Assessing The Effectiveness of Civic Education On Parental Participation in Community Development: A Case Study of Mufulira District
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Abstract - citizen participation in community development is a process which provides private individual an opportunity to influence public decisions and has long been a component of the democratic decision-making process. This study aimed at assessing the effectiveness of civic education on parental participation in community development. The study was guided by the following specific objectives: to examine the effectiveness of civic education on parental participation in community development in Mufulira district; to investigate factors that hinders Parental Participation in community development in Mufulira district and; to examine the role of government civic education on parental participation in community development of Mufulira distinct.

The research design adopted was a descriptive case study, a sample size of 84 was chosen which comprised of teachers, counselors and the council chairman. Sampling design used were simple random sampling and purposive sampling. The results were analyzed using SPSS version 20. Triangulation was conducted to ensure that the data collected in reliable and correct. The study findings revealed that civic education plays an important role in promoting parental participation in community development. Parents who are equipped with civic knowledge will be able to participate effectively in community development projects as well as affairs of the nation. This is because civic education is a social science, which deals with all aspects of human life and environment; therefore, it helps the parents to make choices. Civic education must therefore, be realistic to address the central facts about political as well as governance processes. It is also a tool in the promotion of democracy in developing nations. Without civic education, it will be difficult to implement the traits of democracy. Zambia as a developing country which has adopted democracy must promote civic education at all levels for people to have the required knowledge for them to appreciate democracy. Furthermore, the challenges that are faced in promoting parental Participation in community development which have been mentioned above can be reduced if we increase the understanding of the importance and relevance of Civic education with regards to citizen involvement in community development programs. The study recommends that; civic education should be provided at all levels. Further respondents said that citizens should be given opportunities to be involved in community development programs.

Keywords— effectiveness, civic education, parental, participation, community development

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The roots of citizen participation can be traced to ancient Greece and Colonial New England. Before the 1960s, governmental processes and procedures were designed to facilitate "external" participation. Citizen participation was institutionalized in the mid-1960s with President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society Programmes (Cogan & Sharpe, 2016). Citizen participation seeks to engage local population in development projects. It has taken a variety of forms since it emerged in the 1970s, when it was introduced as an important part of the basic needs approach to development (Ogunna, 2016).

There is universal acceptance of local government as vital instrument for rural and urban development, irrespective of the ideological differences of societies and levels of development. One of the major reasons for establishing local government is to bring government to local communities so that the local citizens or people can participate fully in the process of governance, in order to provide essential local services and this speed-up the pace of social economic and political development (Ogunna, 2016).

Most manifestations of citizens' participation in community development seek to give the poor a part in unity initiatives designed for their benefit in the hopes that development projects will be more sustainable and success of local populations are engaged in the development process. Citizens' participation has become an increasingly accepted method of development practice and is employed by a variety of organization. The relationship between civic education and parental Participation in community development has become recently a key topic of research in many civil society organizations and the government in particular. What is less known is the connection between the two and the community projects in civil society research? The Participation of parents in local governance and political process is an essential part of democracy. Tactics and strategies for increased parental participation in local governance can be seen around the globe. For example, In the municipality of Nejapa, El Salvador, the municipal government partnered with local NGOs and sought to increase public Participation in local politics, resulting in huge increases in access to potable water, latrines, and electricity for its parents.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Despite the government of republic of Zambia introducing the civic education in school still the subject face challenges such as the voter apathy which is also on the increase due to the fact that violence associated with the electoral processes has created an atmosphere of fear in the electorate. Consequently, many voters now either vote on the basis of fear and coercion or stay away from the polls altogether. (Zambiareports.com, 2016) Zambia has been rocked in recent times by unacceptable levels of political violence perpetrated against those expressing views contrary to those held by the Patriotic Front Party government. In spite of the many positive attributes given to Civic Education with regard to its capacity in providing knowledge, skills, values and dispositions to the learners it is without some conceptual challenges which require some discussion in this study. Admittedly, this is meant to not lose focus on the issues that the study is attempting to address. Torney-Purta and Amadeo (2004), have observed that, "Civic Education has been identified as one subject area which has the potential to promote citizenship and democracy and this could explain the reasons behind the renewed interest world over.

1.**3 Objectives**

i. To examine the effectiveness of civic education on parental participation in community development in Mufulira district.

ii. To investigate factors that hinders Parental Participation in community development in Mufulira district.

iii. To examine the role of government civic education on parental participation in community development of Mufulira distinct.

1.4 Research questions

i. What is the effectiveness of civic education on parental participation in community development in Mufulira district?

ii. What are the factors that hinder parental participation in community development in Mufulira district?

iii. What role of government civic education on parental participation?

1.5 Theoretical Framework

Motivation as a sine qua non for participation is almost a household terminology in community development, being an off-shoot of felt needs and a central issue in both self-help and participation (Onyeozu, 2008). According to Du Toit, Erasmus and Strydom (2007) performance in any organization or society is mainly determined by the desire to do something (motivation), the capability to do (ability) and availability of resources to do the job (environment).

Anama in Onyeozu (2008) defines motivation as the act or process of providing power from within the person which incite him to action. Aderinoye in Onyeozu (2008) also added that motivation is a complex of many internal factors such as component of wants, needs, demands, desires, interests, motives and ambition for which all adults competing within themselves. On the other hand, Hugo in Onyeozu (2008) describes motivation as what makes an animal active rather than inactive.

Hellriegel, Jackson, Slocum, Staude, Amos, Klopper, Louw and Oosthuizen (2013), highlighted that motivation is an influence that triggers, directs and/or maintains goal directed behaviour. Since the level of motivation has a direct influence on performance of an individual, it is very crucial to understand how motivation takes place. It is also important to note that motivation is not only about positive performance.

The Motivation theory approach:

Hellriegel, Jackson, Slocum, Staude, Amos, Klopper, Louw and Oosthuizen (2013), highlighted that motivation is an influence that triggers, directs and/or maintains goal directed behaviour. Since the level of motivation has a direct influence on performance of an individual, it is very crucial to understand how motivation takes place. It is also important to note that motivation is not only about positive performance. Deviant behaviour like sabotage and absenteeism are also motivated behaviours (Du Toit et al., 2007). They pointed out that motivation refers to those forces within a person that affect his or her direction, thus, a motivated individual is willing to exert a particular level of effort (intensity) for a certain amount of time (persistence) towards a particular goal (direction).

3.0 RESAERCH METHODOLOGY

The research design used in this research was a descriptive case study and the simple size was 84, this included councilors, teachers of civic education and the council chairperson. The instruments used in this study were questionnaires. And data were collected using purposive and simple random sampling.
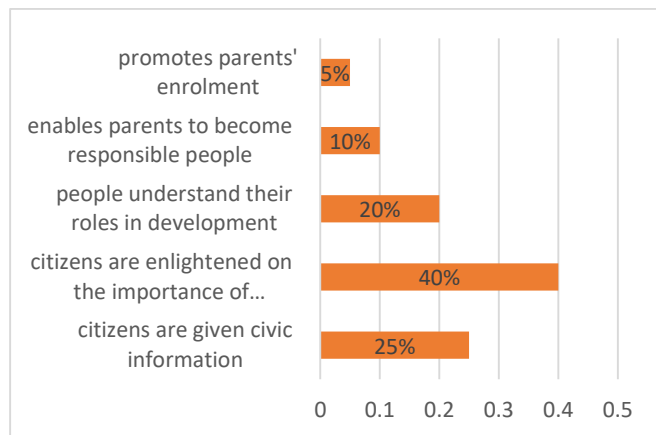
Triangulation was done to validate the research instruments to ensure reliability of the data. Firstly, the respondents were given questionnaires which they were required to fill, after filling the questionnaires; some respondents were subjected to interviews to make sure that the data they gave

on questionnaires is correct. This is necessary to ensure that the findings are in line with the objectives.
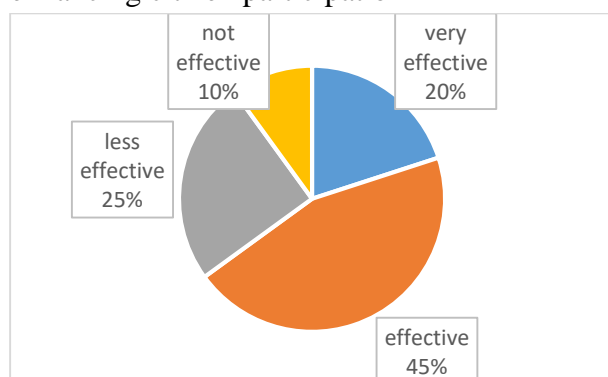
4.0   RESULTS/FINDINGS
4.1   Presentation of Findings

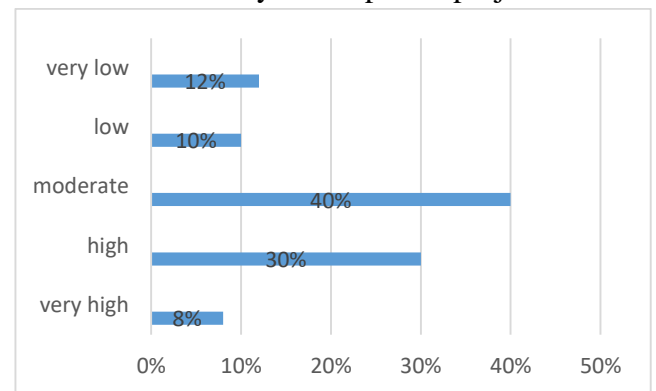a) Figure 1.1 Effects of civic education on parents' participation

Civic education plays an important role in enhancing citizen participation is community development, the study shows that 5% stated that civics promotes parental enrolment, 10% said it enables parents to become responsible citizens, 20% indicated that it enables people to understand their role in development while 40% said citizens are enlightened on the importance of community development and the rest 25% said citizens are given civic information.

b) **Figure 1.2:** Effectiveness of Civic education in enhancing citizen participation
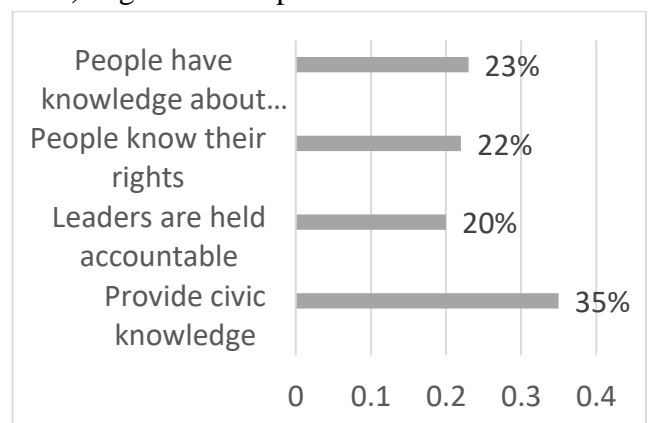

Concerning the Effectiveness of Civic education in enhancing citizen participation in enhancing participation of parents in community development, 20% said it is very effective, 25% said it is less effective, 45% indicated that it is effective while 10% stated that it not effective.

c) **Figure 1.3:** Level of parental participation in community development project

With regards the level of participation, 8% indicated that the level of participation is very high, 30% said it has been high, 40% indicated that the level of participation is moderate while 10% said it has been low while 12% indicated that it has been very low.

d) Figure 1.4: Impact of Civic Education

From the figure above we can see that Civic Education provides civic knowledge to the community citizens as indicated by 35%, 20% stated that leader become accountable, 22% said people know their rights and 23% indicated people

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become knowledgeable about community programs.

e) Table 1.1: impact of citizens' participation in the maintenance process of community development projects on community development
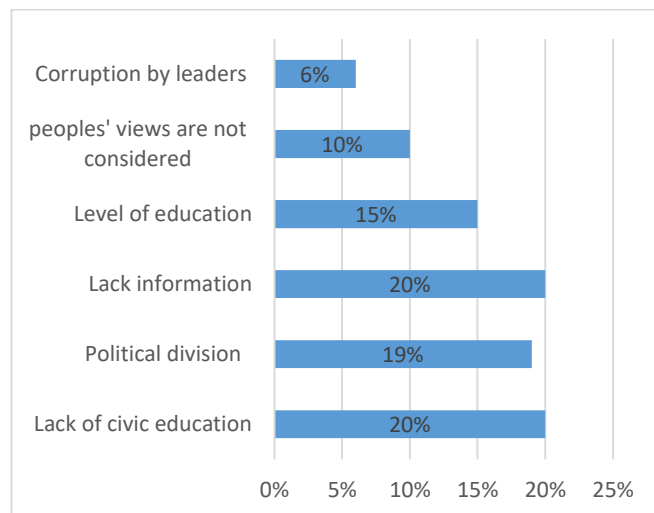
Statement	%
There is high level security over community development facilities if the citizens are deeply involved	10%
Improved citizen participation could stem the deterioration of public trust evidenced by widespread hostility toward government.	20%
Citizens' participation process is a transformative tool for social change	16%
Citizen's participation produce better results or decision in area of community development facility	26%
Citizens' participation has positive and significant influence in the maintenance process of community development facilities.	28%

Concerning the impact of citizens' participation in the maintenance process of community development projects on community development,

10% said there is high level security over community development facilities if the citizens are deeply involved, 20% stated that leads to improved citizen participation could stem the deterioration of public trust evidenced by widespread hostility toward government, 16% indicated that Citizens' participation process is a transformative tool for social change while 26% said Citizen's participation produce better results or decision in area of community development facility and the rest 28% stated that citizens' participation has positive and significant influence
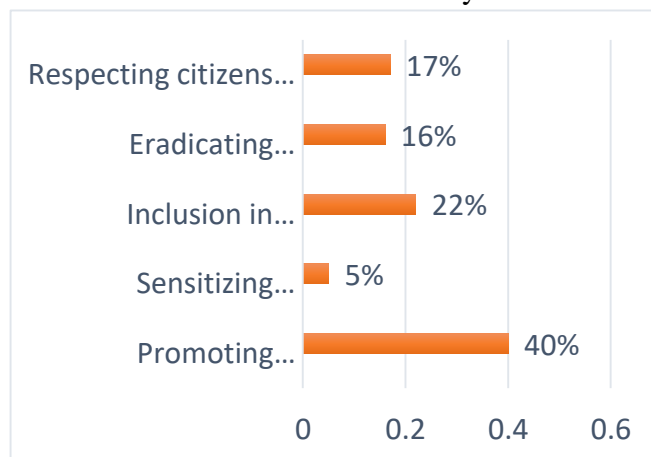
in the maintenance process of community development facilities.

f) Figure 1.5 Factors that hinder parental participation in community development

There a number of factors that hinder citizen participation in community development, 30% indicated that lack of education, 25% said political division, lack of information, 15% indicated that level of education hinders those with low education to be sidelined, 10% said people do not know their rights and the rest 6% said corruption among community and political leaders.

g) **Figure 1.6:** Enhancing citizen involvement in community development according to Teachers, counselors and community members.

The figure above shows that in order for parental to fully participate in community development,

there is need for promoting community civic education 40% of the total teachers involved in the study. Furthermore, inclusion of community members in decision making represented by 22% was one of the strategies that can be used to enhance parental Participation in community development. This according to teachers should be in both schools and communities through civil society organizations. Respecting citizen's views is also another method that can enhance parental Participation in local governance, this was represented by 17% of the respondents. In addition, eradication of corruption on community projects was voiced by participates at 16%. Finally, 15% of participates said community members needs community sensitization on how they can be involved in community projects.

4.2 Discussion

Effectiveness of civic education on parental participation in community development was the first objective of this study. From the data which was gathered the evaluation which was figured out was that 90% of participates strongly agreed that civic education if highly supported and provided to community citizens will increase community participation from local citizens. During the study councilors were also asked to state whether civic education had an effect on parental participation in community projects, all the four (4) councilors agreed. One of them said that the reason why he was involved in politics it was because of civic education that he received during his schooling period. The council chairperson also said that there was an effect of civic education on parental Participation in local governance. From the oral interviews conducted, one council chairperson said that the providers of civic education had enabled parents to be able to involve themselves in community development projects.

This was in line with the study which was conducted by Niworo et-al (2016) which explored the effectiveness of Civic education on political participation in the Sissala East District of the Upper West Region of Ghana. The study suggests that beneficiaries of civic education in the study area had high level of political participation, including the readiness to vote, join political party, contest elections, participate in community service and demanding accountability from duty bearers.

From the data collected, it was found that parentals are not given opportunity to participate in community development. They said that decisions are made by people in authority; parentals are not allowed to contribute to the governance process of their areas. One teacher said that even some projects that are carried out in local areas parental do not decide on them they just bring them in the areas without consulting local people. In addition to the above reason the teachers also said that parental participation in local governance is hindered by lack of information. Parentals are not aware of the means that they can use in order for them to be involved in local governance process

Another reason which was given is that there is too much political division, this has its roots from coronial rule era when most Zambians were not incorporated in the development and decision-making process by the government. They were completely left out and this took away their interest and willingness to participate in development process. Economic development of the country was regarded as a preserve of the government alone. members of the community who tend to bar others based on political party membership. Members from the ruling party usually don't want to work with members of opposition even if they are neighbors belonging to one bigger community that is Zambia.

From the findings, the researcher discovered that Promoting understanding of how a constitutional government operates and an appreciation of the rights and responsibilities of citizens:

The study clearly came up with some of the strategies that can be used to promote Parental Participation in community development programs. Among the factors was provision of civic education at all levels. As already stated above the provision of civic education can play a vital role in enhancing parental Participation in community development programs, this is because civic education assumes the personal, political, and economic responsibilities of a parental. These responsibilities include taking care of one's self, supporting one's family and caring for, nurturing, and educating one's children. They also include being informed about public issues, voting, paying taxes, serving on juries, performing public service, and serving in leadership positions commensurate with one's talents.

As aptly stated by Dean (2007), "teacher education programmes must include support for teachers as they use their learning in real classrooms and provide opportunities for young people to learn to be citizens through active involvement in their schools and local communities",

4.3 Conclusion

Arising from the interpretations from the tables and figures as well as descriptive data, it can be concluded that, civic education plays an important role in promoting parental participation in community development. Parents who are equipped with civic knowledge will be able to participate effectively in community development projects as well as affairs of the nation. This is because civic education is a social science, which deals with all aspects of human life and environment; therefore, it helps the parents to make choices. Civic education must therefore, be realistic to address the central facts about political as well as governance processes. It is also a tool in the promotion of democracy in developing nations. Without civic education, it will be difficult to implement the traits of democracy. Zambia as a developing country which has adopted democracy must promote civic education at all levels for people to have the required knowledge for them to appreciate democracy. Furthermore, the challenges that are faced in promoting parental Participation in community development which have been mentioned above can be reduced if we increase the understanding of the importance and relevance of Civic education with regards to citizen involvement in community development programs. We should also promote the development of civic character by fostering recognition of public and private responsibilities and encouraging adherence to the values and principles of the Zambian constitutional democracy.

5.0 Acknowledgment

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