

**AN INVESTIGATION ON PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN
VILLAGE ASSEMBLY: A CASE OF BIHARAMULO DISTRICT
COUNCIL, TANZANIA**

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COUNCIL, TANZANIA**

By

Edosi Ndikwiki

**A Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Public Administration (MPA) of Mzumbe University.**

2017

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, certify that we have read and hereby recommend for acceptance by the Mzumbe University, a dissertation entitled **An Investigation on People's Participation in Village Assembly: A case of Biharamulo District Council, Tanzania**, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Public Administration of Mzumbe University.

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I, **Edosi Ndikwiki**, declare that this dissertation is my own original work and that it has not been presented and will not be presented to any other university for a similar or any other degree award.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to my father Ndikwiki Evarist and my mother Lucia Mathias and my brother Abdulrahman Marande. You have been my source of inspiration and for sure, I am very proud to have you in my life.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BDC	-	Biharamulo District Council
CURT	-	Constitution of United Republic of Tanzania
D by D	-	Decentralisation by Devolution
LGAs	-	Local Government Authorities
LGRP	-	Local Government Reform Programme
MPA	-	Master of Public Administration
O & OD	-	Opportunities and Obstacles to Development
PMO-RALG	-	Prime Minister's Office Regional Administration and Local Government
REPOA	-	Research on Poverty Alleviation
SOPAM	-	School of Public Administration and Management
SSA	-	Sub- Saharan Africa
URT	-	United Republic of Tanzania
VA	-	Village Assembly
VCP	-	Village Chairperson
VC	-	Village Council
VEOs	-	Village Executive Officers
WEO	-	Ward Executive Officer

ABSTRACT

This study investigated people's participation in village assembly. Despite the presence of official directive which requires at least 20% of people to attend the statutory village assembly meeting, the studies reviewed by researcher indicated that most of people are not attending the statutory village assembly meetings. It is this reason which triggered the researcher's interest to undertake this study. Three research questions guided data collection, that is: What is the actual trend of statutory village assembly meetings attendances? What are the reasons for poor attendance at the statutory village assembly meetings? Are the village leaders taking measures to make people attend the statutory village assembly meetings?

Case study design was used to address the above three questions whereby the research approach employed was mainly qualitative in nature. The study used the sample of 18 people selected from two villages. The documentary review and interview guide were used as data collection instruments. The data collected from the field were analysed by using content analysis approach (narrative approach). The findings obtained from the study indicated that the state of poor attendance at the statutory village assembly meetings is mainly caused by village leaders themselves especially in failing to implement some core issues which are part and parcel of their duties. The study further testified that there is lack of awareness among the villagers on the importance of attending the statutory village assembly meetings. As it was realised from this study that together with the presence of complaints against irresponsibility of village leaders, even those few villagers who normally attend the statutory village assembly meetings have failed to take serious measures like giving the elected leaders particularly the Village Chairperson (VCP) the vote of no confidence or in other way to conduct the peaceful demonstration which indicates their concern on the irresponsibility of their leaders. At this point, the researcher suggests that the provision of civic education to villagers is very important for the effective participation of people in the statutory village assembly meetings. In similar vein, recommendations to specific authorities and policy maker were asserted in regard to these findings, and suggestions for further research were also asserted.

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CHAPTER ONE

PROBLEM SETTING

1.0 Introduction

This section covers the background of the problem, statement of the problem, research objectives and research questions. It also consists of significance of the study, scope of the study, limitations of the study, operationalisation of the concepts, and organisation of the dissertation.

1.1 Background of the Problem

People's participation in local governance is regarded as necessity feature for political, social and economic development. Mollel (2010) asserts participation as mechanism for promoting accountability of local government authorities and making sure that local government authorities comply with the demands of local population. Participation intends also to pursue, underscores not only involving people numerically, but hands them a voice or voices to influence their interest in decision making processes (Celis *et al.*, 2008). In this regard, substantive perspective of participation involves participants' ability to influence decisions that are favourable to them (Agarwal, 2010). The Constitution of United Republic of Tanzania (CURT) recognises participation as fundamental pillar for development (URT, 1997). Article 146 of Constitution of United Republic of Tanzania as amended several times says that:

“Local Government Authorities shall have the right and power to participate, and to involve the people in the planning and implementation of development programmes within their respective areas generally throughout the country”.

The above quoted article from the constitution intends to bring back the morale of self –reliance, the local mobilisation of resources, accountability, and transparency, in the situation where people participate effectively in planning, in decision making, implementation and sense of ownership of their development programmes through combinatorial action morale (Lameck, 2009 in Itika *et al.*, 2011). In spite of the stipulated article of CURT in facilitating participation, there is poor participation of people in local governments (REPOA, 2008). This poor participation of people in

local governments has become the major challenge not only in developing countries but also in developed countries (www.politicipublice).

In developed countries, residents' involvement in decision making at the local level is also limited. According to Wild and Marshall (1999) explain that Participation of people in decision making at the local level particularly in Leicester (United Kingdom) was very poor. One among the factors that affected participation of people in Leicester is that initiated body used to control much the residents' decisions. Furthermore, the researcher showed that although the citizens' views' were disregarded, the residents' attitude and level of awareness in the process of participation in local government was very low. In Malaysia, participation of people in local government is quite disappointing (Nurudin *et al.*, 2015). People were not participating in most of government's programmes initiated in Seremban Municipal Council found in Malaysia. The attendance percentage of people who participated in the programmes in Seremban Municipal Council was 35%. Moreover, the researchers stressed that lack of awareness among the citizens on the initiated programs was the reason for poor participation in the programs (*ibid*). In Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), the poor participation of people in local governments is also prevailing phenomenon. For example in South Africa, Roefs and Liebenberg (1999) state that citizens' participation at the national, provincial and local level is very poor. The poor participation of people in South Africa was realized through process of policy making among the residents in Northern Cape, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. The citizens were seemed to be least interested in participation (*ibid*). The poor participation among the South Africans in policy making process was caused by lack of trust on government (*ibid*). In East African Countries, participation of people at the local level is rare (Gaventa, 2002). According to Gaventa (2002) attendance at the village assembly meetings in Uganda was not high due to the perception among the villagers that the decisions reached at the meetings were for elected representative. Lack of substantive power for local government and citizens groups still the main challenge faces people's participation in Uganda (*ibid*).

In Tanzania, poor participation of people at the local is one among the challenges that faces local government authorities particularly villages' governments in making

decisions (King, 2014). The study by King (2014) found poor attendance of people is huge challenge that encounters village assembly meetings in most villages. In similar vein, earlier data obtained from Biharamulo District Council generally indicated that the attendance of people in the statutory village assembly meetings was less than 20% (BDC, 2014 through 2016).

Tanzania is one of the countries in the world which enhances participation of people in its local governments. Historically, participation of people in village assembly can be traced back from 1982 where village assembly as organ in the village governance incorporated in the local government structure (Kisumbe *et al.*, 2014). Generally the establishment of Local Government Authorities (LGAs) was provided by legal framework such as local government legislation enacted in 1982 and the 1984 constitutional amendment (Mnyasenga and Mushi, 2015). The constitution amendment of 1984 added articles 145 and 146. These two articles provided for establishment and the objectives of LGAs in Tanzania (*ibid*).

With regard to participation of people at the local level, by 1990s, Tanzania embarked on reforms which planned to come up with political and economic liberalisation (Tidemand and Msami, 2010). One of the reforms was the amendments of constitution which introduced multi-party democracy in 1994 (*ibid*). Another reform was on local government which its process started in 1996. The current local government system is broad series of reforms under Local Government Reform Programme which began in 1996 (Gaventa, 2002). The principles of local government reform as outlined in the policy paper on local government reform in 1998 together with other things, included the participation of people at the local level (Mollel, 2010). Participation of people meant to give the user of services the autonomy of having great say in how basic services are managed or delivered (Tidemand and Msami, 2010).

The Presence of various attempts such as constitution amendments, local government laws and local government reforms aim of ensuring that people at the local level participate actively in various matters concerning their life. Despite of this, studies indicate that the poor participation of people at the local level is the challenge which

faces LGAs particularly village assembly in taking decisions as it is required (King 2014). Therefore this study aimed to explore the reasons for poor attendance in Tanzania at the village assembly.

1.2 Statement of the problem

The government of Tanzania has made several efforts to ensure participation of the people in the process of decision making at the village level in Mainland Tanzania. This includes the amendment of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania in 1984 to provide for establishment of local government authorities in every village of Mainland Tanzania in order to transfer power to the people and ensure participation and involvement of the people in planning and implementation of development programmes in their respective areas (URT, 1977).

The government further evoked the local government reform programme in 1998 in order to, among other things, facilitate the participation of the people in decision making on all matters affecting their lives, planning and implementation of their development programmes (URT, 1998). Furthermore, the Local Government (District Authorities) Act, 1982 establishes the Village Council in every village and vests in the Village Assembly the supreme authority on all matters of policy making in relations to all affairs of the village (URT, 1982). The Act requires the Village Assembly to hold a meeting at least once in every three month or hold an extra-ordinary meeting as may be convened by the Village Council to decide upon any matter of extra ordinary public importance (*ibid*).

Despite all such efforts undertaken by the government to improve and ensure people's participation in decision making process at the grassroots level, literature shows that, there is low attendance of the people in the Village Assembly meetings (King, 2014). Whereas, the minimum number of attendance is supposed to be not less than twenty percent (20%) of all the Village Assembly members (Translated from Mwakagenda and Moshi, 2015), attendance of the people to the Village Assembly meetings in Biharamulo District Council is less than twenty percent (20%) (BDC, 2014 through 2016). However, there is no study (in the knowledge of the researcher) that has been conducted in Biharamulo District council to investigate

the reasons for poor attendance in the Village Assembly meetings. It is for such reasons that this study was conducted.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This part covers general objective and specific objectives.

1.3.1 General Objective

The general objective of this study was to explore the reasons for poor attendance at village assembly meetings.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of this study were:

- (i) To find out the actual trend of statutory village assembly meetings attendances.
- (ii) To examine the reasons for poor attendance at the statutory village assembly meetings.
- (iii) To assess the measures used by village leaders to make people attend the statutory village assembly meetings.

1.4 Research Questions

The following are research questions which guided this study:

- (i) What is the actual trend of statutory village assembly meetings attendances?
- (ii) What are the reasons for poor attendance at the statutory village assembly meetings?
- (iii) Are the village leaders taking measures to make people attend the statutory village assembly meetings?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study has significance to policy and decision makers and government in general to come up with clear local government policy which can really reflect the people's demands on the issues pertaining to the attendance of villagers in the statutory village assembly meetings in the rural areas. This is very important in the context of LGRP which underscored the strengthening of governance at the first tier of local government authorities (city council, municipal council, town and district councils)

and exclude the villages' institutions in the whole process of reform programme (Wakasangula *et al.*, 2015).

The central government, district councils, wards administrators and village leaders can be in the right position of using the findings from this study to understand their concern in the whole process of enhancing and facilitating the participation of villagers particularly in attending the statutory village assembly meetings.

Furthermore, this study can be used as a scholarly work for reference where other people may gain knowledge on challenges facing villages' governments particularly in people's participation in the statutory village assembly meetings and how those challenges can be overcome.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The study focused on the participation of people in village assembly at Biharamulo District Council in two selected villages. The study was narrowed to investigate the participation of people particularly in attending the statutory village assembly meetings. The boundaries of the study were within the villagers and leaders roles in facilitating the participation of people at the village level. In this regard, the study included villagers, villages' leaders, ward executive officer and Councillor as the respondents. The outcomes of attending of people to statutory village assembly meetings like their participation in decision making was not regarded in this study.

1.7 Limitations of the Study

According to Kombo and Tromp (2006) explain that limitations of the study is concerning with challenges that encounter the researcher when conducting the study. During data collection at the field, the researcher met two challenges: One of the challenges experienced was the issue of requesting money from the researcher. Another challenge was that, some of respondents were seen to be scared in providing information to researcher. These two challenges were solved by researcher during data collection at the field work. In case of money, the researcher was very open to respondents by educating them the aim of the research in the study area and at the national level. The state of becoming frightened among the respondents was solved by being assured that the information collected was for academic intention and not

for other purpose. In the same ground, the respondents were also assured about the condition of anonymity.

1.8 Operationalisation of the Concepts

This study intends to make an investigation on people's participation in village assembly. The word 'participation' in this context entails attending of people to statutory village assembly meetings. The attending of people to the meetings introduce another item known as 'attendance'. The attendance of people in the meetings can be viewed in the minutes. Therefore, statutory village assembly meetings can be conducted only if people attend the meetings. In this regard, when people attend the meeting in regard to required quorum refers to proper participation. The attending of people to statutory village assembly meetings can also be escalated by village leaders' commitment and responsiveness to their duties. The assumption of this study is that the statutory village assembly meeting is an important platform for proper participation of people at the village level. The indicators of participation in the village assembly are to convene and conduct statutory village assembly meetings quarterly with regard to required quorum and presence of meetings' minutes. Therefore, here below are key terms defined by the researcher in order to make it clear so that the reader can understand and avoid any unnecessary confusion.

Table 1.1: Operational Definitions of the Concepts Used in this Study

Concepts	Operationalisation
Participation	Attending of people to statutory village assembly meetings
Proper participation	Attending of people to statutory village assembly meetings especially not less than twenty percent of people who are required to attend the meeting.
Leaders' commitment and responsiveness	Willingness of village leaders in taking decision to deal with the people who do not attend meetings.
Reviewing Minutes	Collecting information from the minutes of statutory village assembly meetings and from any list of names (attendance) that were written for any statutory village assembly meetings postponed.

Source: Researcher's construct, 2017

1.9 Organisation of the Dissertation

This dissertation is organised into six chapters. Chapter one is on the background of the problem. It also covers the statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, and significance of the study, scope of the study, limitations of the study, and operationalisation of the concepts. Chapter two covers the literature review including the theoretical literature review, forms of participation, the importance of participation and its implications to local government, concept of village assembly, concept of attendance and the factors influencing people's participation at the local level. The chapter also explains the role of government in facilitating the participation of people and definition of key terms. It again stresses on empirical literature review, synthesis and research gap, and the conceptual framework. Chapter three of this report consists of research methodology. The chapter includes area of the study, research design, research approach, and the population of the study. It also covers the sample, sampling techniques, data collection methods, validity and reliability of research instruments, ethical issues and considerations and data analysis and interpretation. Chapter four covers the presentation of the findings where as chapter five entails the discussion of the findings. Chapter six covers summary, conclusions, and policy implications. It also consists of recommendations, limitations of the qualitative study, and suggestions for future study.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This section covers theoretical literature review, forms of participation, importance of participation and its implications at the local level, it also consists of concept of village assembly, concept of attendance and the factors influencing people's participation at the local level. The chapter explains again the role of government leaders in facilitating the participation of people, and definition of key terms. It finally stresses on empirical literature review, synthesis and research gap, and the conceptual framework.

2.1 Theoretical Literature Review

2.1.1 Concept of Participation

The concept participation is one among the important phenomena articulated in different scholarly works that demand good governance in the development process of any societies. In general, the term participation in various disciplines has been used to explore many types of activities and process done, directive or non directive by the leaders responsible, or initiated by community to bring social development and improvement for the welfare of community members (Samal and Aref, 2011). Despite the term being greatly used, it has been defined in different perspectives. Researchers and scholars have defined the concept according to the context in which it is used. However, the concept has been asserted as the process by which people are empowered in airing the incidents that concern their life, then coming up with possible alternatives and finally implementing policy (Smithies and Webster, 1998 in Itika *et al.*, 2011). According to Oakley and Marsden (1984) in Samah and Aref (2011) explain participation as a process where the citizens have some control towards general development process. Consequently participation is defined as involvement of people in all matters affecting themselves. Giving people opportunities to initiate their own development and taking part in deciding all matters regarding the projects formulated by them is the process of participation. Therefore, the aforesaid process can succeed through various ways including the enacting legal

framework which is sufficient for people to actively participate on their affairs, respecting and implementing people's opinions as well as self awareness among the people themselves.

In relation to the dimension that look people as an phenomena of change, this awareness of people's dwells and their duties facilitates us to explain the micro process of people's participation in developing themselves and affecting change in their community life including the process of how to inculcate members of community to be concern to their problems, demands and interest (Samah and Aref, 2011). With this ground, is where the perception of people as the agent of change is observed. This forces one to see the definition of people's participation.

Maeda (1976) asserts that peoples' participation as a tool for creating democratisation and for providing the chances of the people to identify some inroads into the whole process of deciding. The explained definition acknowledges the demand in providing great room for all people to actively involve in government activities for societal prosperity.

2.1.2 Theoretical Models of Participation

Participation of people in various social, economic and political activities has been discussed in different ways to the extent of reaching the point of motivating the interest of many researchers and experts. Such interest has provided the great room to understand the term 'participation' broadly. Therefore, here below are participation theories which underpinned this study.

2.1.2.1 Means or an End Theory

One among the attempts to understand participation was relying on means or an end theory. According to this approach, participation as a means is perceived as a voluntary involvement by the people to one or another of the public programmes required contributing to national development but people are not anticipated to involve in rectifying or criticising its content (Oakley and Marsden, 1984 in Samah and Aref, 2011). In similar vein, this form of participation is to obtain things done on the bases of a fixed quantifiable development goal which can be state directive or

externally directive activities from top- bottom approach to community development (Moser, 1989 in Samah and Aref, 2011).

On the other view, participation as an end in itself focuses on participation as the process in which the society is directly engaged in shaping, making decision and being in the part in the whole process of development from the perspective of bottom-top (Samah and Aref, 2011). In this ground, participation becomes a process of succeeding greater personal fulfillment, individual development, self – recognition and several immediate satisfactions (Richardson, 1983 in Samah and Aref, 2011). The major limitation of this model especially on participation as an end is that, it lacks universally agreed procedures that could be used to guide people when are directly involved in taking part in all issues concerning their life. This could enable the government to build the sense of myth to all decisions made by people.

2.1.2.2 Civic Voluntarism Model

Apart from means and an end theory as explained above, there are other scholars who have discussed participation under civic voluntarism model. This investigation of participation from civic voluntarism approach was carried out by Verbal and his friends in 1972 in their critical research in the United States (Rubenson, 2000). Their prime ideals on civic voluntarism model of Participation were based on unwillingness of people to become political activists. In their investigation they asserted that citizens to be active in politics, they demand a particular level of motivation that is; they must need to participate (*ibid*). People again demand the capacity to be active- they must have ability to participate (*ibid*). People who are motivated and capable of participation are always being active if they are part of recruitment networks where demands for participation are required. In other explanation, people may not involve in political activists because of absence of resources, because they lack psychological involvement with politics or because they are aside of recruitment networks that make people to get into politics (Verbal *et al.*, 1995 in Rubenson, 2000). As it has been articulated above, the civic voluntarism model includes resources, engagement, and recruitment networks. Therefore this model underscores much on resources because they are taken to be prior to other two

factors in the process that trigger to political participation. At this juncture, resources under civic voluntarism model mean money, time and civic skills.

Psychological engagement under this model is greatly explained that the social position of the person that is education, job, and income reveal the magnitude on how she or he participates (Verba and Nie, 1972 in Rubenson, 2000). Lastly, the recruitment networks in the same model is explored as asking for participation that come to citizens at work, in church or in work organisation-particularly those come from close friends and relatives (*ibid*).

In their continuation of discussing civic voluntarism model, Verba and his colleagues exhausted the different modes of participation based on classifying people into six various groups relying on the type of activities they engineer (Verba and Nie, 1972). In this respect, the first group was regarded as inactive; these are people who do little or nothing at all. The second group is called the voting specialists, who vote frequently but don't do anything else. Third group is termed as the parochial participants, who always meet officials in relation to particular difficulties but apart from that are inactive. The fourth group is the communalists, these are intermittently involve in political matters on the whole social incidents but are not highly engaged. Fifth, campaigners who are greatly engaged in campaigns of different manner; and lastly group classified under this model are known as the complete activists, these participate in all types of activities.

The problem with this civic voluntarism mode, one can say it has greatly focused on citizens attributes and ignores the role of formal political organisations and state structure which are very paramount when attempting the reasons for people's participation in politics.

2.1.2.3 Social Capital Theory

On the other hand, participation has also been explained through Social capital theory. Putnam in his social capital theory addresses that participation in non political arena is very necessary considered factor in exploring the both quality of political institution and political participation as well (Rubenson, 2000). The pioneer of aforesaid theory continues to stress that the issues like networks of associations,

trust and norms of reciprocity are ones that enable people to reach the goals that could not be reached in the isolation of those issues (Rubenson, 2000). In the same vein, Putnam asserts that trust, social connections, cooperation and common goals are all indicators of modern militia movements (*ibid*). Similarly, the enlargement in what they call ‘gated communities’ in America acknowledges that people are coming together in community groups to accomplish their common ends- however in this view, people are joining together to isolate others (*ibid*).

Critics to social capital theory based on generalised trust as main feature articulated under the theory may exactly escalate to poor participation and in some circumstances the absence of trust may also be the factor to make people participate. For instance, Rubenson (2000) in his critics on social theory posed an example by considering the parent choice to participate or to become absent from the meetings convened by PTA as a school district of his or her child. Rubenson asserts that if the parent believes in ability of teachers and other parents making good decision in whatever agenda tabbed, there will be no reasons for the parent to attend the meeting. In the other word, if someone has trust on other people that they will make good decision or at least the same decisions to that someone could make, it is nice for someone to let other people attend meeting and decide. In other perspective, if the parents anticipate other PTA people can not make right decisions in the benefit of their child, they will make sure that they attend meeting so as to make sure that their demands are taken into consideration. Therefore and with that regard, it is not sufficient to argue that social capital in form of trust can absolutely lead to participation. That is to say as it has been also explored in civic voluntarism model, the impact of state structure and political institutions was supposed to be explained also.

2.1.2.4 The Model of Exit, Voice and Loyalty

This is another interesting model which has again discussed the concept of participation in the political community. The model of exit, voice and loyalty was pioneered by scholar called Hirshman (1970) (Ndunguru and Lameck in Itika *et al.*, 2011). The model stresses the complaints aired by unsatisfied customer to services provided by non public sector. The prime ideal under this model underscores that the

dissatisfied customers can decide either to exchange the distributor for another distributor (exit) or can air their voices and reveal their unhappy (voice) (*ibid*). The model asserts that the selection of alternatives of either to exit or voice depends much on rational perspective. The selection of aforesaid two alternatives occasionally involved the sense of cost. Therefore, in relying to articulated context, the model explores that the customer tends to complain or tends to find for another supplier.

In their continuation of discussing the participation under exit, voice and loyalty model, Ndunguru and Lameck in Itika *et al.* (2011) explain that on another way, the advantages in the area of services to become better are uncertain. If someone finds for another distributor (supplier) the risk may also continue to the new supplier for not satisfying the customer. Under this perspective, the airing of complaint may still possess the aforesaid uncertainty. That the customer may be seen that he or she still not sure that his or her complain will achieve the nice services. Therefore, with regard to high costs and uncertain advantages, unsatisfied customers commonly choose for a third alternative; that is to become loyal (*ibid*). At this juncture, the loyal, but unsatisfied customers are threat for the supplier. Basically, these customers will have to go to another distributor especially when the opportunities of doing so allow them.

The model of exit, voice and loyalty which explains the relationship between customer and supplier in private sector context may also be explained in public sector. In public sector, the customer represents citizen and the supplier represents public decision maker. The nature of relationship in public arena between the citizens and the public policy maker normally possesses mutual interest like what is happening to supplier and customer. In public arena always citizens dispossess the ability to find for other alternatives (exit). This means that the citizens cannot find another government like what is happening in private sector where degree of exit is very higher. In government, the exit may be applied by dissatisfied public bureaucrats. Therefore with regard to this assertion and as articulated in market economy may be of unsatisfied public bureaucrats move to another municipality, district or another village. In similar way but not as the way public bureaucrats does,

the common citizen can also “exit” (Ndunguru and Lameck in Itika *et al.*, 2011). They again explain that the exit of common citizen is neglecting laws, rules and regulations and not like the power of customer in private sector. At this point, the negligence on policies in public sector is a kind of exit. In similar vein they underscore that the disobeying of laws done by citizens normally forces the leaders (policy maker) to can up with other strong laws which eventually make again the policy unsuccessfully.

Contrary to the exit, the voice alternative as discussed from market point of view complies with the way citizens may air the complaints (voice) to the public policy maker. Under this view, the citizens may air their voices via either legal or political procedures or still citizens may indicate their complaints by lodge an appeal. Moreover dissatisfied citizens may present a petition to their political leaders. This also indicates the way citizens are being dissatisfied with the practice of public bureaucrats or political leaders. In their further discussion on exit, voice and loyalty model Ndunguru and Lameck clarify that if it happens the exit and voice are not adhered citizen normally stick to loyalty as chosen alternative. Moreover, they assert that the same outcomes as it happens between supplier and customer, loyal and unsatisfied political community can immediately mould their behaviour and air their voices by extremely disrespecting rules and hinder the execution of the policy.

The exit, voice and loyalty model as based much on dissatisfied citizens has indeed immersed in looking the evils done by policy makers which eventually pave the way for customer and citizen to be aggrieved if it is in market or in public arena respectively. The model has not gone further and reveals the inadequacies that may happen to citizens themselves and finally fail to participate in spite of the presence of dissatisfying things. Moreover, the exit, voice and loyalty model lack some facts in some circumstances in sense that apart from citizens becoming loyal and instead of disobeying the in place laws, the citizens may still obey the laws while at the same time use those laws to make political or bureaucratic leaders to be accountable especially if citizens’ awareness is very high to the matters that affect their life. This argued assertion complies with Oxfam (2012) in its study on effective community participation in local governance. In its study Oxfam asserts that if citizens know

their rights and responsibilities, they will demand the leaders to be accountable. It also explains that if citizens need their rights and entitlements for sure the government will be increasingly forced to respond.

2.2 Forms of Participation in Tanzania at the Local Level

The local government structure in Tanzania gives people at the local level the room to participate in different arena. This participation provides two forms.

2.2.1 Indirect Form of Participation

Under this form people at the local level are involving in electing their local representatives. From this form point of view, the election is the most basic room that gives local people the opportunities to elect their representatives (Gaventa, 2002). The representatives are elected at three levels that is the level of sub village, Village level and Ward level. People do elect sub village chairperson at the level of sub village and electing Village council members at the level of village including the village chairperson. All members constitute the governance body called the village council which is accountable to village assembly body.

As it has been stated early, the people also at the local level elect councilors at the level of ward who intended to constitute the district council, town council, municipal council or city council. In spite of the opportunity provided to people to participate in electing their representatives, there is also the circumstance that guarantees representation at the local level for instance, representation emphasises that one quarter of all councilors must be women (Gaventa, 2002). Similarly, at the village level the representation underscores that one third of all members of village council should be women.

2.2.2 Direct Form of Participation

Apart from indirect form of participation, the Tanzanian local government structure provides also the opportunities for the local people to participate directly through local assemblies (Gaventa, 2002). At this point, people through village assembly have mandate to take decision of all matters that affect their life and power to recall over the village council members (*ibid*). However practically it is observed to be difficult due to unclear procedures stipulated in local government Act of 1982 which

also conflict with another section of the same Act (Shivji and Peter, 1999 in Gaventa, 2002).

2.3 Importance of Participation at the Local Level

The participation which is one among the aspects of good governance has the following importance:

- (i) It helps to provide the exact information to the policy maker about the problem found in the specific area and propose the alternatives that could be used to overcome (Itika *et al.*, 2011).
- (ii) It provides the wide room of getting various views from local members hence lead to well informed decisions (Richard and Frederic, 1996 in Itika *et al.*, 2011).
- (iii) It provides opportunities to local people in controlling the policy which eventually local people will have to maintain services and making sure that services are provided (Itika *et al.*, 2011)
- (iv) Participation of people enhances and expands the legitimacy of people in decision making (Chavis and Wandersman, 1990; Crook and Manor, 1998 in Itika *et al.*, 2011)
- (v) People' participation is directly connected with policy improvement, implementation of policy and broadly in improving government service delivery at the local level (Itika *et al.* 2011).

2.4 The Implications of People's Participation at the Local Level

Maria (2010) assets the following implications of people's participation at the grass root:

- (a) Participation of people at the local level will help create a sense of partnership between political leaders, bureaucrats and citizens in achieving the required goals at the local level.
- (b) It will also enhance socialization among the community members and making all people responsible regarding to their problems.
- (c) People's participation will again create good atmospheric cooperation and mutual assistance essential for equally, continued and long time development at the grass root.

2.5 Concept of Village Assembly in Tanzania

Village Assembly is statutory organ of village government. Village government in Tanzania is established under section 22 of the local government (District Authorities) Act of 1982 (Wakasangula *et al.*, 2015). It is found in the structure of district council in the framework of local government in Tanzania. Section 24 and section 25 of the local government (District Authorities) Act of 1982 create the village assembly and village council respectively (*ibid*). The law recognises the village assembly as the prime authority in dealing with all incidents in the village. It involves all ordinary people of a particular village with the age of 18 years and above. It is a statutory organ at the village level which consists of power to elect all members of village council and also possess legitimate power to convene ordinary meeting at least once in every three months and other meetings whenever it is needed (*ibid*).

According to Shivji and Peter 1999 in Gaventa (2002), the village assembly as it has been asserted above its functions is stipulated by section 141 of the 1982 local government Act as:

- (a) The prime authority concerning all general policy in connection to all issues of the village
- (b) It shall be involving in selecting of village council.
- (c) It shall possess power to remove from the council any or all members of council.

2.6 Attendance

The attendance system is an ideal instrument to watch tardiness, absenteeism and other different problems. In this perspective, attendance assists in revealing and addressing bad behaviour before it becomes chronic (www.attendance). The attendance system can help the supervisor to understand the whole issue of attendances in the organisation and generate warning or disciplinary letters to followers. In the same ground, the attendance in work organisation provides very useful decision analysis based on historical, current and judged performance (*ibid*). It also helps to be aware of the whole issues which face the organisation and managers. For instance, through attendance, the supervisors can prepare report which shows which employees are approaching at the work place at the late time so that they can be given additional time for working compared to those who approach at the right time (*ibid*).

Based on the above explanations, attendances in the statutory village assembly meetings can also be realised through minutes of aforesaid meetings. According rules and regulations in managing village and hamlets (2000) recognises the importance of minutes of meetings in the aforesaid areas. The rules and regulations clarify that when minutes get prepared and be approved by the members of the meetings should be forwarded to the ward and district council not only for verification but also for evidence that meetings are conducted. Therefore, as indicated above in explaining the roles of attendance, the attendances through minutes of the statutory village

assembly meetings help to reveal some problems relating the participation of people in the statutory village assembly meetings.

2.7 Factors Influencing People's Participation at the Local Level

It is argued that the proper participation of people at the local level can only be realised if good procedures used in preparation of meetings, awareness among the villagers, transparency and accountability and non-engagement of personal activities during meeting session are exercised. This is acknowledged by various authors as indicated here below:

2.7.1 Procedures for Convening the Meeting

The decision undertaken in local government meeting can be legally questioned. For this accord, the decisions have to be done in accordance with the right meeting procedure. Time should be sufficient to consult stakeholders of the meeting. According Coon (2012) explains that in order to facilitate the attendances of people at the meetings, the body concerns has to ensure that the information about convening of the meeting is well spread and prevent any state of misinformation. The public meeting needs that the notice of the time and an area of meeting are to be given before the conduct of the meeting. The notice has to include reference to the date, time and place of meeting (*ibid*). In Tanzania the information for notifying people to attend the statutory village assembly meetings should be within seven days (Mwakagenda and Moshi, 2015).

2.7.2 Awareness (Education)

Pateman (1970), Sabatier (1988), and Blackburn and Bruce (1995) in Irvin and Stansbury (2004) advocate the importance of education for effectively participation of people. In explaining the necessity of education in escalating participation of citizens, they argue that technical and social awareness among the people are very important in participation because the participants will be able to take the nice policy decision which eventually will result in good social and environment issues in the society. Njunwa (2010) asserts that education and awareness are very important in influencing people to participate in development activities. This argument

emphasises that education and awareness cultivate the community's willing to participate effectively in various matters that affect society.

2.7.3 Transparency and Accountability

The government may have good governance if it is accountable and transparency to its people. According to Muro and Namusonge (2015) assert that accountability and transparency which are principle of good governance improve people participation and enhance knowledge and ability to improve the capacity to bargain as equals with various authorities to promote the required objectives and stretching responsiveness to quarrels within the political community. Cummins (2007) in Muro and Namusonge (2015) underscores that accountability and transparency escalate people participation in public sector agencies, people participation in administration and public hearing. For this accord, it is argued that for local government authority adheres to accountability and transparency used to be effective and efficient in its participatory process therefore failure to this may lead to bad governance (*ibid*).

2.7.4 Personal Activities

Some studies show that daily activities among the people affect community participation especially when people are not indeed encouraged to take part in participation. Irvin and Stansbury (2004) explain that in order to improve participation, lower income residents who are key stakeholders in participation have to be encouraged much to participate because they normally spend much time to their work and family priorities and ignore participation. Therefore, if people are not engaged in their daily activities during time which they are required to participate, the effective participation will be realised.

2.8 The Roles of Government Leaders in Facilitating the Participation of

People: Framework for assessment

Coon (2012) explains that in order to facilitate public attendance at the meetings, the body concern has to ensure that the meeting is scheduled. In similar vein, Coon (2012) stresses a public hearing as an official proceeding of government body or public officer during which the people are given rights to be heard. At this juncture, the central government demands the adoption of local laws to be happening before a

public hearing (*ibid*). Officers at the local level have to adhere to meetings procedure which provides the people chance to see and participate in its own governance. This helps the local government to be accountable and responding to its people (*ibid*).

Basing on the above explanation, this study uses the following indicators to assess the measures used by village leaders to make people attend the statutory village assembly meetings:

2.8.1 The Government Responsiveness

It should be understood that government responsiveness to public need is one among the basic requirements of democratic system. According to Manza and Cook (2002) explain the responsiveness as the ability of political system to agree to the preference of its people. Dahl (1971) asserts that a key feature of democracy is in progress responsiveness of the government to the great interest of its people. In his scholarly work Dahl (1967) explains that since the government is in place to solve and reconcile the will of different people in the society, the responsiveness of political system to public needs is very important.

In village governance and with regard to this study, government responsiveness as explained above is linked with the village leaders commitment and responsiveness to consensus reached at the meetings which require the village leaders to react by taking actions for those villagers who do not attend the statutory village assembly meetings. In this respect, leaders' responsiveness is very important in assessing the measures used by village leaders to make people attend the statutory village assembly meetings.

2.8.1.1 Village Leaders' Responsiveness

The review literature discussed above provides avenue for assessing leaders responsiveness to consensus reached at the meetings which require the village leaders to react by taking actions for those villagers who do not attend the statutory village assembly meeting. In order for people to attend the statutory village assembly meetings, village leaders has to make sure that they respond to whatever decision reached at the meetings as the solution against absentees. This is because of the fact that, at the village level villagers who constitute village assembly are ones with

supreme power for decision making. That is why Dahl (1967) advocates the necessity of leaders in responding to public demands.

2.8.2 The Village by Law

Village leaders have to ensure that the bylaw which forces people to attend the statutory village assembly meetings is enacted. This by law should be mandatory enforced. Mollel (2010) asserts that the Local Government District Authority Act which came into force in 1982 gives local government mandates to perform their duties so as to realise the meaningful decentralisation and enhance participatory democracy. One among the specific functional responsibilities of local government is to make by laws relevant in its area of jurisdiction (*ibid*). For instance, local government (district authorities) Act of 1982 section 163 requires village council to make any bylaws for the purpose of implementing any functions stated by this Act (URT, 1982). Section 103 of the same Act forces village government to convene the village assembly meeting (*ibid*). Therefore, villages' governments are forced to make by law for the purpose of making sure that their people attend the meetings.

2.8.3 The Meetings Time Table

Basically, the execution of public activities such as preparation of statutory village assembly meetings possesses some logical sequences that must be adhered if the aim of activity is to be accomplished. Always, the preparations of the conduct of the statutory village assembly meetings start with setting of timetable. According to King (2014) explains that it is the duty of village executive officer to prepare the conduct of assembly meetings after consultation with village chairperson. In similar ground Mayaya (1981) advocates that, in prevention of any obstacle that may impede the progress and implementation of public activities, several preconditions must be fulfilled for the achievement of implementation. At this juncture, timetable is one among the preconditions advocated (*ibid*). Therefore, if the timetable is set and posted on notice board, it will facilitate the appropriate spreading of information to the villagers.

2.9 Definition of Key Terms

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines people as to all persons who live in a particular place or belong to a particular country.

Participation is an attempt of involving people, experts, families, community and government workers in social and non social development of the place they live (Toker, 2007 and Hamdi, 1991 in Msangi, 2011). Giving people autonomy to initiate their own development and taking part in whatever societal incidents introduced to them is process of participation (Samah and Aref, 2011). In this regard, participation enhances and broadens people's legitimacy in decision making (Chavis and Wandersman, 1990; Crook and Manor, 1998 in Itika *et al.*, 2011).

Village in Mainland Tanzania refers to legal area established under section 22 of Local Government (District Authorities) Act of 1982. It is an area in Tanzania which is in the structure of the District Council in local government setup (Wakasangula *et al.*, 2015). Village as the governance's site, it constitutes the primary level or the third tier of governance structure where the other two tiers being the district and the national (Shivji, 2009). At these three tiers of governance, only at the village level is where the elected organs (village council) of the people possess legislative and executive powers (*ibid*).

Village Assembly is the lowest level of government and forms a formal body where all residents above 18 years old may take part (Bazaara, 2002 in Gaventa, 2002). Village assembly elects the members of village council of not less than 15 and not beyond 25 lead by an elected chairperson (REPOA, 2008). It is the highest organ at the level of village which makes governance decisions and approves decision that the village council anticipate to make (Wily, 2003).

Meeting refers to the official convening of public entity for the aim of discussing public activities (Coon, 2012). At any time a public body can call the meeting for the intention of conducting public activities. The proceeding has to be done open to the public (*ibid*). Meeting can not be conducted if there is less than a required quorum of the members of particular public body (*ibid*).

Minute is the formal meeting document which contains resolutions of any organisation (King, 2014). Minute being a legal record and a document of public, It is recognised to be the most necessary records of a local authorities (Coon, 2012). The minute of meeting consists of an efficiently historical recoding showing the decisions reached at the meetings, concisely written information which is in consistent and in readable format (*ibid*).

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines Attendance as an act of being present at a place. It is very significant in any organisation because, when accurately used, attendance minimizes problems of the organisation while at the same time improves the decision making and automates keeping of record practices which eventually becomes specifically worth to work organization (www.attendance).

Transparency refers to the capacity to see rules and procedures for the implementation of respective activities (King, 2014). Transparency is underscored as one of the important factors for escalating good governance. It includes the capacity of government, government machinery and private firms to see laid procedures, and in that respect without undue procedure (*ibid*). It encompasses making sure that resources both material and financial are put to achieve the duties intended (*ibid*).

Accountability is the process by which those with power such as government, elected representative or an appointed bureaucrats should be able to indicate that they are engineered their power and execute their activities appropriately (Ssonko, 2010). Accountability is a fundamental principle of democracy that people have the right to need accountability from public actors, and public actors are obligated to account for their actions (Malena, Forster and Sigh, 2004 in Kunkuta 2011). Bourgon (2007) stresses that the prime aim of accountability is to make sure that there is continue responsiveness of governments to political community's needs for services.

Local government is the administration of a certain locality, a village, a town, a city or any other area smaller than the state by a body representing local inhabitants, possessing a fairly large amount of authority, raising at least a part of its revenue through local taxation and spending its income on services which are regarded as

Local and, therefore, as distinct from state and central services (Venkatarangaiya and Pattabhiram, 1969 in Adebayo, 2014). In Tanzania, the local government authorities are established by the Local Government (District Authorities) Act of 1982 (URT, 1982). They are also established by the constitution amendments of 1984 (URT, 1977).

2.10 Empirical Literature Review

There are many studies which have worked on participation in Tanzania. For example, the study which conducted by REPOA (2014) basing on the study of citizen participation and local governance in Tanzania explores that gender parity is great problem facing citizen participation at the grass roots. Men observed to take active role in committees and greatly involved in attending village or neighborhood meetings. In the same ground, the study shows the inactive role played by local elite and elders in governance at the local level. Therefore the study concluded by emphasising that policies should be designed to inspire women, the elite and local elders to be more active in all issues pertaining local governance.

Amos (2013) argues on effectiveness of hierarchical structure for the local government in the process of decision making. She suggests that, the decisions do delay due to established procedures found in local government Act of 1982. Moreover, the study reveals that most of actors who at the village level and ward including the community have no influence on decisions made at the district level in spite of being the main affected people for the agreed decision.

Ali (2013) articulates that implementation of development projects is always affected when citizens are not involving in the whole process of decision making. He stresses that the reasons that make people not participating are lack of awareness among the people on matters pertaining to their life and excluded of local communities and local leaders on participating to some projects. Therefore, he concludes by underscoring that the local people must be empowered through education so that they can actively participate in development issues and management should also be empowered in order to participate in development projects.

Adebayo (2014) explains that non involvement of dwellers at the local in matters relating decisions of policy is one among the challenges facing implementation of different developmental activities at the grass root level. Therefore, the problem can be removed if the local government can come up with an open administration which will let people at the local level to air their opinions on matters affect them. This will help to do away with wastage of resources as well as eliminating the tendency of ignoring people's priorities at the grass root.

Irvin and Stansbury (2004) found that people with low income in developing country do not take time in meeting because they usually engage in their activities that provide benefit to their families. Therefore, they concluded that to eliminate the participation problem found in various voluntary participation programmes, others have explained that the people juries will help to serve as an attempt mode of participation where people are selected randomly from the population. According to them, the voluntary participation is still observed to be more appropriate in reaching the effective decision than apply citizen juries in participation.

Wakasangula *et al.* (2015) assert that the factors which affect the behaviour of leaders involve education and experiences, culture and the behaviour of followers. At this point, the impact of leadership behaviour has been indicated based on participation which is commonly a feature of good governance. In similar perspective under the concept of good governance, Wakasangula *et al.* (2015) continue to explain that good governance entails responsiveness, accountability of public actions, adhering to effectiveness and efficiency which comply with the goals established as well as comply with democratic mechanisms for legalising those actions. They also underscore that the preparation and implementation of public things are to be done in manner that majority citizens or stakeholder prefer. Therefore the study concluded that a good leader has to be transparent, good communicator, participative and a genesis of information to its citizens. In the same vein, the study underscored that the awareness should be created to the local people focusing on the significance of participating on various developmental programmes starting from planning to the implementation.

Sikika (2012) presents also participation argument when was investigating the ability of people at the grass roots in accessing to budget information. Sikika stresses that for community to participate in the village assembly for the sake of making the local leaders to be held accountable there are should be clear way of disseminating the information about the meeting. The date, time and areas for conducting meeting should all be known to citizens.

2.11 Synthesis

Participation as broad concept has been a key factor which has triggered the great number of people to carry an investigation on that. Most of studies associated with participation in Tanzania have looked much on how people should make decision which finally would help the local leaders to be accountable. The reasons that make people not to attend the statutory village assembly meetings have not been investigated.

Based on the early studies as it has been explained above, it was expected to see people at the grass roots take active role in participating in decision making. But many studies have indicated that people at the grass roots are not participating actively in decision making. Despite the researchers' acknowledgement on the existence of participation at the local level, their studies have indicated the various factors that affect most of people to participate effectively in decision making. These factors as asserted by researchers include gender parity, low income among the participants, hierarchical structure of local government and procedures found in the local government Act of 1982. Others are lack of transparency, absence of qualities of good leadership, poor ways of disseminating information about the village assembly meetings and lack of awareness among the local people on importance of participating in various governmental activities in rural areas.

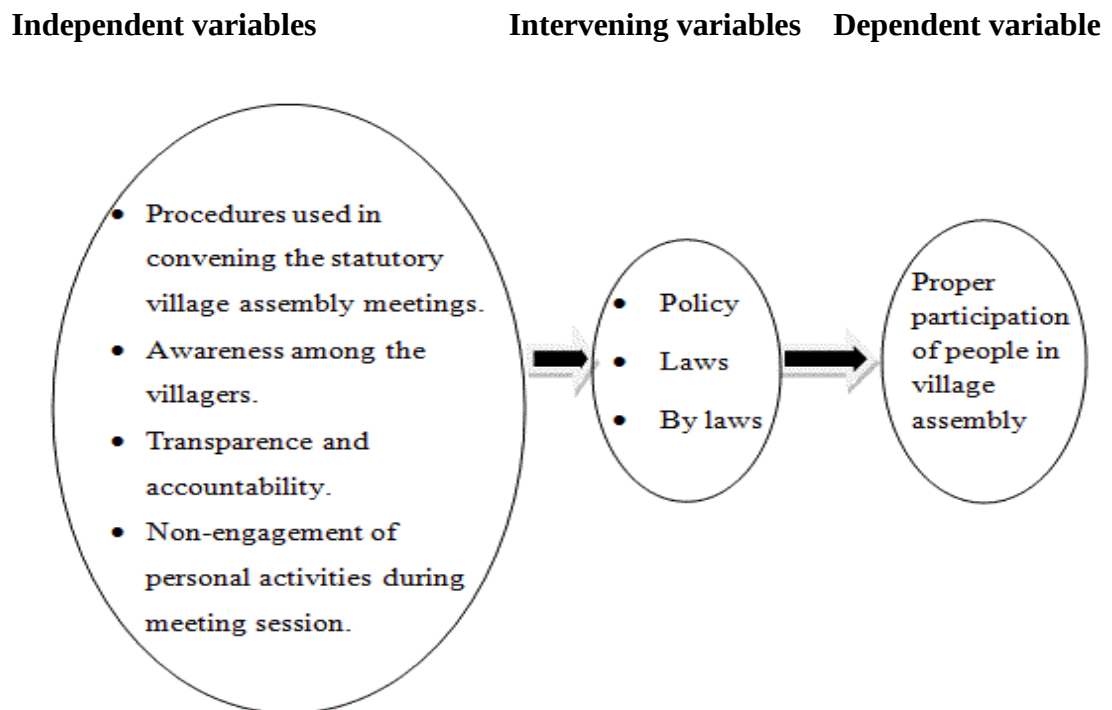
Generally speaking, however there are some studies which are somehow near close to this study like that of citizen participation and local governance, transparency of budget and participation at the local level, local government and challenges to rural development but no any study the researcher obtained specifically investigated the reasons for poor attendance at the statutory village assembly meetings.

Therefore, considering the above explored research gap, the researcher found that it was useful to conduct a study which will find the reasons for poor attendance at the statutory village assembly meetings.

2.12 Conceptual Framework

This study intends to investigate on people's participation in village assembly. Therefore, the assumption of this study is that participation of people in village assembly as briefly mandated under section 103 (2) of local government (District Authorities) Act No. 7 of 1982 is proper if there is good procedures used in convening the statutory village assembly meetings, awareness among the villagers, transparency and accountability, and non engagement of personal activities during meeting session. However it may also depends on legal frame work (policy, laws and by laws) that govern the governance arrangement at the local level. With this regard, the independent variables in this study are procedures used in convening the statutory village assembly meetings, awareness among the villagers, transparency and accountability and non engagement of personal activities during meeting session. The dependent variable is proper participation of people in village assembly. In this vein, the intervening variables are policy, laws and by laws.

Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework of People's Participation in Village Assembly



Source: Researcher's construct, 2017

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This section covers the area of study, research design, and research approach; it also consists of the population of the study, the sample size and sampling techniques. It also explains data collection methods and instruments, validity and reliability of research instruments, ethical issues and considerations, data analysis and interpretation.

3.1 Area of the Study

The study was conducted at Biharamulo District Council found in Biharamulo district. The Biharamulo district is one of the seven administrative districts of Kagera Region (BDC, 2012). Other districts are Bukoba, Karagwe, Kyerwa, Missenyi, Muleba and Ngara (BDC, 2012). The region also has 8 councils among the 184 councils in Tanzania mainland. Therefore, the Kagera region's councils are Bukoba Municipal, Bukoba rural, Karagwe, Kyerwa, Missenyi, Muleba, Ngara and Biharamulo District Council (BDC, 2012).

Biharamulo district is situated between 2° 15' and 3° 15' south of the equator and between 31° 00'-32° 00' east of standard meridian. The district covers an area of 5,627 square kilometers. It borders with Muleba and Karagwe district in the north and Geita and Chato districts in the east. Bukombe district adjoins in the south where Kakonko, Kibondo and Ngara districts are on the west. Administratively, it has 2 divisions, 17 wards, 74 villages and 384 sub villages and 5,675 households (BDC, 2012). The average size of household is 5.7 (*ibid*). The district has a total population of 323,486 people of which 162, 914 are female and 160, 572 are male (Census, 2012 in BDC, 2012).

3.1.1 Justification for Selection of Biharamulo District Council as a Case Study

Yin (2003) indicates five criteria which justify the selection of single research location. In this respect, this study attempted three of Yin's five criteria for selecting Biharamulo District Council as a single case study.

First justification is when a setting is considered to represent a 'critical case in testing a well formulated theory. Biharamulo District Council was presumed to be a very critical case among the councils in Tanzania mainland that possessed the villages which experienced poor attendance of people in the statutory village assembly meetings. According to Mwakagenda and Moshi (2015) stress that people who are required to attend any statutory village assembly meeting should not be less than 20% of all people who are required to attend the meeting. In regard to this requirement, the researcher had prior information about poor village assembly meetings attendance to the area of the study. Generally, the prior information in the area of the study indicated that the attendance of people to statutory village assembly meetings were less than 20% of all people who are at least required to attend the meetings (BDC, 2014 through 2016). This overall situation necessitated the researcher to select Biharamulo District Council as the area of the study.

Second criterion is if a case is representative of other settings in terms of everyday situation so that the lessons obtained from it can absolutely be relevant in the same settings (Yin, 2003). Biharamulo District Council was in similar with other district councils in Kagera region in terms of the economic activities, the level of social services, governance structure and population characteristics. At this juncture, it was presumed that the knowledge from Biharamulo District Council will be applied to other councils in Kagera region.

Third justification for selecting a specific research setting is whether or not it is a revelatory case, in which the researcher examines a situation that previously inaccessible to scientific investigation. Biharamulo District Council was selected to eradicate this gap.

Fourth justification for selection of a particular case is if the case is unique in some aspects. Biharamulo District Council was not unique local government authority. At this point, it was not selected in regard to this criterion.

Lastly criterion is whether it is possible to investigate phenomena at two or several different points in time in order to catch possible changes overtime. Biharamulo District Council was not selected in regard to this condition.

3.2 Research Design

The study used a case study design; it is development of detailed intensive knowledge about a single case or small number of related cases (Robson, 1993). In this respect, the case study approach was employed in this study to obtain a rich understanding of the subject. The case study design in this study was very paramount because its approach uses the unit of the study in depth and in detail. It also assisted the researcher to examine more information intensively in a single unity within limited time.

The case study design was flexible and helpful to get direct responses during findings. Therefore, during data collection process, it helped the researcher to collect data through interviews and documentary reviews within a limited time.

3.3 Research Approach

In this research, the qualitative approach was used to get an in depth understanding of the people's perception, attitudes, feelings, and views regarding their participation in village assembly. This assertion is acknowledged by Cresswell (2007) who explains that qualitative approach gives the researcher a room to get in depth and clear understanding about respondents' perceptions, feelings, attitudes and experiences through data collection methods such as interview and observations.

The employment of qualitative approach was connected with the use of triangulation methods that is the use of multiple research methods such as interviews and documentary reviews during data collection process. These research data collection methods helped the researcher to get not only right information but also to triangulate data and to admit important insights to become known.

3.4 The Population of the Study

The population for this study included all people above 18 years old. This is because they were the ones that the law allows them to attend the village assembly meetings. In this respect, they were about 4228 people found in the two villages (Census, 2012 in BDC, 2012).

3.5 The Sample

The study used the sample of 18 people from the study population. Since the study intended to investigate the people's participation in village assembly specifically in finding the issues associated with poor attendance of people in the statutory village assembly meetings, the larger numbers of respondents in the category of sample were the villagers. This is because the study was mainly focused in villagers' participation in the statutory village assembly meetings. The aim of most qualitative studies is not to generalise but rather to give a rich, contextualised knowledge of some aspects of human experience through the in depth study of particular cases (Polit and Beck, 2010). Similarly, Patton (1990) asserts that qualitative approach uses small samples, in-depth or rich descriptions to capture the complexity of lived experiences. In this regard, 18 people from the study population in this qualitative research were enough for the study than employing large samples which are mostly applicable in quantitative research. However, in this qualitative research, the use of small sample was also determined much by saturation principle where there was repetition of data and no new information was collected from the respondents. This happened in the sense that before going to the field work the researcher expected to interview 23 respondents but finally only 18 respondents were interviewed due to experienced saturation principle at the field work. Here below is the table indicated the distribution of sample.

Table 3.1: Distribution of the Sample

Category	Population	Respondents	Percentage
Councillor	1	1	100%
Ward Executive Officer	1	1	100%
Village Chairpersons	2	2	100%
Village Executive Officers	2	2	100%
Village Council Members	35	2	4.8%
Hamlets Chairpersons	13	2	15.4%
Villages' Members	4167	8	0.3%
Total	4228	18	0.43%

Source: Field data, 2017

3.6 Sampling Techniques

Qualitative research is always connected with non probability sampling and not probability sampling which is commonly used in quantitative research (Ritchie *et al.*, 2003 in Kunkuta, 2011). In this regard, the study employed non probability technique from which the required information was collected.

3.6.1 Purposive Sampling

Purposive sampling was employed to select respondents from the study population. Purposive sampling needs researchers to think critically about the parameters of interest and select respondents on this basis (Creswell and Clark, 2007 in Kunkuta, 2011). The researcher used purposive sampling in selecting the key informants (Village leaders and ward's leaders). The reason of using this method was simply because the researcher had knowledge on kind of respondents who could enrich the study by providing the in-depth information. Furthermore, the purposive sampling helped the researcher to select the people whom he believed that their positions were very necessary in providing the required information. At this point, this technique included only 10 respondents as indicated above in Table 3.1

3.6.2 Snowball Sampling

Apart from purposive sampling, the researcher also used snowball sampling to select eight respondents from the study population. Vogt (1999) explains snowball

sampling as a technique where one subject provides the investigator the name of another subject who in turn gives the name of a third and so on. The technique was good because it helped the investigator to get the required information easily and from the right people. In the same vein, snowball sampling helped the researcher to access respondents who could otherwise not be recognized or reached. Since the intention of qualitative study is to get in-depth or rich understanding of subject from perception of the researched people, this study intended to work with small sample rather than employing large samples. With this technique, the researcher asked the person who had already interviewed to nominate other person whom he/she believed that could provide the relevant information to researcher. This was applied to villages' members as indicated above in Table 3.1

3.7 Data Collection Methods

The process of data collection took two steps at the field. In the first step the minutes of statutory village assembly meetings were analysed. This was done through documentary review as the method of data collection. The second step was interviews where villagers, village leaders, WEO and councillor were interviewed.

Table 3.2: Matrixes of Research Questions, Methods, Target groups/Documents and Instruments

Research questions	Methods	Target group/documents	Research instruments
What is the actual trend of statutory village assembly meetings attendances?	Documentary review and Interviews	Minutes of meetings and Villages' members, village leaders, WEO and councilor	Documentary review guide and Interview guide
What are the reasons for poor attendance at the statutory village assembly meetings?	Documentary review and Interviews	Letters of notification, Villages' members and village leaders, WEO and councilor	Documentary review guide and Interview guide
Are the village leaders taking measures to make people attend the statutory village assembly meetings?	Documentary review and Interviews	Village bylaw Villages' members, village leaders, WEO and councilor	Documentary review guide and Interview guide

Source: Researcher's construct, 2017

3.7.1 Documentary Review

Researcher reviewed various documents such as minutes of statutory village assembly meetings, villages' by laws, and letters for notification sent to hamlets chairpersons to notify villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meetings. According to Denzin (1978) in Jupp (1996) asserts that documentary sources serve to reduce the effects of investigators on the data, because the data are already out there and fixed, thereby improving internal validity, that is the soundness of inferences reached. The analysis of the said documents provided the information that complemented interview at the field work.

3.7.1.1 Minutes of Meetings

Although the study reviewed various documents such as villages' by laws, and letters for notification sent to hamlets chairpersons to notify villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meetings, the minutes of statutory village assembly meetings were first documents to be reviewed at field work. The minutes were reviewed to identify the actual trend of people's participation specifically in attending the statutory village assembly meetings in three financial years and other characteristics associated with attendance of villagers in the said meetings. It should be understood that the financial year in Tanzania starts from 1 July to 30 June. The chosen financial years were 2014/2015, 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 although in financial year 2016/2017 two quarters were disregarded because the time could not allow the researcher to work on that. For example, the third quarter of financial year 2016/2017 ended 30 March, 2017. And this time according to university regulations was the time for Dissertation submission. According to Local Government (District Authority) Act No. 7 of 1982 requires the statutory village assembly meetings to be convened at least once in every three months. Therefore, at this juncture it should be noted that only ten meetings in each village were regarded in this study other meetings such as ad hoc meetings were disregarded as explained above that, the intention of this study was focusing only in the statutory village assembly meetings and not otherwise. During the exercise of reviewing the minutes at the field work it was noted that Kiruruma village conducted nine meetings and Bisibo/Busota conducted nine meetings.

The minutes of eighteen meetings conducted in two villages were reviewed. In regard to this assertion, it should be understood that among eighteen meetings called some were

postponed hence the researcher succeeded to review only attendances and not the minutes. As stated early that the rationale for reviewing minutes was to identify the trend of the meetings. This was engineered by collecting information such as date of meeting, expected number of villagers, number of villagers attended, percentage of villagers attended and checking whether the meeting was done or not done. Other characteristic associated with attendance of villagers like the presence of few villagers in the attendance from some hamlets was also identified. This was done by collecting the information such as the name of villager and the name of hamlet where he or she comes from.

3.7.2 Interview

The second step in data collection was interview. Kothari (2004) explains interview as the method of data collection which involves presentation of oral-verbal stimuli and reply in terms of oral- verbal responses. The researcher used interview guides to extract information from eight villages' members, eight village leaders and two ward's leaders about the actual trend of statutory village assembly meetings attendances, the reasons for poor attendance in statutory village assembly meetings and measures used by village leaders to make people attend the statutory village assembly meetings.

The interview guide was prepared before going to the field work and modified during reviewing of minutes of statutory village assembly meetings. Some incidents obtained from the minutes were added to interview guide for comprehensiveness. The interview was used because the intention of the researcher was to get the opinions about the existing problem. But also the method was suitable for collecting qualitative data because it helped the researcher to get in detail information about people's perception, attitudes, feelings, and views pertaining to the study. Moreover it helped the researcher to get the required data because during respondent's talk the researcher was very careful to make sure that the respondent is not deviating from the main theme. Therefore, with aid of interview guides, the questions in this study were in form of conversation where respondents were requested to answer. During interview, the researcher noted down the answers provided by respondents and at the same time recorded the conversation. The recording process was done after asking the permission from the participants.

3.8 Validity and Reliability of Research Instruments

Validity

According to Messick (1989) in Borsboom and Millenbergh (2004) asserts validity as an integrated evaluative judgement of the degree to which empirical evidence and theoretical rationales support the adequacy and appropriateness of inferences and actions based on modes of assessment.

Validity or trustworthiness has been explained as one of influence of qualitative research, and it is used to identify whether the results of the study are accurate from the perspective of participants, readers of the study and researcher. Creswell (2003) in Bennett (2007) shows eight strategies to look the accuracy of the research results

1. Triangulation of the methods of data collection
2. The use of rich , thick description to convey meanings
3. Use member –checking to determine the accuracy of the qualitative findings
4. Clarify the bias the researcher brings to the study
5. Present negative or discrepant information that runs counter to the themes
6. Spend prolonged time in the field
7. Use peer debriefing to enhance the accuracy of the account
8. Use an external auditor to review the entire project

Based on the aforementioned strategies, this study employed triangulation methods of data collection to maintain validity. At this point, the study used documentary review and interviews during data collection process. Moreover, during interviews, the researcher noted down the information obtained from respondents while at the same time used to record the conversation. These methods helped the researcher to compare the collected information and looking for convergence which finally helped the researcher to preserve the originality of collected information during data analysis process. In the similar vein, the researcher used also rich descriptions to convey meaning.

Reliability

Reliability refers to extent to which findings are consistent overtime and an accurate representation of total population under study is referred to as reliability and if the results of a study can be reproduced under a similar methodology, then the research tools is considered to be reliable (Joppe, 2000 in Golafshan, 2003). Reliability of the research happened when the same research is conducted in other study area under same research conditions and the same findings are obtained. In order for this study to comply with reliability criteria, the questions of major issues of research problem were asked to all categories of respondents and also the sample of the study included representative from each category in village governance. Furthermore, the researcher clarified well the statement of the problem as well as research objectives as well as adhering to research ethical issues.

3.9 Ethical Issues and Considerations

The conduct of the research involves the data collection process and this data are collected from the people therefore in order to enhance the validity of research findings, the researcher needs to consider the ethical issues. Silverman (2006) points that when doing the research; the researcher comes into relationship with people whom he or she studies. In this vein he adds that the ethics of social research have to deal with the nature of the responsibilities of researcher in this relationship or the things that should or should not be exercised concerning the people being watched or written about. With regard to this consideration, the researcher adhered to the following ethical issues:

Firstly, the researcher was given introduction letter from Mzumbe University in order to access to the area of the study. This was done before going to the field (See appendix VI (a)).

Secondly, the researcher requested permission from the office of Director of Biharamulo District Council before data collection from the field. The letter was obtained to introduce the researcher to both selected villages (See appendix VI (b)).

Thirdly, the researcher was very open to respondents by educating them the aim of the research before soliciting information from the respondents. This was done to build respondents' confidence so that they can participate freely. In similar vein, the recording of conversation used in this study was engineered after asking the permission from the participants.

Lastly, the privacy and anonymity of respondents were greatly paid much attention so that the respondents can be in the right position of providing their opinions without any fear.

3.10 Data Analysis and Interpretation

Marshall and Rossman (1995) in Kunkuta (2011) define data analysis as a "...process of bringing order, structure and meaning to the mass of collected (raw) data. Its intention is to further understand the investigated phenomenon by means of systematic examination of the collected data (*ibid*). This study is qualitative research; therefore the information collected from the study was analysed by using content analysis approach because it is the basic way of analysing and interpreting the text (narrative data). As it has been discussed early, the qualitative information in this study was obtained from documentary review and interview. The process of data analysis started with preparation and organisation of data (data management stage). This was done by summarising documentary data and transcribing of interview data. The transcriptions of interview data involved transcribing field information and audiotapes of interviews. The audiotapes of interviews was transcribed after playing and listening to them frequently so as to get respondents' views and other aspects concerning the study.

The field information (text) as explained above was obtained during interview. Therefore during transcriptions, this text was checked and used with the aid of audio taping of interviews in order to assist the investigator to preserve the originality of collected information from the field. This was adhered for the purpose of enhancing the research validity.

After data management, the analysis proceeded by reviewing and inspecting all data and involved editing to rectify errors that were found in the data. The process of data

inspecting and data editing were very important because it helped the researcher to remove irrelevant information from the required information. Thereafter, the data was categorized into themes in connection with research questions. The next process was coding the themes and condensing them to provide large meanings and the last stage was associated with putting the data in an organised way, squeezing assortment of information that admitted the accurate conclusions. The respondents' talk obtained from interview was also used to explain the meaning of data.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF THE FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents research findings on an investigation on people's participation in village assembly at Biharamulo District Council in Kagera region, Tanzania. The data under this study was collected from two villages selected in the aforesaid District Council. Based on explanation of qualitative data analysis indicated in the methodology chapter (Section 3.10), the analysis of data in this chapter uses narrative approach. As clearly asserted in the chapter one, section 1.3 of this study, the first objective was to find out the actual trend of statutory village assembly meetings attendances. The second objective was to examine the reasons for poor attendance at the statutory village assembly meetings. The last objective was to assess the measures used by village leaders to make people attend the statutory village assembly meetings. Thus, the presentation of the research findings in this chapter is based on the aforesaid objectives.

4.1 The Trend of Statutory Village Assembly Meetings Attendances

As asserted in chapter one and chapter three, the attendances at any statutory village assembly meetings are very important not only for escalating the statutory village assembly meetings to be done but also are good indicators for people's participation at the level of village governance. The first objective of this study as it has been stated clearly in chapter one as well as in this chapter was to find out the actual trend of statutory village assembly meetings attendances. To know if the statutory village assembly meetings are convened quarterly in any village as stipulated by the local government (District Authorities) Act No 7 of 1982, there must be the minutes of the aforesaid meetings. It is through the minutes of meetings where various information related to attendance of villagers can first be obtained before using other source like interview to solicit information. Therefore reviewing documents particularly the minutes of statutory village assembly meetings was done to know the trend of attendance in these meetings.

The government's directive that control the conduct of statutory village assembly meetings as indicated in chapter three underscores that the statutory village assembly meeting will be conducted only if the people attended such meeting are not less than 20% of all people required to attend the meetings. Data obtained from the minutes of the meetings indicated that the state of attendance in the statutory village assembly meetings convened in past three financial years was very poor. The data collected from the minutes of statutory village assembly meetings showed that in Bisibo/Busota village only 9% of people attended 3 statutory village assembly meetings out of 1936 people who were required to attend the meetings in financial year 2014/2015. In the financial year of 2015/2016, the data indicated that only 34% of people attended 4 statutory village assembly meetings out of 1978 people in the same village. The last financial year reviewed was 2016/2017 in Bisibo/Busota village. In this year the data showed that only 12% of people attended 2 statutory village assembly meetings out of 1978 people.

In Kiruruma village the data reviewed from the minutes of the meetings showed that in financial year 2014/2015, only 12% of people attended 3 statutory village assembly meetings out of 2190 people who are required to attend the meetings. The following financial year 2015/2016 in the same village the data indicated that 12% of people attended 4 statutory village assembly meetings convened out of 2250 people. In financial year 2016/2017, the data showed data only 8% of people attended 2 statutory village assembly meetings in Kiruruma village.

Specifically, the findings from the minutes of the meetings indicated that people's participation in every called statutory village assembly meeting in the said two villages are less than 20% out of expected number of villagers within three consecutive financial years. In addition, the results from the minutes showed that the trend of attendance to the meetings was deteriorating from financial year 2014/2015 to 2016/2017 although in some quarters the situation was seen to be improved but in one quarter of financial year 2016/2017, the attendance was more deteriorating as indicated in the table below.

Table 4.1: The Trend of Meetings Done or not Done

Name of village	Date of meetings	Expected no. of villagers	No. of villagers attended	Percentage	Comments
Bisibo/Busota	12/09/2014	1936	27	1.3%	Note done
	-	-	-	-	-
	12/03/2015	1936	130	6.7%	Done
	29/06/2015	1936	20	1.0%	Note done
	25/09/2015	1978	8	0.4%	Note done
	30/12/2015	1978	162	8.1%	Done
	06/04/2016	1978	379	19%	Done
	18/06/2016	1978	117	5.9%	Done
	03/10/2016	1978	162	8.2%	Done
	30/12/2016	1978	80	4.0%	Note done
Kiruruma	26/09/2014	2190	87	3.9%	Done
	-	-	-	-	-
	30/03/2015	2190	102	4.6%	Done
	26/06/2015	2190	68	3.1%	Note done
	30/09/2015	2250	21	0.9%	Note done
	23/12/2015	2250	106	4.7%	Done
	29/03/2016	2250	98	4.3%	Done
	30/06/2016	2250	36	1.6%	Note done
	28/09/2016	2250	105	4.7%	Done
	10/12/2016	2250	74	3.3%	Done

Source: Field data, 2017

The data reviewed from the minutes of the meetings as indicated above appeared to comply with the data obtained from the interview. All respondents interviewed provided the view that the trend of attendance to statutory village assembly meetings is worse. One of interviewed villager from Kiruruma village stated that:

“The state of attendance in the meetings is very poor and cannot even be explained”. (R11)

The above quotation concurs with the views of all leaders interviewed. For example the village executive officer of Bisibo/Busota said that:

“There is great problem in the whole issue of attendance in this village that is why many meetings have been adjourned due to non compliance with the meeting quorum”. (R8)

Based on the findings from the minutes of the meetings and interview, one may conclude that the magnitude of people’s participation in the statutory village assembly meetings is deteriorating as days go on.

4.2 The Reasons for Poor Attendance in two Selected Villages

The state of poor attendance at the statutory village assembly meetings is one among the major challenges which face many villages in Tanzania. The current situation in several districts councils evident that the willing of villagers to attend the aforesaid meetings is deteriorating as days go on. The incident like postponement of village assembly meetings caused by poor attendance testifies the elimination of the whole theme of participatory democracy which was considered among other things to be implemented under the umbrella of LGRP. Therefore, if this situation will remain unattended the functions of the village assembly as stipulated by the Local Government Act of 1982 will not be executed. Considering this circumstance, the study aimed to find the reasons for poor attendance at the statutory village assembly meetings. At this juncture, the data were collected through interview and documentary review. This section presents the findings as follows:

The respondents aired different views on the reasons why poor attendance at the statutory village assembly meetings. Ad hoc means of disseminating information, lack of awareness among the villagers, geographical distance, and lack of transparency and accountability were the reasons mentioned. It was found that the reasons provided by villagers complied with reasons aired by most of leaders.

4.2.1 Ad hoc Means of Disseminating Information

The procedure for conducting statutory village assembly meetings as asserted in chapter two of this study requires the information for notifying people to attend the statutory village assembly meetings be disseminated within seven days. In regard to this requirement, the majority respondents who were interviewed showed that the information for notifying villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meetings was disseminated in ad hoc manner. The majority respondents argued that many villagers fail to attend the statutory village assembly meetings because the information for attending the meetings is notified while villagers have already prepared to go to their daily activities. The interviewed majority of villages' members and most of villages' leaders interviewed explained that the ad hoc means of disseminating information obstruct many villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meetings because once the information of notifying villagers to attend the

statutory village assembly meetings is provided in ad hoc manner; no one can be ready to postpone his or her activity which has been arranged early and go to meeting. During the interview, one villager of Bisibo/Busota village said that:

You know this problem has been in place for long time and the main causative is our village leaders, we have been informing them to leave this behavior but they take negligence on that. You find in the morning while you are on the way to farm then you meet the hamlet chairperson and starts to inform you that today around 11hrs shall be the village assembly meetings. Now tell me if you rationally good can you attend the meeting and leave your activity? That is why we are not attending the village assembly meetings. (R1)

The hamlets chairpersons from both villages agreed with the presence of that kind of ad hoc way of disseminating information about notifying people to attend the statutory village assembly meetings. When asked to clarify the ways the information of notifying villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meetings is provided, the hamlet chairperson of Bisibo/Busota village said that:

I do not know the problem of this Village Executive Officer, we always inform him to give us the letter of notifying people to attend the statutory village assembly meetings seven days before the meeting so as to have an ample time of visiting all households in our hamlets but he is unlistenable. Therefore what I normally do is that, when I receive the letter at late time, I normally notify only few people whom I meet on the roads. (R4)

Some of respondents asserted that the information was not provided in ad hoc manner. They said that the time for disseminating information of notifying villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meetings is provided as the way the directives say. In this regard, they said seven days are provided. This was evidenced by VCP of Kiruruma village who said:

The information is not provided in ad hoc manner, the problem is the hardship of the work itself, for example in this village we have hamlet which is called Nyabyondo which has 130 households, therefore it becomes difficult for hamlet chairperson to visit all households found in his hamlet. Badly enough they are not given any allowances for disseminating information to villagers that is why you find the hamlet chairperson visits only few households. (R16)

As articulated by aforesaid few respondents that the dissemination of information about notifying villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meetings was not provided in ad hoc manner, the Village Executive Officers of both villages were asked to provide the letters which are written to hamlets chairpersons for notifying them to disseminate information to villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meetings. Although the letters from the Village Executive Officers in two villages were not obtained, the researcher succeeded to get them from hamlets chairpersons.

The reviewed letter matched well with interviewed majority respondents. The reviewed letter showed that the information in both villages was provided in ad hoc manner. For instance, in Bisibo/Busota village, the letter of informing the hamlets chairpersons to notify the villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meeting of 30/12/2016 was written on 29/12/2016. This weakness was also noted in Kiruruma village where the letter directed to hamlets chairpersons to notify villagers to attend the statutory meeting was written on 06/12/2016 for the meeting of 10/12/2016.

When probed to explain if the means used to notify the villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meetings was nice to make many villagers attend the meetings, most of respondents were not satisfied with means used. Generally, the findings obtained from the respondents indicated that villages dispossessed the right means of notifying villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meetings. The interviews with respondents showed that the villagers used to get information of attending the meetings through hamlets chairpersons by oral means. With this means, it was observed that it is difficult for hamlet chairperson to reach to all households found in his/ her area of jurisdiction; therefore most of respondents suggested the use of trumpets instead of using hamlets chairpersons. This was noted to be very important means for disseminating information because the respondents argued that the means will reduce the burdens to hamlets chairpersons to visit all households found in their area of jurisdiction. They also said that the trumpet will disseminate information to many villagers within short period of time. For instance the hamlet chairperson from Bisibo/Busota village stated that:

“If it happens to get trumpet for notifying villagers to attend meetings, it will be very nice because the exercise of notification will take very short time after that one has to continue with his/her work”. (R4)

Therefore, the data presented above indicated that there is a serious problem in both villages in following the procedures of convening the statutory village assembly meetings particularly in failure of providing enough time for disseminating information to the villagers as well as the use of hamlets chairpersons as the means of providing the notification for participation.

4.2.2 Lack of Awareness among the Villagers

Education as explained in chapter two is a tool for cultivating the community's willing to participate effectively in various matters that affect society including attending to the meetings. Lack of education or awareness brings negligence on issues which seem to be very important to one's life. The data obtained through interview indicated that the villagers were not aware of the importance of attending the statutory village assembly meetings. The majority respondents interviewed claimed that negligence which is caused by lack of awareness among the villagers affects the participation of villagers to statutory village assembly meetings. A villager from Kiruruma commented that:

“You find someone says that I hear today there is meeting, let them go when I see they are back from the meeting I will be along the road in order to ask them what has been discussed at the meeting”. (R9)

The above quotation concurs with the view aired by most of villages' leaders of both villages (Bisibo/Busota and Kiruruma). Villages' leaders accepted that lack of awareness among the villagers on importance of attending the statutory village assembly is reason for poor attendance to those meetings. In clarifying the way ignorance affects participation of villagers to statutory village assembly meetings, hamlet chairperson from Kiruruma village posed the following say during interview:

If we want many villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meeting, we normally tell them that the meeting which is going to be conducted tomorrow will be very fine because the District Commissioner will have a talk at the meeting. With this technique they normally attend. (R13)

Although the majority of the respondents said that lack of awareness among the villagers is the reason for poor attendance at the statutory village assembly meetings, few respondents provided different view regarding lack of awareness among the villagers.

Few respondents during interview argued that excessive drinking of alcohol among the villagers is the great reason for poor attendance at the statutory village assembly meetings. For them it was noted that most of villagers spend their time in drinking the alcohol during meetings session. They added that even those who happened attending the meetings they normally attend while they had drunkard. They also emphasised that drinking of alcohol is a great problem in the villages and it had escalated the majority of villagers to ignore the attending to the meetings. In explaining the way excessive drinking of alcohol affects participation of people, a village council member of Kiruruma village explained that:

The problem is lack of follow up for those who drink alcohol a period of time when village meeting is held. Most of villagers in this village are alcoholic addicted, for instance when you meet a person the day of meeting and tell him to go to the meeting, you find someone tells you that it is better to go to drink alcohol instead of going to meeting. Again he insists by saying that do they give you money for attending the meetings? Bad enough he tells you those words while he has already drank. (R14)

The village chairperson of Bisibo/Busota had similar observation concerning drinking of alcohol. He agreed that the excessive drinking of alcohol is one of the reasons that make many villagers fail to attend the statutory village assembly meetings. During interview with the researcher, it was noted that the village leaders had even failed to arrange the meeting to be conducted during evening hours by fearing that it is the period even for those few who attend the meetings would not attend because of drinking alcohol. For instance, in explaining the way excessive drinking of alcohol affects negatively the attendance of people at the statutory village assembly meetings, the VCP of Bisibo/Busota said that:

Drinking of alcohol during meeting session is the big problem that affects our village. That is why we have decided to arrange meetings' hours to be during the morning otherwise we would have not obtained even those few people whom we always obtain. (R7)

The presented above findings implies that civic education is strongly needed in rural areas.

4.2.3 Geographical Distance

The geographical distance is one of the reasons that obstruct villagers' participation. Respondents reported that the villagers who live in hamlets which are located far from the place where meetings are conducted do not participate more compared to those who live in hamlet where meeting place is found. The majority respondents claimed that their villages are too big to the extent of impeding most of villagers to walk many kilometers herding to statutory village assembly meetings. This appeared to affect the participation of villagers to statutory meetings. In making clarification on how geographical distance affects villagers' participation at the statutory village assembly meetings, a villager from Bisibo/ Busota said that:

It is true that people from the hamlets which are located far from the meetings place their participation in meetings are very poor. For instance, the Kabanda hamlet which you have mentioned, to walk from there up to the meeting, in fact you should get prepared. It is very far. (R3)

It was also noted from this study that the statutory village assembly meetings in Bisibo/Busota and Kiruruma villages are normally conducted in work days and not weekends. At this juncture, the meetings are always commencing during morning from 11 hrs on wards. Therefore, the majority of villagers normally start to engage in agricultural activities before attending the meetings, so when they bring back from their activities, they normally feel tired. This becomes problem especially to those who live in hamlets which are located far from the meeting place. This reality was clarified by one villager from Bisibo/ Busota village who stated that:

Look at our hamlet where it is located, so when you are told that the meeting will be held at 11 hrs we first engage in agricultural activities early in the morning before going to meeting so when the time for meeting approaches, we some time be very bored for long distance that one has to walk in order to reach the place where meeting is conducted. Because of this reason you find someone fails to attend the meeting. (R5)

The geographical distance as the challenge which indicated to affect participation of villagers to statutory village assembly meetings was seen to be more problematic in Kiruruma village than in Bisibo/ Busota village. The respondents especially from Kiruruma village claimed that the village is too big therefore it is difficult for all villagers who live in Katunguru, Nyabyondo and Nyambugu to attend the statutory village assembly meetings because these hamlets are located very far from the place where meetings are always conducted. One villager from Kiruruma village said that:

“Many people whom we wish to attend the meetings live in the hamlets which are located far from the meeting place therefore it is very difficult for many people from those hamlets to attend the meetings”. (R12)

The above quotation concurs with the view of the councilor of Bisibo ward who commented that:

“It is true that the geographical distance obstruct villagers to attend meetings, for example for any villager from Katunguru who wishes to attend any meetings has to walk more than six kilometers”. (R18)

Although majority respondents argued that geographical distance obstruct villagers to participate in village assembly, few respondents precisely disagreed with the majority’s view. Few respondents explained that villagers are not attending because of geographical distance rather they argued that villagers are busy with their daily duties that is why they fail to attend the statutory village assembly meetings. This was made clear by one villager from Bisibo/Busota who said that:

The problem is not living far, the problem is that people are busy with their own activities or sometimes I can say these people do neglect. If you want to believe what I say, you just visit the day they receive money from TASAF, early in the morning you find people are at these premises. (R2)

This stance was supported by VCP of Bisibo/Busota, villages' executive officers of both villages who said that geographical distance is not problem, the problems is on villagers themselves for becoming busy with their daily activities and ignore the participation in the statutory village assembly meetings. Village executive officer of Bisibo/Busota village said that:

“Distance is not a problem, the problem is only negligence. But also we normally encounter much difficulty in the season of rainfall where many villagers become busy with agricultural activities”. (R8)

Documentary review as explained in chapter three matched well with majority respondents. During the reviewing of the minutes of the statutory village assembly meetings of both villages, the results indicated that villagers who live in hamlets which are located far from the meetings place were very few in the list of names of all villagers who attended the statutory village assembly meetings. This was identified when researcher probed the respondents to explain to why hamlets like Kabanda in Bisibo/Busota village, and Katunguru and Nyabyondo in Kiruruma village the people who attend the statutory village assembly meetings are seen to be very few compared to other hamlets in the village.

Additionally, in the process of finding the facts on the issue associated with geographical distance as one among the reasons that obstruct villagers to participate in the meetings, the researcher succeeded to get statistics of the numbers of villagers who live in some hamlets. The statistics obtained were from some hamlets which are claimed to be far from the meeting place and those few hamlets which are claimed to be near the meetings place including the hamlet in which the meeting place is within. This was done to both villages studied. For instance in Kiruruma village, the Nyabyondo hamlet which is located far from the meetings place was seen to have 298 villagers who are required to attend the aforesaid meetings and Kasenge hamlet which the meetings place is in within was seen to have 103 villagers who are required attending the meeting. Therefore during the reviewing of minutes it was noted that the conducted meeting of 10/12/2016, the villagers from Nyabyondo hamlet who attended the meeting were 17 while on the same meeting the villagers from Kasenge hamlet were 32.

This indicated that the participation of people from hamlets which are located far from the meetings place was worse. In reviewing the minutes of the meetings the results showed at least people who live in hamlets which are near by the meetings place were at least many in attending compared to those who live far from the meeting place although in general the state of participation of people in the statutory village assembly meetings from all hamlets in the villages found to be very poor.

Therefore, the presented findings above seem to make an argument that villages' governments have inadequate tactics of making sure that many people attend the statutory village assembly meetings especially for those who live very far from meeting place.

4.2.4 Lack of Transparency and Accountability

Lack of transparency is one of the reasons that hamper people's participation in the statutory village assembly meetings as explained by respondents during the interview. This indicates the impact of lack of transparency in village governance as asserted in chapter three. The respondents indicated that the village leaders were not transparent in providing information relating to income and expenditure of all revenues obtained in the village to the public especially in Bisibo/Busota village. Most of respondents in Bisibo/Busota village lamented that the behaviour of their village leaders particularly VEO for not providing the information to villagers to any money which was either received from district council or obtained as the own sources discouraged many villagers in the village. This appeared to affect the participation of people in statutory village assembly meetings. A villager from Bisibo/ Busota village said that:

For instance, we have contribution of Tshs. 5200 which was agreed through village assembly meeting that everyone has to contribute for desks making but up now no one knows any amount contributed or spent. In the situation like this who will be convinced to attend a meeting of leaders who are not transparent? (R1)

These findings were also supported by statements aired by village council member and hamlet chairperson of Bisibo/Busota village during interviews. They said that they always reach the consensus through village council meetings of demanding

VEO to be transparent but nothing has been implemented. The village council member of Bisibo/Busota commented that:

The main causative is we leaders ourselves, I always convince the members of village council to take action against village executive officer for not becoming transparent but as you know the political affiliation among the council members had been used to disunite us so that we cannot reach the agreed consensus. (R6)

In Kiruruma village, the scenario was different. All respondents indicated that the leaders were transparent. This happened when the researcher asked them to explain if lack of transparency was the reasons for poor participation in the statutory village assembly meetings. The respondents affirmed that village leaders were frequently providing the information of income and expenditure to whatever meetings they attended. This argument was acknowledged by statement provided by one villager of Kiruruma village who said that:

No! May be we can blame other things but on the issues relating information of income and expenditure, village executive officer has been providing the information to any meetings which I succeeded to attend. (R11)

Apart from lack of transparency, the respondents argued that their leaders were not accountable. Lack of accountability of village leaders to villagers and for their duties was very problematic in both Bisibo/Busota and Kiruruma village.

This was acknowledged by the majority respondents during interview. Although the findings had some slight differences in two villages, each village had the different way of explaining accountability. For example in Kiruruma, during the interview, the villagers appreciated the way their leaders deal with other day to day activities. They also said that their leaders were active in implementing the development activities. For instance, it was noted that Village Chairperson and Village Executive Officer were active and committed to deal with any developmental activities introduced in the village. However when villagers were probed to explain if their leaders were accountable in term of making people attend the statutory village assembly meetings, the results indicated that even Village Chairperson and Village Executive Officer were not accountable for making people attend the meetings. Moreover, many

complaints were directed to hamlets chairpersons. All respondents in Kiruruma village blamed the hamlets chairpersons by saying that they are not accountable for their duties. When asked to explain why many complaints are directed to hamlets chairpersons and not other leaders, the findings observed that the hamlets chairpersons were very much blamed because they are the ones who are directly involving in notifying the villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meetings. During the interview, a villager from Kiruruma village said that:

The causatives in great percentage are hamlets chairpersons because when we are at the voluntary development activities we normally reach the consensus that whoever fails to attend should be written but finally the person who has not attended will not be charged for not participating the work and the hamlet chairperson will not bring feedback which says that the person who didn't attend we have done one, two, three. That is why when they notify people to attend the meeting, no one obeys that notification. (R11)

The quotation above concurs with the statements provided by village leaders. When asked to clarify lack of accountability especially in their duty of notifying villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meetings the hamlet chairperson in Kiruruma village pointed out that:

It is true that there is some laziness but also our hamlets are big therefore it becomes difficult to reach at every place that is why we use ten-cell leaders to help us in notifying people to attend the meetings. (R13)

In Bisibo/Busota village the things were different; the respondents explained that the performance of the village leaders in all aspects of good governance was very poor. During the interview it was noted that the way the government of the village is doing work is very worse to the extent of required to be removed from the power. The majority respondents asserted that their leaders had never implemented any consensus reached at any statutory village assembly meetings. With this regard, they said that their leaders do their work as business as usual.

Generally, the respondents describe their leaders as unlistenable, lazy and not participative at all. In explaining the issue of accountability of their village leaders one villager from Bisibo/Busota had the following:

You know researcher, we here lack leaders because whatever we decide at the meeting no one cares about, I here, I have never seen any action get implemented in this village especially at the era of this leadership. Our hamlets chairpersons, village executive officer and village chairperson are all problem in our village. (R3)

The above quotation matched with the explanations posed by hamlet chairperson and village council member of Bisibo/Busota village. During interview, it was noted that government had never implemented the major challenges that faces their village. For example they describe the failure of village government to bring back the village land which was taken illegally as well as the failure of village government to raise revenue which could be obtained from people who dig and sell the stones of the village. Thus, in explaining the way village government lacks accountability, the hamlet chairperson in Bisibo/Busota village stated that:

Thus, in this research I am a hamlet chairperson so when I visit the households for notifying people to attend the village meeting they start to tell me that those agreements which we directed you in the previously meeting to do this and this have not yet implemented so why are you calling us to discuss other things. In fact this saying normally disturbs me very much. (R4)

Few respondents affirmed that the village leaders were accountable for their duties especially in implementing various developmental activities in the villages. The argument that village leaders were accountable for their duties was provided by villages' chairpersons and villages' executive officers. So when asked to justify how leaders were accountable for implementing their duties which finally could escalate many villages to attend the statutory village assembly meetings, the respondents were not able to explain openly instead they blamed hamlets chairpersons by saying that they are ones who are not accountable for their duties. During the interview, the village executive officer of Bisibo/Busota village said that:

Leaders who impede us are hamlets chairpersons because many issues that we discuss and reach the consensus at the meetings are on side of hamlets chairpersons for implementation but they do not implement. This is main challenge which faces us in governance. (R8)

Lack of accountability among the village leaders was confirmed by ward executive officer who tried to compare the performance of all village leaders in implementing the activities of their villages. He argued that most of leaders are not serious in implementing their duties.

It is true that most of leaders in the villages of this ward are not accountable adequately but also, for instance hamlets chairpersons apart from being lazy, sometimes we fail to take them accountable because no one pays them for the duties they perform, is like they are only volunteering therefore our main task is to continue mobilising them so as to implement their duties. (R 17)

The above presented data show that the degree of negligence among the village leaders is very high to the extent of failing to implement some issues which seem to be core in their positions as leaders.

4.3 Measures Taken to Increase People's Attendance to Statutory Village

Assembly Meetings

The third research objective of this study aimed to assess the measures taken by village leaders to make people attend the statutory village assembly meetings. Therefore, in order to assess accurately the measures used by leaders to make people attend the statutory village assembly meetings in two selected villages, in a view of the reviewed literature in chapter two, three indicators were used to assess the aforesaid objective: (i) leaders' commitment to implement the decisions of the statutory village assembly meetings. (ii) Presence and use of village by laws which demanding the villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meetings. (iii) Presence and use of village assembly meetings time table. It should be noted that in order to get new opinions from the respondents, the researcher under this objective asked the respondents open questions while at the same time used guiding criteria. Therefore, the researcher was not relying only in the criteria identified above. It should also be noted that although the respondents were not guided only by three criteria as explained early, no any other measures were mentioned by respondents out of those three criteria during the interview. The respondents explained only bylaw as the measure found in their villages. Other two measures were explained by respondents after being probed by researcher. The information based on these criteria

and those obtained through open questions were collected through interview and documentary review. Therefore, this section presents the findings here below as follows:

4.3.1 Leaders' Commitment to Implement the Decisions of the Statutory Village Assembly Meetings

Leaders' commitment was assessed by looking the willingness of village leaders in taking decision to deal with the people who do not attend the meetings. Leaders' responsiveness as explained in chapter two is a key feature of democracy which demands the government to agree to the preference of its people. The respondents provided the view that leaders were not committed to implement the decision against village assembly meetings absentees as an agreement reached at the statutory village assembly meetings. The majority respondents who shared their view about their experience in witnessing leaders' commitment to the implementation of the consensus of statutory village assembly meeting against meetings absentees said that they had never seen their consensus get implemented.

During the interview with the researcher, the majority respondents clarified that if the leaders were to implement the consensus provided by villagers at the statutory village assembly meetings, many villagers would have been attending the meetings as required. The respondents demonstrated that one among the consensus which is normally reached at the meetings is the leaders to visit all hamlets and provide the education on importance of attending the statutory village assembly meetings. With regard to aforesaid demand from the villagers especially those who used attending the meetings, the study found that nothing was implemented by village leaders. This condition was absolutely bad in Bisibo/Busota village where it was reported that the village leaders especially village executive officer and village chair person had never implemented any consensus introduced by the villagers at the meetings as the decision to deal with people who do not the meetings. In explaining the aforesaid incident, a villager from Bisibo/Busota village said that:

"Nothing is responded by our leaders, it is remained that every leader decides what he/she feels. In short, things are done in voluntary manner". (R2)

The above opinion agrees with statement from a village council member of Bisibo/Busota who articulated about leaders' commitment in taking decision to deal with the people who do not attend the meetings:

The leaders who impede us are village chairperson, village executive officer and hamlets chairpersons. There has been negligence in implementing the consensus reached at the meeting against meetings absentees. For instance, we have been informing the village chairperson and village executive officer to take disciplinary action against hamlets chairpersons who fail to implement all actions as the procedures proposed by village government and village assembly meetings but nothing has been implemented. (R6)

Some respondents provided the view that leaders were committed in taking decision regarding people who do not attend the statutory village assembly meetings. They mentioned some category of leaders who are not committed in taking decision regarding the meetings absentees. At this point, they mentioned hamlets chairpersons. The respondents blamed the hamlets chairpersons by exploring that they are the ones who are supposed to directly implement all decisions reached at the village assembly meetings especially on the issues that require the villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meetings. They added that hamlets chairpersons are very important in taking action by mobilising villagers to attend the statutory village assembly through hamlets' meetings which are conducted monthly. Furthermore, the respondents affirmed that the hamlets chairpersons are the ones who notify villagers to attend the meetings hence they are at good position to identify the villagers who fail to attend the meetings because of negligence and finally be able to visit them and encourage them to participate in whatever meeting announced to them. The village executive officer of Kiruruma said:

Hamlets chairpersons are ones who are nearly close with villagers, we expected them to be in front line in mobilising villagers who do not attend the meetings but they don't do that, wonder enough even themselves sometimes they do not appear to the meetings. (R15)

When probed to explain why village leaders were not committed to implement the decisions of the statutory village assembly meetings regarding the villagers who do not attend the meetings, the Councillor of Bisibo ward said that:

In order for leaders especially hamlets chairpersons to be inspired in doing the work, they should be given allowance, for doing this, we shall be in a right position of making sure that they implement the village assembly meetings agreements. (R18)

The above findings imply that village leaders are not accountable for their duties because one among the duties that village leaders has to do is to implement all consensus reached at any village assembly meetings.

4.3.2 Presence and Use of Village's by Laws Regarding the Attendance to the Statutory Village Assembly Meetings

Presence of bylaws in villages' authorities is very important in facilitation of various operational activities including participation of people in the statutory village assembly meetings. This reflects village's creativity and capability in performing its duties as discussed in chapter two: villages have the duty to enact and enforce bylaws so as to enhance participation of people in their area of jurisdiction. The information obtained from both villages indicated that every village possesses by law which requires every villager with 18 years and above to attend any convened village assembly meetings.

The bylaw document reviewed in both villages indicated that it was enacted in 1998. Although each village writes its own bylaw, the bylaw found was identical in both villages. The statement of participation obligation is formulated like this:

"It will be compulsory for every resident to attend both statutory and ad hoc village assembly meetings together with hamlet's meetings".

The section which clarifies punishments states that:

For any person who will neglect or fail to obey this law will be committed an offence and will be charged the amount of tshs which does not exceed 5000/= if fails to pay the said amount he/she will be taken to the ward tribunal where the person will be charged the amount which does not exceed 10,000/= or given any development activities.

With regard to the presence of the by law which was reviewed, during interview with the researcher, the majority respondents acknowledged the presence of by law in their villages. Although the majority of respondents recognised the presence of by law but they narrated that the village leaders were not enforcing the bylaw

particularly in charging the fines for the village assembly meetings absentees. For instance, when asked to explain what measures leaders take to make people attend the statutory village assembly meetings, a villager of Bisibo/Busota village explained that:

“This village has bylaw but no one who enforces, that is why people despise to attend the meetings”. (R2)

In Kiruruma village, all respondents accepted the presence of negligence in enforcing the village’s by law which requires the villagers to attend any convened village assembly meetings. In explaining the aforesaid situation during the interview with the researcher, the VCP of Kiruruma village narrated that:

“Fines are present but are not implemented”. (R16)

When probed to clarify why fines are not provided by villagers who do not attend the statutory village assembly meetings, the VCP of Kiruruma village added that:

“Hamlets chairpersons who are main implementers of the bylaw should be given allowances in order to have the will of self driven”. (R16)

Although the majority respondents in both villages lamented that village leaders were not using the in place village’s by law, things were slight different in Bisibo/Busota village where some respondents claimed that the by law was enforced to those who didn’t attend the statutory village assembly meetings. The respondents showed that the by law was enforced in connection with paying fines for villagers who do not attend any convened village assembly meetings. During interview, It was noted through these few respondents that the by law enforcement was not very much achieved due to the lack of cooperation from hamlets chairpersons who normally fail to reach the information to villagers about attending the statutory village assembly meetings. As it has been explained in section 4.2.1 of this chapter, the hamlets chairpersons are the ones who notify villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meetings after receiving the letter from village executive officer which requires them to do so. In this context, it was recognised that when an absentee is caught, normally no proof that testifies that the villager was notified to attend the statutory village assembly meeting and ignores. In the same ground, it was also noted that when hamlet chairperson was demanded to reach at the village office for the

sake of justifying about absenteeism of his or her villager, no one used to appear at the officer. For example in explaining this scenario, the village executive officer of Bisibo/Busota village said that:

“...the by law is enforced, the problem is our hamlets chairpersons who are not cooperative at all because when you call them for the sake of providing evidence about absenteeism of someone, no one comes”. (R8)

In regard to above quotation, when probed to narrate the means used to get an absentee of statutory village assembly meeting to appear before the village office, the village executive officer of Bisibo/Busota village articulated that normally the letters are used. It was further expressed that if an absentee of statutory village assembly meeting fails to appear at the village office through the latter that was sent to him or her, the officer normally used local military to catch the absentee of aforesaid meetings. In an attempt to make the thorough assessment on use of village's by law, the letters written to absentees of statutory village assembly meetings were requested by researcher to be reviewed. In this respect, no any letter was seen to be in place.

The above findings appear to make clear that un enforcement of village's bylaw affects the participation of people in meetings but also the presented data shows that village leaders have problems in the way of doing their duties. This has even been observed particularly in Bisibo/Busota where village executive officer seen to dispossess any document that testifies his argument.

4.3.3 The Presence and Use of Village Assembly Meetings Time Table

Basically, the implementation of public activities such as preparation of statutory village assembly meetings has some logical sequences that must be adhered if the aim of activity is to be accomplished. Normally as indicated in chapter two, the preparations of the conduct of the statutory village assembly meetings start with setting of timetable. During the interview, all respondents who shared their experience concerning their participation in the statutory village assembly meetings affirmed that they had never witnessed the village assembly meetings time table posted on the notice boards. One of interviewed villager of Bisibo/Busota village affirmed that:

“Here where I live is nearby village government office, I have never seen even one day that timetable which you are talking about posted on notice board”.
(R2)

All village leaders agreed with the absence of village assembly meetings timetable which indicates the conduct of statutory village assembly meetings. During the interview with village leaders, it was noted that the villages dispossess the timetable which indicating the conduct of the statutory village assembly meetings quarterly. For instance, the interview with both villages executive officers showed that the timetables for the conduct of the statutory village assembly meetings for the financial year 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 were not prepared. The absence of timetable was witnessed during discussion with the aforesaid leaders when asked to clarify if they normally prepare time tables for conduct the statutory village assembly meetings yearly. In explaining the whole issue concerning the scheduling of time table; VEO of Bisibo/Busota village narrated that:

“For this time, I have forgotten to prepare but previous years I used preparing it”.
(R8)

In Kiruruma village, when the VEO asked to issue the time table that indicates the conduct of statutory village assembly meetings, she had the following say:

“In all years we have been preparing time table but this year we have not prepared because the village chairperson has become very busy with his activities that why until now we have not prepared”. (R15)

In responding to the stated above quotation, the VEO was requested by researcher to issue the copy of the timetable of last year for the purpose of being reviewed, the copy was not seen instead she lamented that probably the acting VEO might have misplaced it.

The above presented findings suggest a necessity of timetable setting for villages’ governments.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

5.0 Introduction

The previous chapter, chapter four, presented the findings of the first, second and third research objectives of this study. The objectives seek to (1) find out the actual trend of the statutory village assembly meetings attendances, (2) examine the reasons for poor attendance at the statutory village assembly meetings and (3) assess the measures used by village leaders to make people attend the statutory village assembly meetings. The presentation was guided by the specific questions which include: what is the actual trend of the statutory village assembly meetings attendances? What are the reasons for the poor attendance at the statutory village assembly meetings? Are the village leaders taking measures to make people attend the statutory village assembly meetings? The main purpose of this chapter is to discuss the results/findings of the research as per the research objectives and questions. The discussion of the findings in this chapter is based on the findings presented in chapter four in connection with reviewed literature in chapter two. The ultimate goal of this chapter is to understand the presented findings in chapter four in more detail.

5.1 The Trend of Statutory Village Assembly Meetings Attendances

In order to make the thorough investigation on the reasons for poor attendance at the statutory village assembly meetings as the second specific objective of this study, reviewing the minutes of the statutory village assembly meetings to observe the actual trend of attendances in the said meetings was the first important activity conducted at the field work even before starting the interviews. This acknowledges the presence of the first objective of this study which stated clearly as to find out the actual trend of the statutory village assembly meetings attendances. In this attempt, the discussion of the trend of statutory village assembly meetings attendance in this section is very important as indicated here below.

All villagers above 18 years old have equal right to participate in any village assembly meetings. Villagers can participate either in ad hoc village assembly meetings or in statutory village assembly meetings. According to directive which governs the conduct of statutory village assembly meetings, village government can conduct the statutory village assembly meeting only if the people attended the meeting are not less than 20% of all people who are required to attend the meeting (Mwakagenda and Moshi, 2015). At this point, attending of many people to statutory village assembly meeting facilitate the legitimisation of the meeting conduct. This can be observed in normal statutory village assembly meetings conducted as presented in chapter four (Table 4.1).

This study has indicated various trends of statutory village assembly meetings attendances. All conducted meetings found are not complying with required meeting quorum and others were completely postponed. This suggests that the attendance of people in the statutory village assembly meetings is very worse than the way it was perceived. This implies that the trend of attendance in the statutory village assembly meetings is deteriorating as the days go on. Therefore, in regard to these circumstances, the results seem to justify that there is lack of initiative to local community particularly village leaders in mitigating the situation of poor attendance at the statutory village assembly meetings. This inactive is contrary with the intention of establishing local government as Kisumbe *et al.* (2014) assert that the aim of establishing local governments in Tanzania is to give people power, and the local governments are supposed to create the nice environment for people's participation in all matters that affect their life.

5.2 The Reasons for Poor Attendance in two Selected Villages

As clearly presented in chapter four, investigation on the reasons for the poor attendance at the statutory village assembly was very necessity activity conducted in this study. In this vein, the study helped to identify the reasons for poor attendance in the statutory village assembly meetings. So to assert, the discussion of the reasons for poor attendance was very paramount in this study as shown here under.

The study identified four reasons that escalate the state of poor attendance at the statutory village assembly meetings. These are ad hoc means of disseminating information, lack of awareness among the villagers, geographical distance and lack of transparency and accountability.

First, the study expected the village government to provide enough time in disseminating the information for participation of people in the statutory village assembly meetings. The underlying idea at this point is that when enough time is provided, the majority villagers will be able to receive information concerning the attending to statutory village assembly meetings. The process of preparation of statutory village assembly meeting as stipulated by directive requires the information for notifying people to attend the statutory village assembly meeting be disseminated within seven days before the conduct of statutory village assembly meeting. Chapter two of this study suggests as one of the factor for proper participation in the statutory village assembly meetings.

In this study the findings show that the information for notifying people to attend the statutory village assembly meetings is provided in ad hoc manner. These findings justify that if enough time is not provided in the whole process of notifying people to attend the meetings, the majority people will not attend the meetings. In this regard, one can say that there is huge relationship between the ad hoc means of disseminating information about attending the meetings and poor attendance of people at the statutory village assembly meetings. These findings are in line with the study done by Sikika (2012) on its investigation about the ability of people at the local level to access the budget information. Sikika observes that local leaders have problems in disseminating information about meetings especially in concerning time, date and place. It also recommends that the effective society participation depends on the degree of information accessibility which is provided by government officers who do not frequently be in line with their statutory requirement. In the similar vein, Wakasangula *et al.* (2015) in their study about leaders' behaviour argue that, a good leader has to be good communicator and genesis of information to its citizens. At this juncture, they consider the clear way of information giving and sharing to community as tremendous aspect in leadership. Although the interviewed majority

respondents and data collected from documents correlated as indicated in chapter four, few respondents particularly village leaders affirmed that the information was not provided in ad hoc manner. It can be argued that may be leaders were not ready to reveal their weakness to researcher during face to face interview due to their irresponsibility of non compliance with the required procedures in the process of preparation of the meetings.

Generally, one can say that the procedure that controls the process of disseminating the information to villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meetings in both villages is disregarded. On the same ground, the means of using hamlets chairpersons to convey the information to villagers about attending the statutory village assembly meetings as indicated in chapter four is very problematic because the hamlet chairperson cannot visit all households found in his or her area of jurisdiction.

Second, the findings indicate that the lack of awareness among the villagers obstruct people to participate in the statutory village assembly meetings. In this regard, it can be argued that people who lack civic skills have negative attitude toward participation than those with civic skills. This implies that villagers with awareness on importance of attending the statutory village assembly meetings found to participate more than those who do not have. This is due to the fact that a person with education and awareness is in a right position of participating effectively in various matters that affect his or her life. These findings match well with the civic voluntarism model perspective asserted in literature, reviewed in chapter two, section 2.1.2.

The civic voluntarism model asserts that citizens to be active in politics, they demand a particular level of motivation that is having capacity to participate. The model underscores that people who are capable of participation are always being active if they are part of recruitment networks where demands for participation are required. In the similar ground, Nanai (1993) in Wakasangula *et al.* (2015) explains that education escalates community participation in any developmental activities. She also emphasised education as basic attribute for participation of citizens in any community works. In addendum, Ali (2013) in his findings focusing on the study of

determinants of community participation in the implementation of development projects in Garissa sewerage project stresses that education level escalates the participation of the society in any community responsibility at the great extent. In his continuation of discussing the necessity of education to political community, he asserts that local community has to be capacitated through education so that they can participate actively to all matters affects them. In a similar perspective, he insisted that, normally people who lack awareness on matters that affect their lives tend to take negligence even to important incidences.

On the other hand, some of respondents who took part in this theme during interview indicate that the lack of awareness among the villagers do not obstruct many villagers to attend the meetings instead they assert the excessive drinking of alcohol among the villagers as the main problem that impede people to attend the meetings. These findings might be due to the social position possessed by some of respondents in the villages. As indicated in chapter four, this view was explained by village leaders during the interview, perhaps their intention was to hide their irresponsibility particularly in providing the education to villagers on the importance of attending the statutory village assembly meetings. This is due the fact that during the interview, the majority respondents of this study complained about leaders' irresponsibility in providing education to villagers concerning the advantages of attending the villages' meetings. The irresponsibility of leaders in performing their duties at this context is contrary with the study done by Okinyi *et al.* (2015) who argue that, leaders have the duty of providing education to followers on matters related to political, social and economic issues so as to enhance their development.

On the bases of discussed above findings, one may conclude that the level of awareness among the villagers is very low hence unable to diversify to their issues as well as unable to make clear analysis on incidence that touches their life at all.

Third, the findings show that villagers who live far from the place where meetings are conducted have great possibility of not attending to statutory village assembly meetings compared to those who live in hamlets which are nearby meetings place. This implies that as the distance increases from the place where meetings are

conducted the more villagers who live to that increased distance area fail to attend the meetings. In this context, it can be justified that geographical distance has relationship with poor attendance of villagers at the statutory village assembly meetings. These findings are consistent with the study done by Falch *et al.* (2011) in their investigation about geographical constraints and education attainment. Their study indicates that geographical location has negative impact on education participation and outcomes. They underscore that higher distance between an area of residence and school constraints student in term of travel time which eventually have negative impact on education performance of the student. Similarly, Brabant (2015) in his study on public participation in the process of policy making in Papua New Guinea explains that distance is the challenge which faces people who do not have money for transport to go and participate in public hearing.

While this study found the geographical distance impede villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meetings, some respondents under this perspective show negligence as a major problem for participation hindrance as presented in chapter four. Perhaps the respondents of this category were guided by social status and geographical location. A part from being leaders, others who took part in this view were living nearby the place where village's meetings are conducted.

In general, the majority respondents affirmed that the geographical distance is the reason for poor attendance at the statutory village assembly meetings. In this respect, the author concludes that lack of capacity to rectify the challenge caused by geographical distance is main problem for the most of village leaders so to speak. This also reflects inadequacy of technique and tactic among the village leaders.

Last, the transparency and accountability are principle of good governance which helps to facilitate peoples' participation and enhance knowledge and ability to improve the capacity to bargain as equals with various authorities to promote the required objectives and stretching responsiveness to quarrels within the political community. The overall assumption is that if rules and procedures for implementation of public activities are observed as well as if leaders execute their duties as required, the participation of people will be achieved. In another word it

implies that if leaders are not transparent and accountable, elimination of proper participation of people in attending the statutory village assembly meetings will be experienced. This is recommended through reviewed literature in chapter two. The findings of this study indicate that the villages leaders are not transparent and accountable for their things that they are suppose to implement. This shows that in both villages there is great weakness in information sharing and in execution of leaders' activities however during the interview there was a variation of view among the participants on the issue of accountability. While the majority respondents claimed that leaders of the villages are not accountable, some leaders mentioned that leaders are accountable. A possible explanation of this variation of views might be influenced by formal position possessed by leaders. This might imply the culture of most leaders who are not ready to show their weakness to whatever mistake they commit that is why they failed to expose the truthiness of incidence to researcher during interview.

Therefore, the argument drawn from the major findings creates an assertion that if leaders are not transparent and accountable for the things that they suppose to implement, the myth of the ruled people (villagers) to their rulers (village leaders) disappear and this finally makes the ruled people (villagers) ignores whatever initiated or introduced by ruler (village leaders). These findings concur with the exit, voice and loyalty model articulated in chapter two, section 2.1.2. The model asserts that if the citizens are dissatisfied with the unaccountability of their leaders normally do exit, the exit of the citizens under this perspective entails unwillingness of people to participate together with neglecting laws, rules and regulations found in their area of jurisdiction. In similar perspective, Wakasangula *et al.* (2015) in their study about leadership on good governance, played great role especially in explaining the way leaders should adhere to principle of good governance. In explaining the concept of good governance, they emphasised leaders to be responsible, accountable to public actions, adhering to effectiveness and efficiency which comply with the goals established as well as comply with democratic mechanisms for legalising those actions. They also underscore that the preparation and implementation of public things are to be done in manner that majority citizens or stakeholder prefer.

The above discussion implies that if the leaders do not perform their duties as required, automatically the followers will not believe in them as well as not participate in whatever things introduced to them but if the leaders are transparent and accountable for their duties, followers will participate in whatever introduced at the local level.

5.3 Measures Taken to Increase People's Attendance to Statutory Village

Assembly Meetings

In order to make sure that the village's government continues to supervise well the act of convening the statutory village assembly meetings together with making sure that the villagers attend well the statutory village assembly meetings, the village leaders must fulfill the required duties. These duties are acknowledged by LGRP which among other things designed to provide the local government authorities with autonomy of becoming free in making policy and other operational decisions which are consistent with government policies without fearing the influence from central government (Shivji and Peter, 2003). Based on this requirement, the researcher found the necessity of assessing the measures used by village leaders to make people attend the statutory village assembly meetings. Therefore, in this study, the measures used by village leaders to make villagers attend the statutory village assembly meetings were assessed by means of looking the criteria such as leaders' commitment to implement the decisions of the statutory village assembly meetings, presence and use of village by laws which demanding the villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meetings, and presence and use of village assembly meetings time table. As explained in chapter four, the researcher under this objective used both guiding criteria and open questions during data collection. The intention was to enable the researcher to be in the position of getting new things from the respondents.

The ideas of these criteria were drawn from Coon (2012) in his argument as mechanisms in facilitating public attendance at the meetings as indicated in chapter two (section 2.8). In this attempt the section discusses the findings as follows:

The study expected the village leaders to be responsible and become committed by taking decision to deal with people who do not attend the meetings as an agreement

reached at the statutory village assembly meetings. This is because at the village level, the village assembly is the supreme body for decision making at the village governance. This is asserted in chapter two as the role of village government in facilitating the participation of people in the statutory village assembly meetings.

In this study the results show that leaders' commitment and responsiveness in implementing villagers' decision is very problematic in both villages. This implies that leaders' irresponsibility has negative impact to people's participation. It can also be argued that the influence of villagers to make leaders responsible for their duties in rural areas is very minimal or absent at all. This is contrary with the bottom-top approach discussed in chapter two which believes participation as the process in which the society is directly engaged in shaping all issues in political community (Samah and Aref, 2011). This theory is inconsistent with the findings of this study due to the fact that in whatever decision provided by villagers to solve the problem of poor attendance, the leaders were not implementing. This situation might be escalated with the notion of some leaders who still believe that the society is recipient of wisdom and directives from the people who are in power and not otherwise. The aforesaid notion is justified by Oakley and Marsden (1984) who assert that the people are required to contribute to national development and not expected to rectify or criticise people in power.

Therefore, commitment and responsiveness of leaders would assist and support the development of village government particularly in facilitating the proper participation of people at the statutory village assembly meetings. This proper participation of people to aforesaid meetings could add the diversified thoughts on various villages' matters discussed. But this cannot succeed if village leaders who are main implementers of government activities at the rural areas ignore the decisions of villagers.

The study expected village government to enact and enforce bylaw which requires people to attend the statutory village assembly meetings. The existing assumption here is that if village government enact and enforce bylaw automatically people will be scared and hence forced to participate in the meetings. This is discussed in chapter two as the role of village government in facilitating the participation of people in the statutory village assembly meetings.

The findings in this study indicate that despite the presence of bylaw in the villages, villagers' leaders do not use them to make people attend the statutory village assembly meetings. This implies that in both villages there are strong weaknesses in enforcing the in place by law. In this situation, it can be justified that legal obligation and implementation of obligated duty are two things that differ due to the fact that people may have the duty of establishing bylaw and finally establish it but may not implement their established by law. Both villages enacted bylaw but the enacted by law was not enforced by village leaders. Therefore, it can be concluded that the bylaw enforcement is very important for proper participation of people in the statutory village assembly meetings.

It was expected by this study that public activities like preparation of the statutory village assembly meetings start with setting of timetable. And this timetable should be posted on the notice board so that people can view the date of any meetings expected to be conducted quarterly. With regard to the notion that the date of each meeting will be announced publically by other means, the attempt of posting timetable on notice board provides preliminary information to the villagers about the conduct of statutory village assembly meetings. This is one of the roles of village government in facilitating the participation of people in the statutory village assembly meetings discussed in chapter two.

In this study the results indicate that the villages dispossess the timetable which indicating the conduct of the statutory village assembly meetings quarterly. This implies that a village which pays attention on preparation of the village assembly meetings timetable can be at a good position of deviating from the state of poor attendance at the statutory village assembly meetings than the village which doesn't

prepare village time table. This justifies that, the time table has an influence on participation of people in the statutory village assembly meetings. This assertion is in line with the study of Mayaya (1981) who advocates that, setting of time table in the implementation of public activities is one among the preconditions for successful implementation. This argument was asserted in his study about policy implementation in public arena.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.0 Introduction

This chapter is an attempt to summarise the findings of the study and gives the conclusions and recommendations as well as the policy implication on people's participation at the statutory village assembly meetings. Finally, the chapter pays close attention to limitations of the study, and suggestions for the future study.

6.1 Summary of the Findings

This study aimed to investigate people's participation in village assembly at Biharamulo District Council. The set of this idea was drawn from researcher's experience and from various scholarly works concerning the participation of people at the grass roots. The researcher experience in the area of the study indicated that the participation of people in the statutory village assembly meetings was poor. In the same vein, the literatures obtained by researcher investigated on participation of people at the local level did not give information to why most of people in rural areas are not attending the statutory village assembly meetings. This led the researcher to build the rational decision of establishing the research questions which included:

What is the actual trend of the statutory village assembly meetings attendances?
What are the reasons for the poor attendance at the statutory village assembly meetings? Are the village leaders taking measures to make people attend the statutory village assembly meetings?

The research design as indicated in the methodology chapter of this study was employed to answer the research questions. In the similar chapter, the researcher used qualitative research approach to gain respondents' experiences from the study area. The study used the sample of 18 people who were selected from two villages. The interview guide and documentary review were used as data collection tools. The narrative approach was used to analyse the data in this study.

The findings obtained from the study indicated that the state of poor attendances at the statutory village assembly meetings is mainly caused by village leaders

themselves especially in failing to implement even some issues which are within their capacity however the findings testified in some areas that the awareness on the importance of attending the statutory village assembly meetings to most villagers was very minimal or absent. As it was realised from this study that together with the presence of complaints against irresponsibility of village leaders even those few villagers who normally attend the statutory village assembly meetings have failed to take serious measures like giving the elected leaders particular the Village Chairperson (VCP) the vote of no confidence or in other way to conduct the peaceful demonstration which indicates their concern on the irresponsibility of their leaders. At this point, it can be argued that provision of civic education to villagers is a primary weapon for escalating effective participation people to statutory village assembly meetings.

6.2 Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to investigate people's participation in village assembly. The study has indicated different factors that obstruct people to participate at the statutory village assembly meetings. The generally conclusion is that accountability and civic awareness are very necessity factors in escalating participation of people in village assembly meetings. Although the civic education among the villagers is highly needed, the leaders' accountability appears to be very important in escalating people's participation in village assembly.

More specifically, one among the objectives of this study was to find out the actual trend of statutory village assembly meetings attendances. The findings indicated that the state of poor attendance at the mentioned meetings was much worse as days go on. Moreover, it was noted that even those statutory village assembly meetings conducted, the meetings quorum as described by directive was disregarded. In this regard, the new techniques are needed to moderate the situation found.

The study indicated four reasons for poor attendances at the statutory village assembly meetings including ad hoc means of disseminating information. This is because of the fact that good means of disseminating information especially the means which seem to reach the information to many villagers within the short time

can help many villagers to listen the advertisement and eventually attend the meeting. Another reason is lack of awareness among the villagers; this is due the fact that educated villagers cannot neglect the incidence which seems to be among the villagers' rights to be exercised. The geographical distance has negative impact to villagers in attending the statutory village assembly meetings. It was indicated that villagers who live far from the place where meetings are conducted are of highly possibility of neglecting attending the meeting compared to those who live nearby the meetings place. For this situation, efforts are needed to make sure that those who live far from the meetings place are empowered. The lack of transparency and accountability is also the reason for poor attendances at the statutory village assembly meetings. This is because if leaders are not transparent and accountable for things that they suppose to do, the myth of people against their leaders deteriorate as the result the willingness of people to cooperate with their leaders disappear. Therefore transparency and accountability among the village leaders are very important for people to attend the meetings.

The study also assessed the measures used by village leaders to make people attend the statutory village assembly meetings. The indicators used to assess the measures were leaders' commitment to implement the decisions of the statutory village assembly meetings, the presence and use of village's by law which demanding villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meetings and the presence and use of village assembly meetings time table. The study realised that instead of village leaders to comply with the consensus agreed at the meetings as decision to deal with people who do not attend the meetings; village leaders despised the consensus and continuing doing business as usual. This removes the morale of villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meetings. The disuse of villages' by laws and lack of village meetings timetable are decelerating the state of attendances at the statutory village assembly meetings. Therefore an attempt on rectifying the above situation is extremely needed.

6.3 Policy Implication

Despite the presence of great success engineered by villages' governments in rectifying various social economic problems in rural areas, the performance of most

of villages in Tanzania is not very much interesting. This can be caused by little attention done by central government in capacitating villages in the areas of governance. That is why at the village level most leaders have either experienced difficulties or bring negligence in doing away some challenges which face villages particularly in enhancing peoples' participation in the village assembly. This situation has created participation problem at the grass roots. If this situation will remain unattended, the principle of participation will remain meaningless. Thus, the villages' governments should be empowered in the following areas:

- Village leaders particularly VCP and hamlets chairpersons should be accommodated officially by stated law of the land to be in the current system of local government by means of giving them monthly allowance like that of councillors. This is due to the fact that these leaders are very important in enhancing participation of people at the village level.
- The law should not only state the required quorum of village council meeting but should also state clearly the required quorum of village assembly meeting. This is due to the fact that the local government (District Authorities) Act of 1982 does not state the required quorum of statutory village assembly meetings. The quorum is stated by directive only.

The above mentioned areas can only be rectified if the policy makers will take serious measures in improving the issue of participation at the grass roots. One of the important goals of D by D policy was to facilitate participatory democracy at the local level. Since the adoption of the reform programme in 1998, the participation of people in village assembly has remained problematic. This is because the ideal of reform was mainly focused at the district level and not other lower tier system of local governments. This is acknowledged by Shivji (2002) who asserts that D by D policy paid much attention at the district level and not at the village level. The village level continued to be perceived as a site for development and not a site of governance (*ibid*).

6.4 Recommendations

6.4.1 Local Government Authorities (at the Ward and District Council level)

Both levels that are the level of ward and level of district council should make intensive follow up particularly in making sure that in every quarter of a year they receive a minute of statutory village assembly meetings. This will help to build a sense of accountability among the village leaders especially on making sure that meetings are conducted. At this juncture, village leaders will comply with those requirements which aim to do away the state of poor attendances at the aforesaid meetings.

District council should prepare the sustainable planning of making sure that the villagers are provided awareness on the importance of attending the statutory village assembly meetings. This will help the villagers to know their responsibility but also they will be in the position of having capacity of de versify any incidence relating village governance. A part from provision of awareness, the District council should also make sure that the hamlets chairpersons who are mainly implementers of various village's activities at the hamlet level are paid at least monthly allowance. And this should be taken seriously and not for granted.

6.4.2 Village Leaders

Village leaders should make sure that the procedures of calling the statutory village assembly meetings are followed. For example, Leaders were supposed to prepare the village assembly meetings timetable which indicates the conduct of meetings quarterly in a year and posting it on notice board together with making sure that seven days are provided for disseminating the information about attending the statutory village assembly meetings. Therefore, if these will be adhered, the challenges relating poor attendances of villagers to aforesaid meetings will be minimized if not eradicated totally.

Village leaders should also adapt new style in whole process of reaching information about attending the meeting to villagers. It is recommended that the trumpet should be used when notifying villagers to attend the meetings and the trumpet should be

used by one person who will visit the whole village especially during evening time. This will help:

- (i) To reduce the burden that seems to face the hamlets chairpersons in visiting many households during notification.
- (ii) To facilitate the conveyance of information to many villagers and within short period of time.
- (iii) Many villagers to get information because evening time is the right time in rural areas where many villagers are at home after coming back from their daily activities.

Accountability among the village leaders is highly recommended in this study. Village leaders are underscored to implement all consensuses reached by villagers at the statutory village assembly meetings particularly the consensuses that relating the solutions against absentees of the aforesaid meetings. This is because the village assembly is highest decision making body in the village governance in accordance to local government (District Authorities) Act No 7 of 1982. In the similar ground, the village leaders are supposed to enforce by law which demand the villagers to attend the statutory village assembly meetings. This is because if by law is strictly enforced automatically the absentees will be scared and hence attend the meetings as required.

In order to solve the problem of geographical distance that seems to obstruct villagers who live far from the meetings place to attend the statutory village assembly meetings, it is recommended that village leaders should prepare the programme of paying allowance to those who attend the said meetings or initiating the process of changing the meeting place for every meeting convened or prepare the programme of transporting villagers who live far from the meetings place. By doing either of the mentioned, the state poor attendance will be minimized or solved at all.

6.4.3 Villagers

Villagers are advised to attend the statutory village assembly meetings which are called by their leaders. This is because is only through village assembly where

villagers can decide anything relating the rectification of behaviour of unscrupulous village leaders or can provide opinions for their development.

6.5 Limitation of the Study

The findings of this study are limited only in the study area due to the nature of this study. This study is qualitative therefore the findings of this study may differ if the same study is conducted in other study area. The difference of findings may be caused by difference in knowledge, culture, and level of development among the people. But this study can be used as the basis of other study wished to be conducted as well as for academic reference.

6.6 Suggestions for Future Research

The situation witnessed from the participants of this study, the analysis of the data, and researcher reflections to this study have all triggered suggestions for future study.

It is suggested that the same studies should be done in other districts councils this is due to the fact that poor attendance of people in the statutory village assembly meetings removes the participatory democracy in rural areas as one among the prime ideas advocated in LGRP. This because the poor attendance deterrent the performance of afore said meetings due to the fact that the absentees of the meetings are very important in adding some diversified thinking on matters discussed hence escalating societal development.

1. The findings obtained from other areas should be compared so as to find the major reasons which escalate poor attendance of people in statutory village assembly meetings. The knowledge obtained from those studies will help to facilitate the effective participation of people particularly in attending the statutory village assembly meetings.
2. Furthermore, the research should also assess the factors that obstruct village leaders' responsiveness to local preferences relating alternatives against poor attendance to statutory village assembly meetings.

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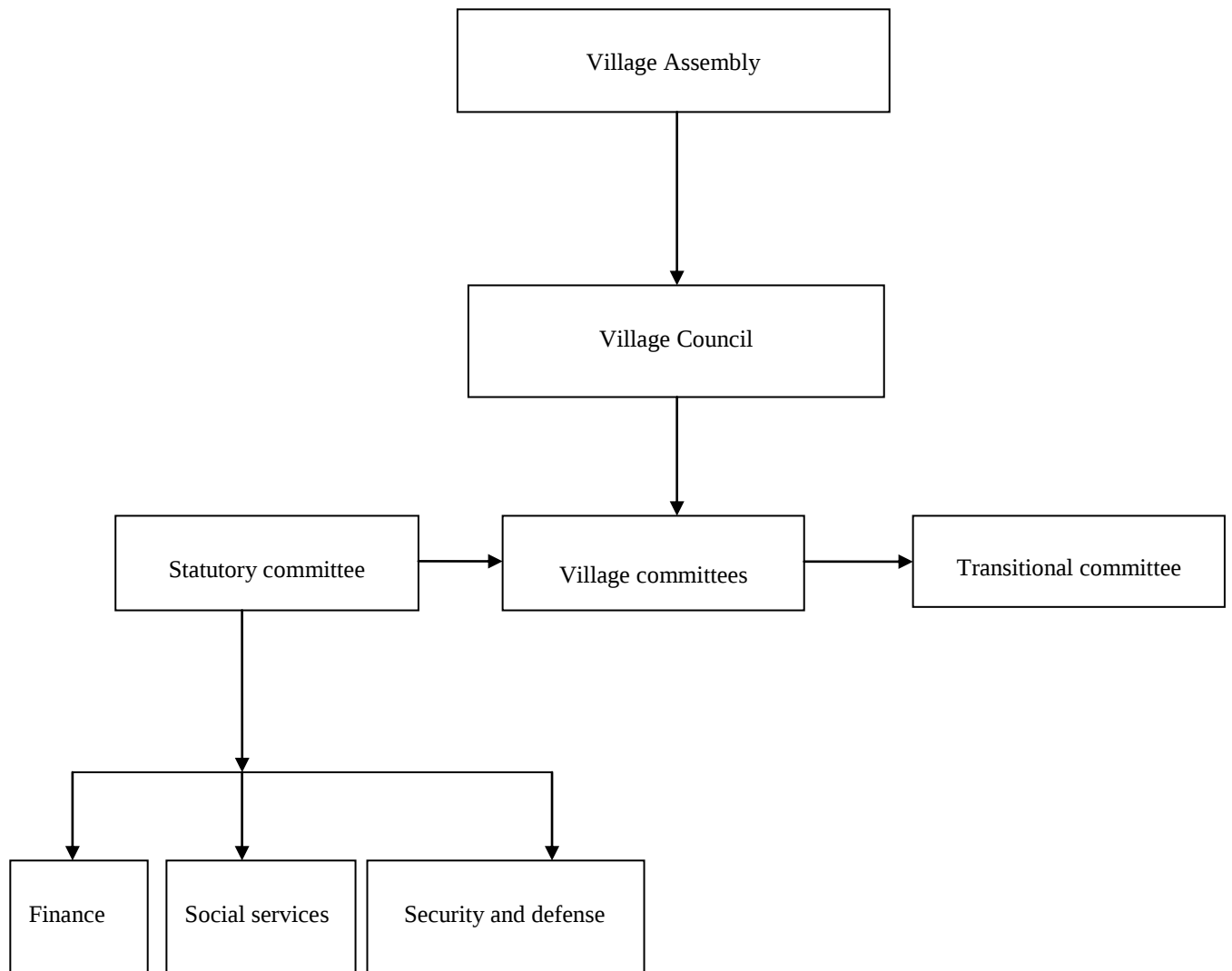
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APPENDICES

APENDIX I (a)

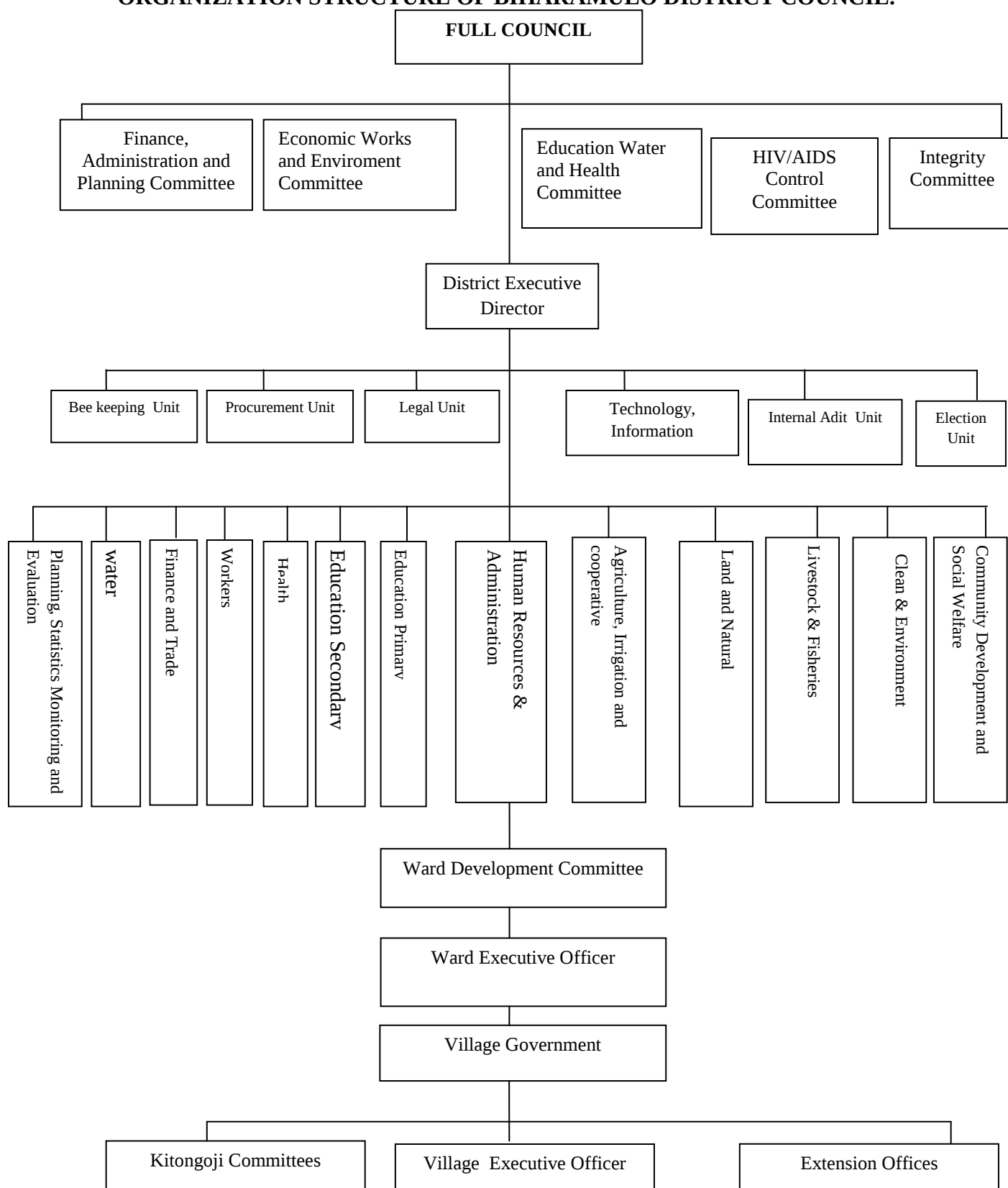
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF VILLAGE GOVERNMENT.



Source: (PMO – RALG, 2013)

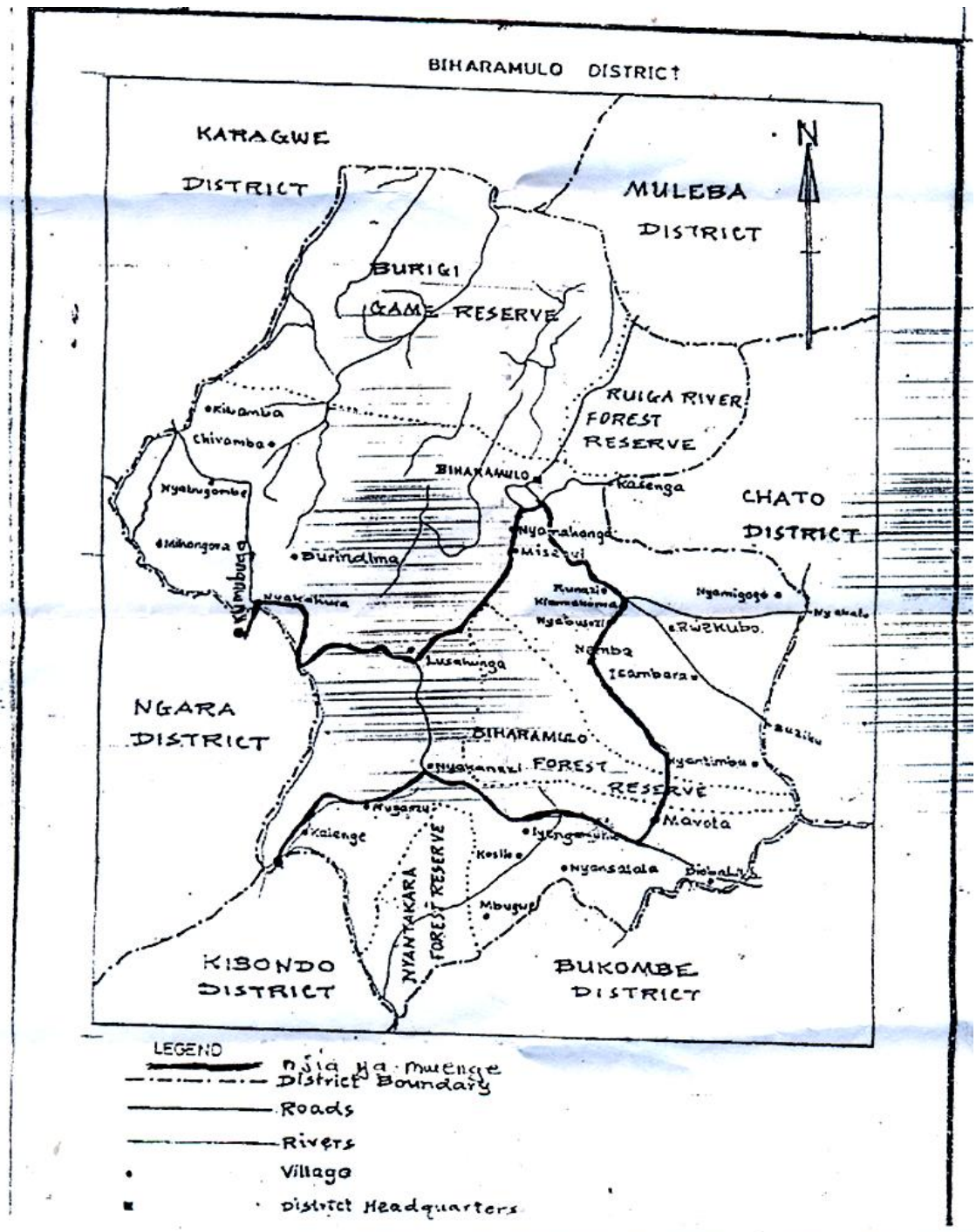
APPENDIX I (b)

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE OF BIHARAMULO DISTRICT COUNCIL.



APPENDIX I (C)

BIHARAMULO DISTRICT COUNCIL MAP



Source: BIHARAMULO DISTRICT COUNCIL

APPENDIX II

Mwongozo wa Mahojiano kwa Wanakijiji

1. Unawezaje kuelezea ufanyikaji wa mikutano katika kijiji chako? Je hiyo ni mikutano gani? Unadhani mikutano inafanyika kama inavyotakiwa? Kwa nini? Vipi ushiriki wako katika mikutano hiyo?
2. Je unaelezeaje kuhusu utoaji wa taarifa ya ufanyikaji wa mikutano mikuu ya kisheria katika kijiji chako? Je ni njia gani inayotumika kutolea taarifa ya ufanyikaji wa mikutano hiyo? Je njia inayotumika kutolea taarifa inatosha kukufanya wewe uhudhurie mikutano ipasavyo? Kwa nini? Kwa maoni yako ipi njia nzuri zaidi ya utoleaji wa taarifa hiyo?
3. Unaelezeaje kuhusu mda wa ufanyikaji wa mikutano mikuu ya kisheria ya kijiji? Siku zipi na mida ipi mikutano hiyo hufanyika? Je siku na mda unaopangwa ni sahihi kwa mikutano hiyo kufanyika? Kwa nini? Unadhani ipi siku nzuri na mda mzuri unaofaa kufanyika kwa mikutano hiyo?
4. Je hali ya mahudhurio katika mikutano mikuu ya kisheria ya kijiji ikoje? Kivipi? Je wewe mara ya mwisho umehudhuria lini? Je ni sababu zipi zinazopelekea wanakijiji wengi wasihuhudhurie mikutano mikuu ya kisheria ya kijiji? Mbona vitongoji vya Kabanda kwa Bisibo/Busota, Katunguru, Nyabyondo na Nyambugu kwa Kiruruma mahudhurio ya watu ni hafifu sana?
5. Je unaelezeaje hatua ambazo viongozi wa kijiji wamekuwa wakichukua ili kukabiliana na mahudhurio hafifu kwenye mikutano mikuu ya kisheria ya kijiji? Kwani hatua zilizopo huwa ni zipi? Je zinafaa lakini? Kivipi? Vipi hatua zinachukuliwa kama vile utekelezaji wa maazimio ya mkutano dhidi ya watu wasiohudhuria? Vipi uwepo na matumizi ya sheria ndogo? Vipi uwepo na matumizi ya ratiba ya mikutano? Je nini kingine kifanyike ili wanakijiji wengi washiriki ipasavyo katika kuhudhuria mikutano mikuu ya kisheria ya kijiji?

AKSANTE KWA USHIRIKIANO

APPENDIX III

Mwongozo wa Mahojiano kwa Wajumbe wa Serikali ya Kijiji na Wenyeviti wa Vitongoji

1. Unawezaje kuelezea ufanyikaji wa mikutano katika kijiji chako? Je hiyo ni mikutano gani? Unadhani mikutano inafanyika kama inavyotakiwa? Kwa nini? Vipi ushiriki wako katika mikutano hiyo?
2. Je unaelezeaje kuhusu utoaji wa taarifa ya ufanyikaji wa mikutano mikuu ya kisheria katika kijiji chako? Je njia gani inayotumika kutolea taarifa ya ufanyikaji wa mikutano hiyo? Je njia inayotumika kutolea taarifa inatosha kuwafanya wanakijiji wahudhurie mikutano ipasavyo? Kwa nini? Kwa maoni yako ipi njia nzuri zaidi ya utoleaji wa taarifa hiyo?
3. Unaelezeaje kuhusu mda wa ufanyikaji wa mikutano mikuu ya kisheria ya kijiji? Siku zipi na mida ipi mikutano hiyo hufanyika? Je siku na mda unaopangwa ni sahihi kwa mikutano hiyo kufanyika? Kwa nini? Unadhani ipi siku nzuri na mda mzuri unaofaa kufanyika kwa mikutano hiyo?
4. Je unaelezeaje kuhusu hali ya mahudhurio ya wanakijiji katika mikutano mikuu ya kisheria ya kijiji? Je watu wanahudhuria kama mwongozo unavyotaka? Mwongozo unasemaje kuhusu akidi stahiki? Je ni sababu zipi zinazopelekea kuwa na mahudhurio hafifu kwenye mikutano mikuu ya kisheria ya kijiji? Mbona vitongoji vya Kabanda kwa Bisibo/Busota, Katunguru, Nyabyondo na Nyambugu kwa Kiruruma mahudhurio ya watu ni hafifu sana?
5. Je unaelezeaje hatua ambazo zimekuwa zikichukuliwa ili kukabiliana na mahudhurio hafifu kwenye mikutano mikuu ya kisheria ya kijiji? Kwani hatua zilizopo huwa ni zipi? Je zinafaa lakini? Kivipi? Vipi hatua zinachukuliwa kama vile utekelezaji wa maazimio ya mkutano dhidi ya watu wasiohudhuria? Vipi uwepo na matumizi ya sheria ndogo? Vipi uwepo na matumizi ya ratiba ya mikutano? Je nini kingine kifanyike ili wanakijiji wengi washiriki ipasavyo katika kuhudhuria mikutano mikuu ya kisheria ya kijiji?

AKSANTE KWA USHIRIKIANO

APPENDIX IV

Mwongozo wa Mahojiano kwa Wenyevidi wa Vijiji na Maafisa Watendaji wa Vijiji (VEOs)

1. Unawezaje kuelezea ufanyikaji wa mikutano katika kijiji chako? Je hiyo ni mikutano gani? Unadhani mikutano inafanyika kama inavyotakiwa? Kwa nini? Vipi ushiriki wako katika mikutano hiyo?
2. Je unaelezeaje kuhusu utoaji wa taarifa ya ufanyikaji wa mikutano mkuu ya kisheria katika kijiji chako? Je ni njia gani inayotumika kutolea taarifa ya ufanyikaji wa mikutano hiyo? Je njia inayotumika kutolea taarifa inatosha kuwafanya wanakijiji wahudhurie mikutano ipasavyo? Eleza kivipi? Kwa maoni yako ipi njia nzuri zaidi ya utoleaji wa taarifa hiyo?
3. Unaelezeaje kuhusu mda wa ufanyikaji wa mikutano mkuu ya kisheria ya kijiji? Siku zipi na mida ipi mikutano hiyo hufanyika? Je siku na mda unaopangwa ni sahihi kwa mikutano hiyo kufanyika? Kwa nini? Unadhani ipi siku nzuri na mda mzuri unaofaa kufanyika kwa mikutano hiyo?
4. Katika kuwajulisha wanakijiji wahudhurie mkutano mkuu wa kisheria wa kijiji mda unaotolewa unatosha? Mda gani unatolewa? Je tarehe, saa na sehemu ya kufanyia mkutano vinaainishwa?
5. Je unaelezeaje kuhusu hali ya mahudhurio ya wanakijiji kwenye mikutano mkuu ya kisheria ya kijiji? Je watu wanahudhuria kama mwongozo unavyotaka? Mwongozo unasemaje kuhusu akidi stahiki? Je ni sababu zipi zinazopelekea kuwa na mahudhurio hafifu kwenye mikutano mkuu ya kisheria ya kijiji? Mbona vitongoji vya Kabanda kwa Bisibo/Busota, Katunguru, Nyabyondo na Nyambugu kwa Kiruruma mahudhurio ya watu ni hafifu sana?

- 6 Je unaelezeaje hatua ambazo zimekuwa zikichukuliwa ili kukabiliana na mahudhurio hafifu kwenye mikutano mikuu ya kisheria ya kijiji? Kwani hatua zilizopo huwa ni zipi? Je zinafaa lakini? Kivipi? Vipi hatua zinachukuliwa kama vile utekelezaji wa maazimio ya mkutano dhidi ya watu wasiohudhuria? Vipi uwepo na matumizi ya sheria ndogo? Vipi uwepo na matumizi ya ratiba ya mikutano? Je nini kingine kifanyike ili wanakijiji wengi washiriki ipasavyo katika kuhudhuria mikutano mikuu ya kisheria ya kijiji?

AKSANTE KWA USHIRIKIANO

APPENDIX V

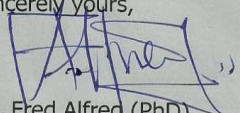
Mwongozo wa Mahojiano kwa Afisa Mtendaji wa Kata (WEO) na Mh. Diwani

1. Unawezaje kuelezea ufanyikaji wa mikutano katika kata yako? Je hiyo ni mikutano gani? Unadhani mikutano inafanyika kama inavyotakiwa? Kwa nini? Vipi ushiriki wako katika mikutano hiyo?
2. Je unaelezeaje kuhusu hali ya mahudhurio ya wanakijiji katika mikutano mikuu ya kisheria ya kijiji? Je wanakijiji wanahudhuria mikutano kama inavyotakiwa? Kwa nini? Je ni sababu zipi zinazopelekea mahudhurio hafifu kwenye mikutano mikuu ya kisheria ya kijiji? Mbona vitongoji vya Kabanda kwa Bisibo/Busota, Katunguru, Nyabyondo na Nyambugu kwa Kiruruma mahudhurio ya watu ni hafifu sana?
3. Je unaelezeaje hatua ambazo viongozi wa kijiji wamekuwa wakichukua ili kukabiliana na mahudhurio hafifu kwenye mikutano mikuu ya kisheria ya kijiji? Kwani hatua zilizopo huwa ni zipi? Je zinafaa lakini? Kivipi? Vipi hatua zinachukuliwa kama vile utekelezaji wa maazimio ya mkutano dhidi ya watu wasiohudhuria? Vipi uwepo na matumizi ya sheria ndogo? Vipi uwepo na matumizi ya ratiba ya mikutano? Je nini kingine kifanyike ili wanakijiji wengi washiriki ipasavyo katika kuhudhuria mikutano mikuu ya kisheria ya kijiji?

AKSANTE KWA USHIRIKIANO

APPENDIX VI: Clearance Letters

VI (a)

 MZUMBE UNIVERSITY	
OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR	
Tel: +255 (0) 23 293120/1/2 Fax: +255 (0) 23 2604382 Cell: +255 (0) 789 722 733 E-mail: drps@mzumbe.ac.tz Website: www.mzumbe.ac.tz and www.drps.mzumbe.ac.tz	P.O.BOX 63 MZUMBE MOROGORO, TANZANIA
Ref. No.: MU/DPGS/INT/38/VOL. II/40	Date: 20 th December, 2016
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN	
RE: INTRODUCTION OF MR. EDOSI NDIKWIKI	
The bearer of this letter is a postgraduate student at our university (Mzumbe University) pursuing Masters of Public Administration (MPA). As a part of requirements for completion of his studies, he is collecting information on <i>"An Investigation on People's participation in Village Assembly: A Case of Biharamulo District Council in Kagera Region Tanzania"</i>. This letter serves to achieve three purposes. Firstly, to introduce him to you, secondly, to request you to grant him permission to undertake the mentioned research at your Institute, and thirdly to request you to facilitate any form of assistance he might need in order to successfully pursue this noble exercise at your organization/institute. We can assure you that this activity is entirely for academic and will never be used for any other purposes. We trust that you will accord our student with necessary assistance. Sincerely yours,  Dr. Fred Alfred (PhD) For: VICE CHANCELLOR	

VI (b)

HALMASHAURI YA WILAYA YA BIHARAMULO

Simu Na.: 028 2225003
Fax Na.: 028 2225216
E-mail: ded.biharamulo@kagera.go.tz



Ofisi ya Mkurugenzi Mtendaji (W)
S.L.P. 70
BIHARAMULO

Kumb. Na: BDC/25/10/138

04.01.2017

Mtendaji wa kijiji cha:-

- Bisibo
- Kururuma

**YAH: KUMTAMBULISHA NDG. EDOS E. NDIKWIKI KUTOKA CHUO KIKUU CHA
MZUMBE MOROGORO**

Tafadhali husika na somo tajwa hapo juu.

Mtajwa hapo juu ni mwanafunzi anayefanya utafiti kuhusu ushiriki wa wananchi katika vijiji vya Bisibo na Kiruruma vilivyopo katika kata ya Bisibo kuanzia mwezi Januari 2017 hadi pale atakapokamilisha utafiti huo.

Nimewaandikia barua hii ili apewe ushirikiano katika maeneo yenu

A.S. Stanslaus
Kny: Mkurugenzi Mtendaji (W)
BIHARAMULO

MNY: MKURUGENZI MTENDAJI (W)
BIHARAMULO

NAKALA:- Ndg. Edos E. Ndikwiki,

-"- Mkuu wa chuo,
Chuo kikuu cha Mzumbe,
MOROGORO