therefore, this government led organisation rendered power and decision making towards its community. Meanwhile, In the NGO led project, predetermined conditions were put in place, for the selection of the projects. However, this affected how the beneficiaries participated at ownership level. In agreement to findings from Macpherson (2013) who argued that low community participation is likely to lead less meaningful community participation and project success.

In agreement with Gerkhe & Hartwig, (2015) argued that the local community should be involved in the selection of projects in order to foster ownership. Participation should be seen as a right, and not just a means to achieve project goals (Dulani 2003). Hyndman and McDonnell (2009) and Smith (2010) also agreed that organizations that are not paying attention to accountability towards their beneficiaries possibly undermine their own performance. Community Participation centered around the incentives given to them, they use the bottom-up approach. Chinsinga and Kayuni (2008), contended that despite their phenomenal contribution to community development, most of them use bottom-up approaches.

This, in accordance to Arnstein (1996) typologies of participation ladder, the type of participation observed in the government facilitated project could be classified as interactive/partnership participation. People participate in joint analysis, which leads to action plans and the formation of new local institutions or the strengthening of existing ones (Petty 1996). Consequently, from Arnstein's ladder point of view, community members had control over their freedom to choose what they wanted. This was because the community people were given a voice and choice to make.

Government implemented project, gave the community a chance to select a project through their representatives from their community after which plans were presented to the government by the ADC committee. Having the community members actively involved in the selection and identification of community projects created a sense of ownership of the project. In the Government implemented project, when the project phased out, community leaders and the community came up with by-laws to ensure that the forest and the roads which had been part of the project became sustainable.

As observed from the findings, participants of the Government implemented project displayed a sense of ownership of the project because they were able to choose what they wanted unlike the case of the non-government organization that had predefined rules at project identification stage. According to, De Beer and Swanepoel (2006), people cannot come together and organize themselves towards a development initiative in a genuine participatory process unless they identify the need themselves. Put differently, as argued by Roodt (2001) argues that community-development projects that do not facilitate the active participation of community members fail to address the actual needs of communities. This is according to development theories “peoples centred approach”, that advocates for involvement of the community in decision making facilitates sustainability of a project. Involving the community in the decision-making process and analysis of problems that affect them achieves sustainability of a project (Dinbabo, M.F., 2003). This is opposed to traditional theories where community decisions are made by implementers.

4.4 The role of beneficiary Community Participation in the maintenance of Government and the NGO's implemented public works projects

The section presents findings and a discussion gathered for specific objective 2, which assessed and compared the role of the community in maintenance in public works projects implemented by the government and non-governmental organisations.

4.4.1 Findings on Maintenance of public works projects from Government and Non-governmental organisations

Findings from ladder of participation revealed that the Government implemented project fell under the typology of tokenism and the NGO implemented project fell under manipulation (non-participation) on the same typology ladder. Using these themes, the study sought to capture viewpoints, knowledge and opinions concerning how the projects would be or were being maintained at the end of the project phase.

Data collected from the government implemented project, revealed that community members agreed and highlighted on aspects that were to be maintained. Consequently, one of the notable reasons why projects were possible to maintain, was how the community participated in the early stage of the project which was selection stage. This, according to the community members, was a very good practice, because it gave them opportunity to identify existing problems concerning the projects. As reported during the FGDs with community members that the local committees had more knowledge and were able to provide good direction to community participants (Govt quote below).

It is very easy to maintain projects within our locality if we were involved from the planning stage because this entails the community's selection. (Women FGD representing the Government).

Government project officers also stated that in their project design, ownership was to be left in the hands in the community. For example, the community members closely gave direction, through local representatives. In this study, government led, portrayed participation of the community from project selection stage. Thus, it led to positive outcomes during maintenance of the project. Another notable advantage, as expressed by FGD participants from the Government implemented projects was benefits that were realized because of maintaining projects. One female respondent from Majawa GVH argued that:

We maintain the roads, because they have attributed to improved economic status of the community members. We are now able to transport raw materials from one place to the other, motorcycles the most common transport that we use here, Kabaza (bicycle taxis) but all these things were not possible before MASAF 4 with the bumpy and inaccessible roads. (Women FGD representing the Government).

They mentioned business growth opportunities; as a community they ensured that they joined hands to make sure that the roads should continue to be in a usable state. As it was reported by one beneficiary from the government public works project, they expressed that the coming in of improved roads, brought in more business opportunities, arguing that the status of the road, before the project and after, had resulted in improved business returns. As argued above by one of the respondents.

According to the participation ladder, notable theme identified from the government was “partnership” on degrees of citizen power.

Contrary to findings from the Non- Government Organization implemented project the participants had different views regarding project maintenance unlike their counterparts from the government led project.

One respondent reported that.

“The project officers are responsible for maintenance, we are mostly employed for specific number of days and we get paid according to the number of days that we have worked in”

(Reported by; Women from Non-Government Organization)

From the FDGs, participants cited that it is the implementers’ role to maintain the projects when need arises, as reported:

We do believe that there’s is money allocated for maintenance, hence it The organizations duty to be tracking down and monitoring all things related to maintenance. (Reported by; Men FGD from non- Government organization)

To this effect, NGO implemented project participants cited lack of community ownership as one the challenges that they were likely to face in FFA projects. They reported that, most times, they would work for their own personal benefits. A notable higher number of respondents cited incentives as a reason why they participated. Without the incentives given, they had nothing to do for that project since they claimed not to benefit.

Hence, when FFA project were introduced the project came in with their required guidelines, one of which concerned targeting of beneficiaries considering that the project required strong participants. Therefore, the participants failed to own the project because they were given conditions i.e working for incentives. Secondly, since they were denied room to choose what they needed they worked only based on what

was on the table. One of the project facilitators reported that when implementing projects, they were not considering the situation in the community but rather had to follow donor compliances.

It is very hard to give them what they are looking for, it can be a developmental project but not a need to them. We mostly follow what the donors want to see being implemented. (Project officer from Non-governmental organisation)

4.5 Discussion of findings of the role of beneficiary community participation in maintenance of Government and Non-Governmental implemented public works projects

As observed from the findings, the degree and kind of participation exhibited in relation to project maintenance was low-level in the Non-Government Organizations implemented project and mid-level in the Government implemented project. Findings from this objective showed that there was little maintenance in the project implemented by the Non-Government Organization. Low level community awareness also contributes to reducing the potential for maintenance and active participation (Mezuwa 2013). Pretty (1996) describes this as participation by material incentives, meaning that people participate in the project by providing resources, such as labor, in return for food, cash and other material incentives. However, the people have no stake in prolonging activities when the incentives end. This was like the study findings whereby activities that were imposed by the Non-Governmental Organization ended as the project phased out. De Beer & Swanepoel (2006) emphasize that, in order for beneficiaries to have a stake in projects, they need to contribute not only their physical labor towards projects activities but also their indigenous technologies, ways identification of the projects, local community economic resources, and their physical

resources such as communal land and traditional institutional structures. Hence the absence of these aspects of participation may have prevented the community members from taking initiatives to maintain the of the Non-Governmental organization led projects. The community was not aware of the services that the Non-government project came with and for this reason, there was no feedback interaction on what the community wanted. Similar findings of Mezuwa's (2013) study in which an NGO behaved in this manner because its primary interest was simply to have many community members registered, for the project to be viable. This was one of the major challenges for project maintenance because it presented the project as unmanageable in the face of what the community perceived as "owners". Maintenance could not be achieved where local capacity had not been built up. Practically, this style of non-participation tends to be applied to programs encompassing the poor. The project from the Non-Governmental organization is one of the programs that was put in place to alleviate the living standards of the poor. Chirwa (2001) argues that, these programs have been important interventions in rural development in both developed and developing countries. He explains that their motivation centers on the provision of a safety net to vulnerable poor groups while embarking on rural development based on labor resources in rural areas.

Thus, when some community procedures are missed out in the results is that community members participate in the project simply because of the incentives provided as opposed to genuinely participating in it because they value it. Zaidi (1999) labels this type of participation from NGOs as bought participation. The understanding is that community members should contribute to the life of the community by participating actively in, at least, some of the activities and at the same time contribute to the maintenance of the community structure (Tesoriero, 2010).

The case was different in the Government implemented project. The findings showed that there was active participation in maintenance of the project. This was because, the community was active in decision making in project selection phase. Juma et al (2014) also share the view that development projects can only be legitimized when communities are actively (as opposed to passively) involved in the decision making, implementation and evaluation phases of those projects. Thus, this brings out sustainability, maintenance and ownership of the projects, as the community members are active players in the running and implementation of the projects.

There are several factors that determine genuine participation in the maintenance of Government and NGO implemented public works projects. As Mezuwa (2012) argues, participation is only genuine if the beneficiaries take an active and influential part in making decisions at every stage of the project cycle. Similarly, genuine participation, according to Pretty (1996), is a case where “people participate by taking initiatives independently of external institutions to change systems. Pretty explains that the communities develop contacts with external institutions for resources and technical advice they need but retain control over how resources are used. As observed from the findings, in the Government implemented project, implementers portrayed some sort of community participation in the need’s identification phase; by involving the community members to identify what they wanted as a project in the community.

In agreement with Mphande (2018), community members tend to have a higher sense of project ownership if they participated in phases such as the designing of a project. As was the case with the Government implemented project, as opposed to the NGO

implemented project, participants considered themselves as owners and final users of the road, hence their taking full responsibility for it. In the NGO implemented public works projects low-level degree of community participation dominated in many aspects of project implementation, consequently threatening the maintenance of the project when the project phased out. Easterly (2001) argues that continual failures of the western organizations to help the developing countries towards development have been due to the failure to account for the challenges people face. As it was observed from the need's identification/selection phase, NGO officers came in with their guidelines on selection and identification of projects. Secondly, besides the officers coming in with their guidelines they played a dominant role in activities concerning targeting of the project beneficiaries, they had a set of predetermined fixed conditions. This affected the way the project was monitored which explains why with community members ended up not owning the project, and, in turn, its maintenance. Similar findings by Roodt (2001) show that community-development projects that do not facilitate the active participation of community members fail to address the actual needs of communities. De Beer and Swanepoel (2006), found that one of the reasons is that people cannot come together and organize themselves towards a development initiative in a genuine participatory process unless they identify the need themselves.

It was argued that one of the notable ways of empowering the community was by giving the community a voice, during needs identification process of the project. Ahmed (2011) observes that lack of community empowerment affects community participation.

4.6 Assessing monitoring of public works projects by the community in the Government and Non-Governmental implemented Projects

This section will discuss findings and discussion the study investigated on monitoring of public works projects by government and non-governmental organizations. For this objective, the study captured opinions on how the project was being monitored during implementation and at the end of the project phase. By using Arsteins ladder of participation, it was revealed that government implemented public works projects fell under citizen control and the non-governmental organization fell under consultation.

4.6.1 Findings on Monitoring of Public Works Projects by beneficiaries in the Government and NGO's

Findings from FGD's of beneficiaries from the government implemented project showed that beneficiaries took part in activities which the community perceived as monitoring. The community collaborated and came up with by-laws to be followed. Data collected illustrated that the community members were dealt with once they were found destroying trees.

As it was reported from the FGD's,

Community members that are found destroying the environment are accountable for it, for instance; those that are found cutting down a small tree are charged a huge amount to pay, the money one is charged amounts to 25000. The charge was put deliberately at a higher price to avoid doing such act. Reported by: FGD presenting the Government sector.

In additional the second noticeable finding was sending of reports on the progress of the project and this was checked against what has been done versus what had been planned. The community was highly involved in monitoring, the facilitators only jotted in were there was need to, i.e when issuing out allowances for the work done or general monitoring of the plans made. As illustrated the community had more power

and control over their developmental work. In addition, the participants also highlighted room for change to match, actual situation on the ground.

As it was reported by one of the government participants.

Most times representatives send reports, we tell them that this was the actual plan from the government induced on us, but from the way we have analysed the situation on the ground.

Reported by; Men FGD from the Government.

However, there were weaknesses that were identified by the community members. For example, some participants reported that there was lack of trained personnel to take over the project during implementation and monitoring. A government official also said that, there were segments that were always there in monitoring because it was difficult to fully leave monitoring in their hands. One of the noticeable problems concerned technology in that they are not trained on how the project tools, i.e. log frames that may be used to track down the project. This may be difficult for them to understand.

Secondly on resources, most projects rely on staff that already trained to save costs and people with expertise. To this effect the officials from MASAF 4, highlighted that the project involved a foreman, who oversaw assembling the beneficiaries and assigning them roads construction tasks. Each beneficiary was given a piece of land to work on. This finding agreed with reports from focus group discussions, as illustrated by the following was report.

We are not trained adequately on how long it should be before maintaining these items, especially the projects that are from the government. Ownership is simply left to us without proper instructions. Sometimes it happens that we don't have knowledge, to identify if that infrastructures' is not in good shape, hence we end up realizing later

while the damage has already been made. Reported by: Men FGD presenting Government.

On the other hand, data collected from the Non-Government Organizations illustrated that, notable activities that they perceived as monitoring were done jointly by the officials from perspective offices. The monitoring was being done to guide them so that the project should be in line with what was in the plan. One of the Project Officers argued that most of these projects were handed over to the community so that they should own them, however, they had certain conditions which need to be followed. One of these conditions, is provision of trainings provided by relevant stakeholders, according to the project requirements from their various department's i.e. health, roads authority and agriculture. Secondly, another way in which the project was monitored was through, assessments such as conducting surveys with the participants, using a checklist, and indicating what was supposed to be done against what had been done.

We have a joint monitoring by tracking of activities that are implemented in the communities. We involve different stakeholders so that they should help us with training the beneficiaries, then we get to the communities we work with the Area development committee. Reported by: KII Non-Government Organization. (WVM official, government)

However, community ownership was a challenge, according to the reports from the focus group discussions. Participants reported that, projects with a lot of incentives such as FFA, normally come in with guidelines that are to be followed. For example, during selection of beneficiaries' they were told that only those that are eligible to be beneficiaries should be given work to do. The eligibility was centered on a community member's physical fitness or ability to partake hard labor work.

Therefore, this development, limited other community members. The project ended up taking in youths and not the vulnerable category.

When the project was starting, they clearly stated that it is “magobo” with hard labor, upon hearing what the work will involve then the community members started leaving out. We were given a very large figure but then community members left the group. Reported by; (Women FGD presenting findings from Non-government participant)

4.6.2 Discussion of findings concerning monitoring of public works projects activities

Based on the data collected on monitoring, the study found that monitoring, to a large extent, was characterized by low-level participation. The findings revealed that NGOs were not in line with Community participation. FGD's and KII from the NGOs revealed that beneficiaries played a minimal role in monitoring of the projects. One of the most notable reasons was that they used knowledge which they received during training concerning how to take care of the environment as exemplified by those that were involved in climate change. This according, to the Arnstein's ladder of participation is known as informing or training them. Informing citizens of their rights, responsibilities, and options can be the most important first step toward legitimate citizen participation. However, too frequently the emphasis is placed on one-way flow of information -from officials to citizens-with no channel provided for feedback and no power for negotiation. Under these conditions, particularly when information is provided at a late stage in planning, people have little opportunity to influence the program designed “for their benefit.” The observation that the actors from the NGO's simply identified areas that they needed to train their beneficiaries in means that this was a way of imparting knowledge to them so that they should be able to participate in the project. This, contravenes Soransora's (2013) definition of

monitoring, namely analyzing the project's progress, identifying problems facing the community or the project and finding their solutions, ensuring all activities are carried out properly by the right people and in time and using lessons from the project that may promote accountability, satisfaction and trust among community members. The study found out that, in the Non-Governmental Organization implemented project participation was simply addressed due to the benefits that the project itself proposed to offer; the said elements included; trainings which imparted knowledge to beneficiaries who, in turn, somehow showed up for community activities for that project. This finding, however, contradicted findings from a study that was conducted by Dulani (2001), who reported that, MASAF structures provided some form of indirect community input through project committees.

The study further revealed that even this form of indirect participation was very limited because of the less-than participatory nature of the selection of all the Committees as well as their reluctance to consult regularly with the community members. MASAF's tight control over budgeting further restricted this narrow community participation window, to the point that participation is honored more in word than in deed. This was mainly demonstrated by people's capacity and opportunity available to them to ensure that everything is in place while they did not have the required knowledge to influence major change affecting their possessions.

While from the government led organisation, participation was some-how portrayed, as observed from the findings that, community knew the rightful channels to use after the analysed the situation on the ground. On the other hand, they came up with by-laws which entailed one to pay money once found vandalizing the developmental

project that was put in place. Thus, community members monitored each other on their daily tasks and on the progress of the project and the project plans laid during the inception stage.

Monitoring from the Government was characterized by mid-level participation while NGO was low-level participation and, therefore, NGO led failed to give a true reflection of community participation. Most of the reported “monitoring” done in the projects was on community level by the participants for the government, while NGO led monitoring was done centrally, for donor compliance. This, perhaps, echoes (Zaidi, 1999) who argues that NGO led projects lack genuine participation. As Dulani (2001) argues a project is said to give a true reflection of community participation on the ground if there was an active involvement of local communities in development initiatives, where specified groups, sharing the same interests or living in a defined geographic area, actively pursue the identification of their needs and establish mechanisms to make their choice effective. This assertion, resonates with Rose’ (2003) observation that there seems to be a gap between the expressed commitment to community participation and the reality of community involvement.

4.7 Conclusion

This chapter has presented findings and discussions of the study specifically, concerning project selection, maintenance, and monitoring for Government and Non-Governmental Organization implemented projects. From the findings it was observed that project selection is the core element towards community participation. This triggers active participation when the community chooses what they wanted in their community, unlike the top-down approach, where they have no choice on what they wanted. This entails that community member involvement in the problem

identification helps the communities to address pressing issues within the communities. This is best achieved by eliciting views from a spectrum of perspectives.

Overall, the discussion has shown that community participation is affected at early stage of project selection which, in turn, affects beneficiaries' participation in the whole project cycle.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY

5.1 Introduction

This chapter of the thesis provides the conclusions and implications of the study and implicitly offers possible recommendations for practice and further research on the topic.

5.2 Summary of results

Results have revealed that Government organisation public works projects were more participatory in nature as compared to non-governmental organisations. There are differences noted in the way the two actors involved the communities in their projects. This was seen in the first step on project selection which induced community participation of the community, this was seen as a crucial role towards achieving sustainability of public works projects in the communities.

5.3 Areas for Further Study

In appreciating how community participation is carried out, there is a need for a similar study to be carried out, the study should be an analysis between two districts in public works projects. This is because there may be differences other conditions that may prompt others to participate more. In addition, the present study focused on assessing the effect of Community participation in public works programs in one district, another study may be done to compare two districts

5.4 Implications and policy recommendations

Although many studies have suggested that community participation is high in NGO facilitated projects as compared to their Government counterparts in some instances, practically, a community may opt to work with Non-a Government Organization due to benefits offered by the organization. This study has concluded that there was more community participation in government sector public works projects initiated by the entry approach used which, in turn, positively affected the sustainability of the projects.

Consequently; the Public works projects implemented by the Government were mostly community driven, as observed, they came with community benefits and community ownership. Hence for improved community participation in the Public works Projects Non-Governmental Organization, there is need to adopt mechanisms used by the Government, by involving the community members in project selection. This helped induce genuine participation.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Interview Guides (FGD)

FGD INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR PARTICIPANTS FROM GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION

Section A: Demographics

Date of interview

Name of study site

Name of community

Name of implementing agency

Age, Sex, education levels, marital status

Profile of FGD participants					
Let's begin by going around the room...					
Participant #	Age	Gender	Highest level of education	Marital status	Type of programme involved in
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

Objective 1: To assess community participation in project selection in the Government and NGOs implemented Public works projects

(kufufuza mene opindura muma polojeketi a mmtandiza amayendera, maka ngati opindura amakhala ndi mbali pazomwe akufuna kuti zichitike mudera mwawo).

- What do you understand by public works projects? What happens in these public works projects?
 - *kodi mumamvesesa kuti chani akati ma polojeketi a mmthandiza? Ma polojeketi amenewa pamachitika chani?*
 - **(INTERVIEWER: Ask participants to give examples)**
- What is the overall aim of these public works projects?
 - *Kodi zolinga za nchito zamthandizi ndi zotani?*
- What do you understand by community participation in public works projects?
 - *Kodi mumamvesesa chani akati kutenga nawo mbali pa nchito zamthandizi?*
- Who participates in these public works projects? How are these people selected? What do they benefit from these projects? How are the poorest households involved in these projects?
 - *Kodi amene amatenga nawo mbali pa ntchito za mthandizi za chitukuko ndani? Anthu amenewa amasankhidwa motani? Phindu lawo limakhala lotani? Kodi ma banja osaukitsitsa mdera lino amatenga nawo mbaji yanji?*

- **(INTERVIEWER: Probe for roles of/and differences because of gender, age groups, political influence, religion, connections etc...)**
- Who initiates public works projects in the community
 - *Ndindani amene amayambisa ma program amenewa?*
 - **(INTERVIEWER: probe for roles of village heads, beneficiaries both men and women, VDC committee etc...)**
- What projects are you involved in? (probe for all projects) How do you participate in these projects? What are the specific activities that you take part in

Kodi inu mumatenga nawo nawo mbali mma polojekiti ati?

Chenicheni chomwe inu mumapanga ndi chani?
- Do you have a committee in your community established for these projects?
 - *Kodi pali komiti yokhazikika imene imakuyimilirani pa ntchito za mthandizizi?*
- If yes, does this committee represent your needs?
 - *Kodi komiti imeneyi imapanga zofuna zanu?*
- What are the challenges that you encounter in regards to community selection of projects
 - *Kodi mumakumana ndi zovuta zANJI posankha ma polojeketi amenewa?*
- From the list of projects that you just provided, do you think they really address the critical needs of your community?

- *Kodi ma polojekiti onse mwatchula amakwanitsa kuthana ndi mavuto enieni a mdera lino?*

Objective 2:

The assess the role of participant community participation in the maintenance of the Government and the NGO's implemented Public works projects

- Have there been any public projects that have been damaged and become unusable? What are these projects and what happened?
 - *Kodi pali ntchito zina za mthandizi/zachitukuko zomwe zinaonongeka ndipo sizimagwiranso ntchito? Ma polojekiti amenewa ndi ati ndipo chinachitika ndi chani?*
- What roles do the community people have in the maintenance of these projects?
 - *(kodi anthu amatengapo mbali yanji pakusamalira ntchito za mthandizi zachitukukozi?)*
- Who is actually responsible or taking care of the projects?
 - *Kodi amene amayang'anira ma polojeketi amenewa ndi ndani?*
- In your views, how organised is your community in the maintenance of public projects? What factors affect maintenance of projects, both positive and negative?
 - *Mmaganizo mwanu, kodi a mdera lino ndiogwirizana motani pantchito yokonza ma polojekiti a mthandizi akaonongeka? Kodi ndi chani chimene chimakanikisa (chimalimbikitsa) kuti ma polojeketi amenewa azikhosedwa?*

- Suggest the best ways for running/managing/maintaining public works projects in this community.
 - *Kodi mukuona kuti ma pulojeki amenewa akuyenera kumayendesedwa bwanji?*

Objective 3:

To assess monitoring of Public works projects by beneficiaries in the Governmental and NGO's ?

- Who leads in the monitoring of the projects?
 - *Kodi amene amayang'anira keyendetsedwe ka ma pulojekitiwa ndani?*
- What roles do members of the community play in the monitoring of these projects?
 - *Anthu a mdera lino amatengapo mbali yanji pa ntchito yoyang'anira kayendetsedwe ka pulojekitiwa?*
- Explain how activities are monitored in the community?
 - *Kodi ntchito yoyang'anira kayendetsedwe ka pulojekiti imakhala yotani?*
- What are the challenges/opportunities that beneficiaries face during monitoring of a project?
 - *Kodi ndi mavuto anji omwe anthu amakumana nawo pa ntchito yoyang'anira ma pulojekiti?*
- How do community members (and VDC members) react when someone is found destroying a community project?
 - *Kodi anthu a mdera lino kapena a komiti amapangapo chani akapeza munthu kapena anthu akuononga ntchito za mthandizi?*

- Suggest ways how monitoring should be conducted in the community projects?
 - Maganizo anu ndi otani momwe ntchito zoyang'anira ma pulojekiti zimagenera kuyendera?
- If you were asked to compare projects run by the government and those run by other organizations in this area, which ones do you think are better? Explain in more detail
 - *Kufanizira ma pulojekiti omwe amapanga a boma ndi ma pulojekiti amabungwe ena, mmaganizo anu abwino ndi ati? Pa zifukwa zANJI?*
 - **(INTERVIEWER: probe for ease of community participation, selection of participants, payment terms and timeliness, durability etc...)**
- Are there people in this area who participate in projects run by both the government and Non-Governmental organizations? How are these people selected?
 - *Kodi mdera lino alipo anthu ena omwe amatenga nawo mbali mu mapulojekiti a boma komanso mu ma pulojekiti a ma bungwe ena? Anthu amenewa amasankhidwa motani?*

That concludes our interview. Thank you so much for sharing your thoughts and opinions with us.

Appendix 2: Key Informants Interview Guide

A. KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE ON COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

My name is I am a student at chancellor college pursuing masters of arts in development studies, in fulfilment of her (my) master's degree in development studies, I (she) would like to collect data on community participation in public works programs.

You have been selected to participate in the study (research) because of your position in MASAF/WFP, your opinions and knowledge regarding the project will be highly valuable.

The discussion is voluntary and confidential, it will take about 30 minutes. You are free to withdraw and anytime, if you don't want to answer a particular question, you are also free to decline. Whatever information you will give, will only be used for the purposes of this study. Your name and what information you will give out, will solely be used for this study and your name will not be mentioned on presenting the study results.

There are no risks that will happen due to your participation in the interview.

I will be glad if you will choose to participate in the interview.

If agreed. If you are willing to partake in this study, please sign here.

.....

SECTION A

1. Name
2. Position of respondent

Section B:

Specific Objective one

To assess community participation in project selection in the Government and NGOs implemented Public works projects.

- What do you understand by community participation in public works projects?
- Can you explain the process of participation in your organisation?
- What is the relationship between beneficiaries and implementers? Explain
- Who initiates public works projects in the community? Explain
- Do you think it is of more value participating in public works projects?

SECTION B

The assess the role of participant community participation in the maintenance of the Government and the NGO's implemented Public works projects

What are the projects that are being implemented by your organisation?

- When did the project begin?
- Explain how activities are monitored in the community
- Explain how you conduct monitoring and evaluation in your community?
- What affects monitoring of community participation projects in public works projects
- Which organisation monitors their projects? And why do you think so?

- How are your activities/programs monitored/evaluated??
- What are the lessons learned so far in the implementation of the programs and services you're responsible for?
- What are the successes of the public works programs intervention?
- How can the program improve?
- If you had the power to change things in public works programs, what things would you have done differently? And what things would stay the way they are? Anything you can change at your level?

SECTION C

To assess monitoring of Public works projects by beneficiaries in the Governmental and NGO's

How does the community understand ownership in projects?

- Who is supposed to be responsible for taking care of these projects
- What factors affect maintenance of projects
- Do you think these projects are of any help?
- If yes, how?
- Suggest the best ways for maintaining the project?

That concludes our interview. Thank you so much for sharing your thoughts and opinions with us.

Appendix 3: Request for Permission

Request for permission to conduct interviews

Chancellor College
P.O. BOX 280
Zomba
MA/DEV/19/16

Dear Sir/Madam

REQUEST TO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS FOR MY MATSER OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

I am a student conducting research on community participation. I would like to ask for permission if I can be granted an audience from your organization with your project officer and MEAL officer. Further I would also request for permission if I could sample and interview a few selected participants in your area of implementation.

My data collection period will be in between 1st November to 20th December 2018. I am available to conduct the interview at your convenient time. I will be looking forward to hearing from you soon, my contact details are below.

Your kind support will be greatly appreciated.

Regards.

Grace Nkhwazi

g.nkhwazi20@gmail.com

0996527983