

An Investigation in to the Effectiveness of Participatory Budgeting in Achieving Community Development Goals in Port Loko District Council

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Abstract

The Sierra Leone local council is charged with the responsibilities to govern and look over the welfare of its citizens in its localities but has been faced with a lot of challenges ranging from limited finance, insufficient staff capacity, insufficient material resources, mobility, and little compliance from bigger MDAs in terms of control. Hence has raised effectiveness issues in council operations. With the implementation of participatory budgeting in Port, Loko District Council calls for a study with the objective to investigate the effectiveness and linearity of participatory budgeting in the achievement of community development goals in the Port Loko District Council. Purposive sampling was done and administered a survey questionnaire to 420 respondents in the Port Loko District. Simple linear regression and correlational tests were used to interpret and analyze the primary data using SPSS 16.0 software package. The data analyses found out that there was a mean agreement rate of 1.95, which indicated that the respondents agreed that participatory budgeting was effective. The hypothesis test, if the effectiveness of participatory budgeting in Port Loko District Council has an impact on the achievement of community development goals, the major finding in this research is that effectiveness of participatory budgeting significantly affects the achievement of community development goals in the council district and concludes that participatory budgeting implemented in the Port Loko District Council in relation to the achievement of community development goals is effective, has a positive relationship and a strong correlation between them.

Keywords: *Community development, Effectiveness, Local council, Port Loko District Council, Participatory budgeting.*

Introduction

Sierra Leone Local council is a sub-national Government created to govern its locality with a lot of functions to deliver to its subjects. According to the Local Government [1] in Section 20, it is charged with the responsibility as the highest political authority in the locality which has legislative and executive powers to be exercised in accordance with the Act or any other enactment, and shall be responsible, generally for promoting the development of its

locality, the welfare of the people in that locality with the resources and capacity at its disposal mobilise from the central government, its agencies, national and international organisations, and the private sector. According to [2], the purpose of local government is to provide an organised system where councils exercise their power and responsibilities to work together for peace, order and governance of their municipal districts and that effective local governments provide overall quality of life for the people who reside in their communities.

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With the above responsibilities charged with it, which is similar to that of the Port Loko district council, it has created room for the implementation of projects from both Government and Non-governmental agencies. As Participatory Budgeting (PB) been defined by [3], it is a form of citizen's participation in which citizens are involved in the process of deciding how public money is spent with the responsibility to scrutinize and monitor the process by following the allocation of the budgets also given to them.

According to [4], they said "participatory budgeting aims to democratically allocate public money for local services, enabling communities to decide how public funds are spent". Participatory budgeting in the sector of (Education, agriculture, and waste management) has been one of the projects implemented by Port Loko District Council. The councils are faced with a lot of challenges ranging from finance, that is, both grants and own sources revenue, insufficient staff capacity, insufficient material resources, and mobility problem, little compliance from bigger MDAs in terms of control [5]. Also, councils are faced with "limited revenue, high corruption, faulty administrative and management structure, low participation, poor working conditions, inexperience councillors, conflicting laws making execution difficult, low development plan execution because of lack of adequate knowledge in plans and policies and role misconception" [6]. As councils are operated with a lot of challenges ranging from late disbursement of funds, mobility, bureaucracy, and late implementations of projects, participatory budgeting implemented by Port Loko District Council is not an exception to the above constraints.

Therefore, the effectiveness as which is defined in business terms refers to the level of quality with which a task or process is carried out that ultimately leads to higher overall business performance [7]; and in [8], it is explained as doing the right things and

producing the intended results; again it is defined as "how well the process actually accomplishes its intended purpose, here again from the customer's point of view" [9] in the implemented participatory budgeting in Port Loko district is that the Study wants to determine. Most countries have reaped the benefits of participatory budgeting and have reported PB to be effective in support of this, and according to [10], their paper reveals that, through the modernization of established practices, the city is greatly benefiting from democratized budgetary activities, transparency for its citizens and its managers even though participatory budgeting is slow in the UK. Also, according to [11] in their paper, they also noted that participatory budgeting (PB) is a democratic innovation worldwide with a high-stake regarding mobilizing politically inactive locals, a budgetary policy that is effective and efficient as well as positive effects on citizens.

And according to [12] in a most comprehensive based review in the UK, participatory budgeting was most effective when used in conjunction with other community engagement processes, and that the overall confidence in participatory budgeting can only be increased through decision-making processes, which are followed up by the delivery of high-quality projects. Others highlighted the factors that link to councils' effectiveness. According to [13] in their paper, they "suggest that both organizational capacity and political factors" positively influence municipal effectiveness.

Also, according to [14], they purported that "councils that display recurrent patterns of dysfunctional behaviour are likely to be ineffective in their core functions". And in [15], they also said that "in developing countries, improving the quality of government delivery system is quite challenging, but the effective delivery system is crucial in achieving the people's satisfaction level".

The Study wants to determine the effectiveness of participatory budgeting

implemented by Port Loko District in achieving Community Development (CD); that can only happen when they bring community members to solve problems of their societies [16], as this has become an issue of concern which needed a study.

Objectives

The objectives of the Study are:

1. To find out the changes that occurred in the achievement of community development goals due to the changes in the effectiveness of participatory budgeting in the Port Loko District Council.
2. To determine the linear relationship between the effectiveness of participatory budgeting and the achievement of community development goals in the Port Loko District Council.

Methodology

Port Loko district is a district located in the Northern Province of the Country [17], now known as part of the Northwest region. As all other councils in the country, the Port district also has a council that caters to its citizens in its sovereignty and one that benefited from the Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) to strengthen community mobilization and local council service delivery [18]. With such benefit granted them, the Study wants to investigate the effectiveness of Port Loko District Council in the implementation of this Participatory budgeting project in achieving community development goals.

To achieve this, SPSS 16.0 will be used to run and interpret simple linear regression and analyse the results.

Simple Linear Regression Analysis

Introduction

In [19], she said, “regression allows you to estimate how a dependent variable change as the independent variable change and that simple linear regression is used to estimate the

relationship between two quantitative variables”.

Research Objective

To find out the changes that occurred in the achievement of community development goals due to the changes in the effectiveness of participatory budgeting in Port Loko District Council.

It is worth noting the impact created by the effectiveness of participatory budgeting in the achievement of community development goals. Hence the Study tried to find out the changes that occurred in the achievement of community development goals due to the changes in the effectiveness of participatory budgeting in the Port Loko District Council.

The Model is as Follows

Starting with the field data collected, the dependent variable (DV) achievement of community development goals and independent variable (IV); effectiveness of participatory budgeting is having the formula thus:

$$ACDG = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{EffectoPB} + \epsilon_i$$

Where:

- ACDG** = Achievement of Community Development Goal
- EffectoPB** = Effectiveness of Participatory Budgeting - the independent variable (the variable that influences ACDG)
- B₀** = intercept - the predicted value of ACDG when EffectoPB is 0
- β₁** = the regression coefficients- how much we expect ACDG to change as EffectoPB increases
- ε_i** = the error estimate

The Study has the Following Hypothesis

Null hypothesis H_0 = The effectiveness of participatory budgeting in Port Loko District councils is insignificant in the achievement of community development goals.

Alternate hypothesis H_1 = The effectiveness of participatory budgeting in Port Loko District councils is significant in the achievement of community development goals.

Having a (0.05) Significant level, at 95% confidence interval.

Regression Statistics Tables

Descriptive Statistics

The respondents were asked about the effectiveness of participatory budgeting in their local councils and wards with the perceptions. 1 = strongly agreed, 2 = agreed, 3 = neutral, 4 = disagree, and 5 = strongly disagree. Mean rating was found for each perception.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics

| Descriptive Statistics | Mean | Std. Deviation | N |
|--|--------|----------------|-----|
| Achievement of Community Development Goals | 2.4293 | 1.05596 | 420 |
| Effectiveness of participatory budgeting | 1.9483 | .92645 | 420 |

Source: SPSS 16.0 $ACDG = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{EffectoPB} + \epsilon_i$

Table 1 revealed the descriptive statistic for the effectiveness of participatory budgeting in the achievement of community development goals. The study's effectiveness with the mean

of 1.95 indicated that the respondents agreed that participatory budgeting is effective in their local council and wards.

Table 2. Model Summary

| Model Summary | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Model | R | R Square | Adjusted R Square | Std. Error of the Estimate |
| 1 | .978 ^a | .957 | .956 | .22027 |
| a. Predictors: (Constant), Effectiveness of participatory budgeting | | | | |

Source: SPSS 16.0

Table 3. ANOVA

| ANOVA ^b | | | | | | |
|---|------------|----------------|-----|-------------|---------|-------------------|
| Model | | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
| 1 | Regression | 446.929 | 1 | 446.929 | 9.211E3 | .000 ^a |
| | Residual | 20.281 | 418 | .049 | | |
| | Total | 467.210 | 419 | | | |
| a. Predictors: (Constant), Effectiveness of participatory budgeting | | | | | | |
| b. Dependent Variable: Achievement of Community Development Goals | | | | | | |

Source: SPSS 16.0

Table 4. The Coefficients

| Coefficients ^a | | | | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|--------|------|
| Model | | Unstandardized Coefficients | | Standardized Coefficients | t | Sig. |
| | | B | Std. Error | Beta | | |
| 1 | (Constant) | .257 | .025 | | 10.274 | .000 |
| | Effectiveness of participatory budgeting | 1.115 | .012 | .978 | 95.975 | .000 |
| a. Dependent Variable: Achievement of Community Development Goals | | | | | | |

Source: SPSS 16.0

Table 5. Summary of Regression Results

| Coefficients ^a | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|--------|------|
| Model | | Unstandardized Coefficients | | Standardized Coefficients | t | Sig. |
| | | B | Std. Error | Beta | | |
| 1 | (Constant) | .257 | .025 | | 10.274 | .000 |
| | EFFECTIVENESS OPB | 1.115 | .012 | .978 | 95.975 | .000 |
| | R Square .957 | | | | | |
| | Adjusted R Square .956 | | | | | |
| | F 9.211E3 | | | | | |
| | Sig. .000 ^a | | | | | |
| a. Dependent Variable: Achievement of Community Development Goals | | | | | | |

Source: SPSS 16.0

The decision rule is to reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative if the sig. The value of the variables under study is lower than (0.05) level of significance.

Table 5 above showed the hypothesis tests if the effectiveness of participatory budgeting in the Port Loko District Council has an impact on the achievement of community development goals. The dependent variable achievement of community development goals was regressed on predicting variable Effectiveness of participatory budgeting to test hypothesis H1. Effectiveness of participatory budgeting significantly predicted ACDG, F (1,418) =9.211E3, P<0.000, which indicates that Effect OPB can play a significant role in shaping

ACDG (b=1.115, p<0.000). These results clearly direct the positive affect of the Effect OPB. Moreover, the R²=0.957 depicts that the model explains 95.7% of the variance in ACDG, which means we accept the alternate hypothesis and reject the null hypothesis.

Correlation Analysis

Introduction

According to [20], he said “a correlation between variables indicates that as one variable changes in value, the other variable tends to change in a specific direction and that Pearson’s correlation coefficients measure only linear relationships”.

Research Objective

The research objective seeks to find out the linear relationship between the effectiveness of participatory budgeting in the achievement of community development goals in the Port Loko District Council by testing the following hypothesis using the Pearson correlation test:

Null hypothesis H0: The effectiveness of participatory budgeting (Effect OPB) has no linear relationship with the achievement of community development goals (ACDG) in the Port Loko district council.

Alternate hypothesis H1: The effectiveness of participatory budgeting (Effect OPB) has a linear relationship with the achievement of community development goals (ACDG) in the Port Loko district council.

Where: ACDG= Achievement of Community Development Goal.

EffectoPB= Effectiveness of Participatory Budgeting.

Having a (0.05) Significant level, at 95% confidence interval.

Table 6. Correlations between Achievement of Community Development Goals and that of Effectiveness of Participatory Budgeting

| Correlations | | Achievement of Community Development Goals | Effectiveness of Participatory Budgeting |
|---------------------|--|--|--|
| Pearson Correlation | Achievement of Community Development Goals | 1.000 | .978 |
| | Effectiveness of Participatory Budgeting | .978 | 1.000 |
| Sig. (1-tailed) | ACDG | . | .000 |
| | Effectiveness OPB | .000 | . |
| N | ACDG | 420 | 420 |
| | Effectiveness OPB | 420 | 420 |

Source: SPSS 16.0

Table 6 result revealed that the correlation between the effectiveness of participatory budgeting and achievement of community development goals, the value showed a positive correlation (0.978) and also found to be statically significant going with the P-value (0.000).

Results and Discussions

The results from the study respondents are analysed from the descriptive statistics table (1), regression summary table (5), and the correlation table (6), respectively. From table 1 result, it was revealed by the respondents that the participatory budgeting implemented by Port Loko District Council were effective even though with the observed challenges. It was also revealed from table 5 the linear regression table

an R2 result of (0.957) which reads as 95.7% changes in the achievement of community development goals is as a result of effective participatory budgeting practices. Or 95.7% changes in the dependent variable are as a result of the independent variable. Lastly, from the correlational test results, it was revealed that there is a strong correlation between the effectiveness of participatory budgeting and the achievement of community development goals.

Conclusion

The Study on the effectiveness of participatory budgeting in the Port Loko District Council in relation to the achievement of community development goals showed that participatory budgeting is effective, had a

positive relationship with a strong correlation between them. This means it is applicable to any other district council in Sierra Leone and all government ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs).

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest in the manuscript.

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