

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND ITS INFLUENCE ON SUSTAINABILITY OF THE ECDE FEEDING PROGRAMME IN TURKANA NORTH SUB COUNTY, KENYA

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### ABSTRACT

Feeding programmes are critical for quality education to be realized in all learning institutions starting from Pre-primary to higher levels globally. When there is no provision of meals to children in school, they lack the energy to concentrate in classroom and co-curricular activities. Reports from non-governmental organizations have pointed out food insecurity as the major cause of low participation of learners in schools especially in drought-stricken areas. It is estimated that thousands of children risk dropping out of school because of inadequate food in ECDE centres. The study sought to assess participatory approaches and sustainability of the ECDE feeding programme in Turkana North Sub County. The objective was to; determine the community participation and its influence on the sustainability of ECDE feeding programme. The study is anchored on Systems Theory. A conceptual frame showing the relationship between independent variable (participatory approaches) and dependent variable (sustainability of ECDE feeding programme) was adopted. The study adopted Descriptive survey research design. The target population consisted of SFC chairpersons, and three key informants from the implementing organization directors. Through purposive and simple random sampling technique, 52 respondents were sampled from the target population of 166. The study employed questionnaires and interview schedules as instruments of data collection. The content and construct validity of the data collection instruments were ascertained by supervisors and departmental area experts of social science. A pilot study comprised of 10% of the target population from Turkana central Sub County, Kalokol ward. Reliability of the questionnaire was ascertained through test-retest technique. This involved the use of Cronbach Alpha where coefficient was  $r > 0.75$ . After obtaining permission from the authorities, a License was obtained from NACOSTI. The respondents were inducted before data collection to make them understand what was required of them. Data was coded by use of SPSS version 28 and analyzed by descriptive statistics that included frequencies, means, and percentages. The results were presented by use of frequency tables, analyzed, and interpreted by use of percentages and means. The study findings revealed that the influence of community participation was not sustaining the ECDE feeding programme. NGOs prioritize community engagement forums to promote community participation in the ECDE feeding programme. The findings will help the stakeholders in the ECDE sector to understand the challenges and devise the best practices on how to sustain the ECDE feeding programme in the study area and other vulnerable areas within Kenya.

**Keywords:** Community participation, Sustainability, ECDE feeding programme

### 1.0 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

According to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Early Children Development Education (ECDE) refers to the period from birth to about eight years old (UNICEF, 2011). It involves well tracking of children in their education over a given period. Further, ECDE considers the physical health and wellbeing of children. ECDE aims to equip learners with foundational skills to handle and manage young growing minds.

According to McCommon (1993), the concept of community participation originated about 40 years ago from the community development movement of the late colonial era in parts of Africa and Asia. The colonial administrators viewed community development as a means of improving local welfare, training people in local administration, and extending government control through local self-help activities. Thwala (2001) spelled out the objectives of community participation as; empowerment; building beneficiary capacity; increasing project effectiveness; improving project efficiency; and project cost sharing. The framework spells out four levels of participation, namely: information sharing; consultation; decision making; and initiating action. Community participation generally is more successful when the community takes over much of the responsibility than when higher-level public agencies attempt to assess consumer preferences through surveys or meetings (Thwala, 2001). According to Guijt (2014) participatory approaches involve undertaking impact evaluation which should be meaningful to the stakeholders in a programme. It means engaging stakeholders both involved and affected by a given policy. Participatory approaches therefore covers a series of participations in terms of what is understood by participation, whose participation is wanted and the reason of what and how stakeholders are involved (Guijt I, 2024).

The use of participatory approaches to assess their influence in the sustainability of the ECDE feeding programme means involving stakeholders in different stages of the intervention. These approaches are however, used mainly in engaging local communities to get more involved in the intervention. In order to expand the degree of involvement by different stakeholders in the ECDE feeding programme this study recognizes that different individuals,, groups, and development agencies, both public and private entities interact with these specific approaches as they strive to achieve a sustainable ECDE feeding programme. In relation to this, the Government of Kenya introduced services like school feeding programmes, especially in primary schools located in ASAL areas to promote enrolment and attendance. However, the ECDE sector was left out. Worth noting is that the studies done so far, regarding the SFP have not focused on pastoralist communities? Consequently, the current study sought to assess community participation as a participatory approach and the sustainability of the ECDE feeding programme in Turkana North Sub-County of Kenya.

## **2.0 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

ECDE is central in the education of children since it forms a basis for further education. Consequently, many nations have made efforts to sustain the quality of education in ECDE centres. These include facilitation of the centres with learning materials, infrastructure development, and deployment of teachers and establishment of school feeding programmes (SFP), especially in regions categorized as arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs). In Kenya, school feeding programmes were introduced mainly to promote enrollment and retention of children in ECDE centres. The programmes focus on rural, informal urban settlements like Turkana County, which are characterized by food insecurity. World Food Programme (2010) pointed

out food insecurity as the major cause of low participation of learners in schools. For instance, according to the Save the Children report (2018), there has been an increase in school absenteeism in drought-stricken areas including Turkana North Sub County. This is because pastoralist families engage their children in the search for water resources and food. Hence, it is estimated that thousands of children risk dropping out of school. The absenteeism is higher because of inadequate food in ECDE centres (Save the Children, 2018).

### **2.1 Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of this study was to determine community participation and its influence on sustainability of the ECDE feeding programme in Turkana North Sub County, Kenya. This study was guided by the following objective:

### **2.2 Objective of the study**

To determine community participation and its influence on sustainability of the ECDE feeding programme in Turkana North Sub County, Kenya.

### **2.3 Research Questions**

To what extent does community participation influence sustainability of the ECDE feeding programme in Turkana North Sub County, Kenya?

### **2.4 Justification of the Study**

The study findings may help implementing communities and other ECDE feeding programme stakeholders to understand the specific roles of the National government, County government, NGOs, and local communities in sustaining the ECDE feeding programme.

### **2.5 Scope of the Study**

The study was carried out in Turkana North Sub-County, Kenya, which is among remote and drought-stricken regions of Turkana County, Kenya, which mainly rely on relief food. The study was carried out in the selected public and private ECDE centers in Turkana North Sub County.

### **2.6 Study Limitations**

The study was limited to the sampled ECDE centers in Turkana North Sub County, and therefore the findings may not be generalized to other counties in Kenya. Additionally, the information in this study was collected the way it was at that particular time. Consequently, it is possible that the information could have been different at different times.

### **2.7 Assumptions of the Study**

The ECDE feeding programme was paramount for the wellbeing of the children in ECDE centers. Additionally, the community would participate fully in the ECDE feeding programme.

## **3.0 THEORETICAL FRAME WORK**

The study is anchored on Systems Theory by William and Edward (1903). Systems theory, recognize that organizations are complex social systems, which indicates that reducing the part from the whole reduces the overall effectiveness of organizations. This study therefore adopted Systems theory because the ECDE feeding programme in different ECDE centers was considered as a system that relies on many stakeholders for it to be successful including the local community, the County Government, and NGOs. The community is significant in the sustainability of the ECDE feeding programme because the ECDE feeding programme happens in ECDE centers located in the communities. Thus, the participation of the community is paramount to achieve sustainability.

### 3.1 Conceptual framework

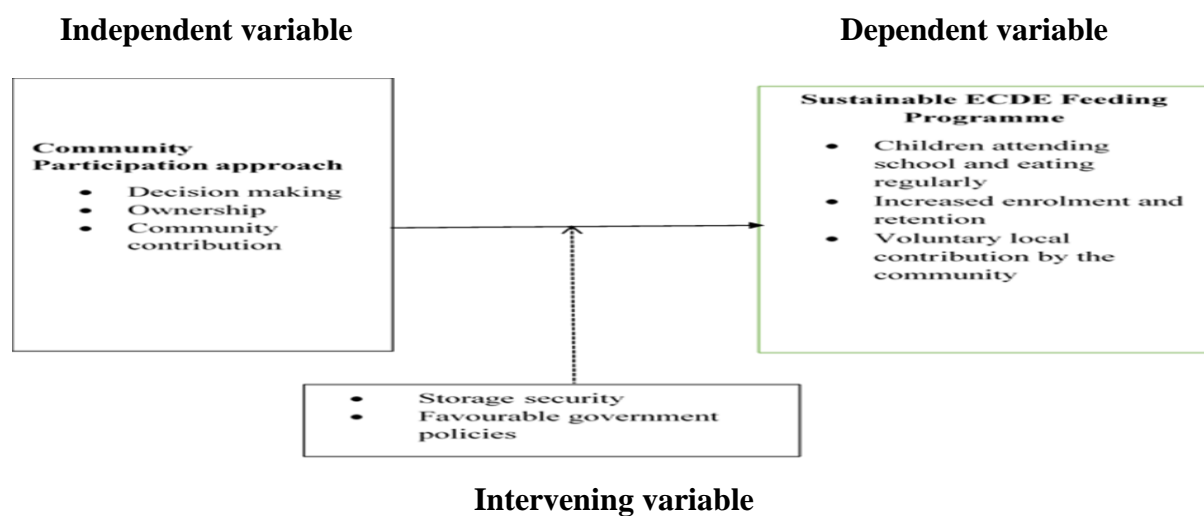


Figure 1: Conceptual framework showing the relationship between independent variable (Community participation) and dependent variable (Sustainable ECDE Feeding programme)

The participatory approaches were expected to influence directly the dependent variable, which is the sustainability of the ECDE feeding program. The sustainability of the ECDE feeding programme therefore relies on the community participation approach outlined. Determining community participation helps in gauging if community participation is influencing the sustainability of the ECDE feeding programme. This is by involving the community in the decision-making, ownership of the programme and offering community contribution without coercion.

### 3.2 Research Methodology

The study utilized descriptive survey design. It allowed rapid collection of data from a large sample cost-effectively, and within the shortest time possible, using questionnaires and interview schedules (Gatara, 2010). The information obtained by this design helped to answer the research questions concerning community participation approach and sustainability of ECDE feeding programme in Turkana North Sub County, Kenya.

### 3.3 Location of the Study

The location of this study was Turkana North Sub County, Turkana County, Kenya. Turkana County is among the ASALs within the Rift Valley covering an area of 77,000 square kilometers. It lies between Longitudes 340 30°E and 360 40°E and between Latitudes 10 30° and 50 30°N. Turkana North Sub County borders South Sudan and Ethiopia in the far North of Kenya. Turkana north has five administrative wards, namely Lapur, Kaaleng/Kaikor, Lake zone, Nakalale and Kaeris. The area under study has a population of 65,218 people, according to the Kenya Population and Housing Census, 2019. The residents are mostly nomads who move in the territory between South Sudan and Kenya and have been vulnerable to attacks from neighbouring communities.

### 3.4 Target Population

The target population was 368 respondents consisting of the ECDE teachers the SFC chairpersons, the Turkana North Sub County Director, Mary's Meals Kenya Director and the Diocese of Lodwar Caritas Coordinator. This was according to the Turkana North Sub County ECDE Director and Diocese of Lodwar Nurseries programme reports in 2022 as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: Target Population**

Description	Population
SFC chairpersons	163
Turkana North ECDE Sub- County Director	1
Mary's Meals Kenya Director	1
DOL Caritas Coordinator	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>166</b>

### 3.5 Sampling Procedures

The study used Simple random sampling technique in the selection of School feeding committee (SFC) chairpersons that took part in this study. These were from five administrative wards that constitute Turkana North Sub County. Simple random sampling was preferred to avoid biasness in the selection of the sample from the study population. The researcher came up with a list of all the SFC chairpersons and ECDE teachers who constituted the target population. Each of them was assigned a number. Then using the randomly generated numbers from the computer the sample size was picked. According to Creswell (2014) the samples that are selected randomly yield reliable research data that is representative of the larger population. The researcher as well used purposive sampling to select the Turkana North Sub-county director, the Mary's Meals Kenya director and the Dol Caritas coordinator because they contained detailed primary data about the ECDE feeding programme. The three were found at their respective convenient locations.

### 3.6 The Sample Size

Thirty percent of the population can be recognized as an adequate sample in a study (Patton, 2002). Hence, the specific sample sizes for the respondents were 49 SFC chairpersons. The sample sizes is shown in table 2.

**Table 2: Sample Frame**

Respondents	Population	Sample size	Sample %	Sampling
SFC Chairpersons	163	49	94.3	Simple Random sampling
Turkana North Sub-County ECDE Director	1	1	1.9	Purposive sampling
Mary's Meals Kenya Director	1	1	1.9	Purposive sampling
DOL Caritas Coordinator	1	1	1.9	Purposive sampling
<b>Total</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100</b>	

## 4.0 RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

The researcher used both a questionnaire and interview schedule as instruments of data collection.

### 4.1 Questionnaire

Both structured and unstructured questionnaires were used when gathering in-depth data. The questionnaire to determine the community participation was developed for SFC chairpersons. This consisted of two sections; section one contained demographic information while section two dealt with the community participation and sustainability of ECDE feeding programme. The questions were developed considering the independent variables and the dependent variable.

### 4.2 Interview Schedule

This instrument was preferred because it yielded qualitative data for the study. Interview schedule helped the researcher to probe interesting issues to gather much more detailed information on the topic of study (Serem, Boit & Wanyama, 2013). By use of interview schedules, the researcher would easily obtain additional valued extra information from the respondents. Use of interview schedules also guarantees 100% response and return rate.

### 4.3 Validity of the instruments

The researcher gave out the data collection instruments and the research questions and objectives to the research supervisors and other research experts in the area of study to check if they match or mismatch with the study objectives. The researcher incorporated the positive inputs to refine the final instruments for data collection.



#### 4.4 Pilot Study

A pilot study was carried out in order to establish if the content of the research instruments was reliable. This was in Turkana Central Sub- County, Kalokol ward, which had similar characteristics as those taking part in the actual study.

#### 4.5 Reliability

Reliability refers to the degree to which an assessment tool produces stable consistent results, the test-retest technique, which involves administering the same test twice, was carried out in Turkana Central Sub County to gauge the consistency of the instruments. The researcher adopted Cronbach Alpha ( $\alpha$ ) as an internal consistency measure to determine reliability of the instruments. Value for Cronbach Alpha was coefficient  $r > 0.787$ . It implied that the research instruments were reliable.

#### 4.6 Data Collection Procedures

An introductory letter from Turkana University College was sought, after which the researcher pursued a research license from National Commission for Science Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI). Thereafter, proceeded to the County Education Office Turkana County to inform the office about the research to be carried out in ECDE centers. After obtaining the permissions, the pre-visits were made to ECDE centers to seek permission and plan to conduct research.

#### 4.7 Data Analysis

The study yielded quantitative and quantitative data. Quantitative Data was coded by use of SPSS version 28, analyzed by descriptive statistics that included frequencies, percentages and means. The results were presented in tables, analyzed, and interpreted by use of percentages and means.

#### 4.8 Ethical Considerations

The study was conducted with full consent of the appropriate authorities and research subjects. To ensure paramount confidentiality in this study, anonymity was promised to the participants. Necessary permission was obtained from the relevant authorities and principles of anonymity upheld.

#### 4.9 Data presentation, analysis and interpretation

Table 3 illustrates the findings of the study on how community participation influences the sustainability of the ECDE feeding programme

**Table 3 Community Participation and Sustainability of ECDE Feeding Programme**

Statement	NE (1)		SE (2)		ME (3)		LE (4)		VLE (5)		Mean
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
The committee meets to plan on how to implement	4 (0.11)	8.2	24 (0.68)	48.9	2 (0.06)	4.1	12 (0.34)	24.5	7 (0.2)	14.3	1.39

N=35

the ECDE feeding programme											
The committee is informed of the programme and its role is to implement the programme as directed without alteration of the implementation plan.	7 (0.2)	14.3	9 (0.26)	18.4	2 (0.06)	4.1	12 (0.34)	24.5	19 (0.54)	38.8	1.4
The community is given a chance to air out their view concerning the programme for implementers to make a decision later on behalf of the community	25 (0.71)	51	11 (0.31)	22.5	2 (0.06)	4.1	3(0.08)	6.1	8 (0.23)	16.3	1.39
Well-articulated opinions from the community through the SFC are heard by the implementers and adopted	28 (0.8)	57.1	2 (0.06)	4.1	0 (0)	0 (0)	8 (0.23)	16.3	11 (0.31)	22.4	1.4
The community has understood their role and actively contribute to the ECDE feeding programme either in kind or cash	24 (0.68)	48.9	14 (0.4)	28.6	2 (0.06)	4.1	5 (0.14)	10.2	4 (0.11)	8.2	1.39
The community has taken ownership of the ECDE center by ensuring that they manage school activities successfully without close supervision	24 (0.68)	48.9	12 (0.34)	24.5	3 (0.08)	6.1	6 (0.17)	12.3	4 (0.11)	8.2	1.38
The community has taken charge of the security of the food and school items	7 (0.2)	14.3	9 (0.23)	18.8	0 (0)	0 (0)	17 (0.49)	34.7	16 (0.46)	32.7	1.38
Total	3.38		2.28		0.32		1.79		1.96		9.73
Mean	0.48		0.33		0.05		0.26		0.28		1.4

Table 3 shows the findings where the majority 24 (48.9%) of the respondents rated meetings to plan how to implement the ECDE feeding programme to a small extent, while 4 (8.2%) respondents confirmed that they rarely met. 2 (4.1%) respondents rated the meeting to moderate. There were 12 (24.5%) of the respondents who indicated that the meetings were held at a large extent, whereas 7 (14.3% respondents rated the meeting to a very large extent. This implied that there was no involvement of community members in the planning of the feeding programme. This is contrary to the study by Mwiru (2015) that community participation was crucial because it creates awareness among stakeholders. Community involvement in school activities is a hallmark of a good relationship between school and the community, meaning that the extent to which the community can be empowered in the feeding programme at school is



an indicator of concern for programme sustainability. This therefore means that sustainability may not be achieved given the inadequate involvement of the community.

To determine whether there was community engagement during planning of the ECDE feeding programme, the respondents were questioned and the responses showed that 19 (38.8%) agreed to a very large extent followed by 12 (24.5%) who agreed to a large extent that they are only informed of what to do by the programme designers who are the County Government and the NGOs. However, 9 (18.4%) and 7 (14.3%) agreed to a small extent and no extent at all respectively. This meant that committee members were less engaged during programme design stage, which would hinder programme sustainability. Despite the fact that many SFC chairpersons participate in implementing the ECDE feeding programme, the majority are only informed of the programme and their role is to implement what has been already designed. This depicted similarity to the study by Mohammad (2010) on people's participation in development projects showed low levels of community participation at the grassroots levels during the planning stage and slightly higher during the implementation stage. According to Asma and Noor (2016), participation begins with identification of needs then proceeds to the planning and implementation stages, which was not the case in the study location.

Further, the researcher sought to find out whether community was involved in giving their views concerning the ECDE feeding programme whereby majority of the respondents 25 (51%) had view that there was no extent at all. Subsequently, 11 (22.5%) agreed that there was small extent. Those who opted for Very large extend were 8 (16.3%). These were followed by 3 (6.1%) who said there was large extent. Only 2 (4.1%) agreed that airing of views was at a moderate level. Findings show that there was very little consideration of the views from the community, which negatively affected the sustainability of the ECDE feeding programme. The community should instead be empowered to articulate their opinions on how best they can contribute to the sustainability of the ECDE feeding programme.

The respondents were also asked to respond to whether their opinions are adopted or not. The findings show that 28 (57.1%) agreed that there was no extent at all when it comes to community opinions being adopted by the implementers. However 11 (22.4%) agreed that there was very large extent that their opinions are adopted. The later were mainly the respondents from the SFC chairpersons who work in schools sponsored by NGOs. The majority of those who completely disagreed with the statement were respondents from schools whose staff are just volunteers. They were neither paid by the County Government nor the NGOs. The findings imply that even if the community articulates their concerns to the stakeholders, it is not guaranteed that their opinions count during decision-making.

Findings on whether the community has understood their role and embraced the programme by contributing in kind and cash revealed 4 (8.2%) agreeing to a very large extent, followed by those who agreed to a large extent at 10.2%. Two respondents agreed moderately. Those who agreed at a small extent were 14 (28.6%) whereas the majority who did not agree at all were 24 (48.9%). This shows that the community contribution is minimal. A few respondents especially from those who agreed with the statement at a very large and large extent indicated that the community is mobilized to bring firewood, water and also contribute some cash to take care of the welfare of the cooks and security guards. Most of the stakeholders interviewed during the study confirmed that the community has been instrumental by contributing the land,

security of facilities, mobilizing for resources such as firewood and water, and parents sending children to school. However, with the large percentage of the respondents 24 (48.9%) saying there is no extent at all, it means that more community capacity building engagements should be arranged to ensure the community understands well their role and be ready to go an extra mile to manage their ECDE feeding programmes. This is because most of the ECDE centers depend almost entirely on the County Government and NGOs for food provision. Withholding the services of the County Government and the NGOs may result into closure of most of the ECDE centers in the study area. Therefore, there is need for more sensitization on community contribution to sustain the ECDE feeding programme.

The findings on whether the community has taken ownership of the ECDE centers by ensuring that they manage school activities without close supervision showed that most of the respondents 24 (48.9) agreed that there was no extent at all. These were followed by 12 (24.5%) who agreed to a small extent. Only 4 (8.2%) very largely agreed that they have taken ownership of the ECDE feeding programme. This implied that the community has not fully owned the feeding programme. There is a tendency of dependency on the County Government and NGOs. The findings are related to the findings of Mwiru (2015) that community participation should be prioritized in any development project to promote ownership, although in the current study the level of ownership of the programme is lower. Likewise, Nketiah (2011) asserts that fewer people in local areas of Kenya are engaged in school feeding programme. Moreover, key informants made an observation that

“The community should endeavour to contribute in kind instead of high expectations that the donors and the County Government will provide everything as pertains the ECDE management” (KI Mary’s Meals Kenya Director Mar. 2023).

Therefore, when citizens feel that projects established are theirs, they will use well and protect the projects. This study has therefore established that in as much programme ownership is a fact to enhance sustainability, very few members of the community are yet to be encouraged to embrace aspects of programme ownership.

The statement on whether the community has taken charge of the security of the food and school items was posed to the respondents. The majority 17 (34.7%) Very largely agreed that the community has taken charge of security of food and other school items. 13 (26.5%) agreed to the statement to a large extent. There were 9 (18.4%) who indicated Very large extent while others 10 (20.4%) indicated large extent. Since the majority agreed to a Very large extent, it suggested that food and other ECDE school items are crucial at the centers. In relation to this, the community felt that lack of involvement in ensuring security at the centers would lead to their children missing food at the learning centers which discourages attendance. The findings are congruent with World Bank Report (2010) that food availability in schools promotes attendance and retention of learners in school. Lack of security would also discourage well-wishers from bringing both food and non-food items to the centers.

The comments from the key informants were in conformity with the findings that,

*“As stakeholders in the ECDE feeding programme, we should encourage our ECDEs through the school feeding committees to ensure that there is a security guard to make*

*sure that the provided school items are safe".(KII -Mary's Meals Kenya offices Feb. 2023).*

To further determine how community participation influence sustainability of the ECDE feeding programme in Turkana North Sub County, the value of the mean score was determined as 1.4. This mean score falls between Not at all and small extent amongst the seven strategies of community participation in ECDE feeding programme. This can be attributed to dependency on the County Government and NGOs on food provision and other physical infrastructure. Majority of the respondents alleged that there was occasional community meetings as opposed to regular meetings to discuss the matters affecting the feeding programme. The few schools where the committee met regularly were privately managed because the sponsors were more interested with the success of the feeding programme.

From the findings, a mean of 1.4 revealed further that fewer people at the community level are only informed of what to do by the programme designers who are the County government and the NGOs. This situation pointed out that the community members are less engaged during programme design stage, which would hinder sustainability. The mean results further show that the community has not understood their roles fully in sustaining the ECDE feeding programme. This was because community contribution was limited to the construction of temporary structures at the centers and the provision of firewood. A few respondents indicated that the community is mobilized to bring firewood, and water and also contribute some cash to take care of the welfare of the cooks and security guards although the contribution is still moderate. Therefore, there is need for more sensitization on community contribution in order to sustain the ECDE feeding programme.

This study established that in as much as programme ownership is a fact to enhance sustainability, few members of the community are yet to be encouraged to embrace aspects of programme ownership. The findings also suggest that food and other ECDE school items are crucial at the centers and the community feels like lack of involvement in ensuring security at the centers may lead to their children missing food at the learning centers which discourages attendance. This was ascertained by majority who confirmed that although they are unable to pay the security guards, they always endeavour communal responsibility to make sure that the food is safe in the ECDE centers. This is in line with the fact that food attracts more children to school.

## **5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The objective of the study was to determine how community participation influences the sustainability of the ECDE feeding programme in Turkana North Sub County, Kenya. The findings showed that the approach had not sustained the ECDE feeding programme because majority opined that the extent of community participation and sustainability of the ECDE feeding programme was at a very small extent. This meant that the committee members frequency of attending meetings to discuss ECDE feeding programme matters was minimal. It was also found that the committees have little say when it came to active participation in the planning stage of the ECDE feeding programme. The committee is only informed of what to do by both the County Government and NGOs. There is need to encourage the community through the SFC chairpersons to participate in the planning stages of the ECDE feeding programme.

The community has not understood their role and have not taken ownership of ECDE feeding programme. This implies that there is prevailing dependency on County Government and NGOs. It was also found out that, although the community have been voluntarily taking charge of security of food and other school items in the school, the security may be compromised in case a security guard abandons the volunteering work. There was need for stakeholders to deliberate on how to maintain the security personnel in the various ECDE feeding centers to enhance sustainability.

### 5.1 Conclusion of the Study

In determining the extent to which community participation influences the sustainability of the ECDE feeding programme, the study concluded that there was very small extent of community participation since majority of the members of the community were not involved in the programme planning stage. Although there were efforts in some schools where the committee is engaged in the planning stage of the ECDE feeding programme, it emerged that there was little consideration of the views from the community. More so, the study established that the community has not understood their roles and therefore local contribution is minimal. Consequently, the community is yet to own the ECDE feeding programme. Additionally, the study also concluded that many of the community members have mastered the art of security at the various ECDE centers because they understand that security of food and non-food items at school is critical to ECDE feeding programme.

### 5.2 Recommendations for Policy Intervention

The findings revealed that there was small extent of community participation, which implied that the community participation approach had not sustained the ECDE feeding programme. Therefore, the County Government and NGOs should collaborate in ensuring that community engagement forums are given priority. Furthermore, basing on the geographical scope, the focus of the study was in Turkana North Sub County. Therefore, to enrich the dimension of this study, the researcher recommends conducting a related study in more Sub Counties of Turkana County or even in other Counties of Kenya.

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