

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN KENYA: WOMEN AS AGENTS OF CHANGE

Ruth Murumba & Charles Kemboi
School of Human Resource Development
Moi University, KENYA

ABSTRACT

“The human person is the central subject of development and should be the active participant and beneficiary of the right to development” (Article 2(1) of the Declaration of the right to development, resolution 41/128, 4 December 1986).

The aim of this essay is to illustrate the potential benefits and limitations of citizenship as a tool for participation in development. Citizenship affects all the spheres of life. Applying the rights-based approach to development highlights participation is a fundamental right to development linking with contemporary approaches to citizenship. This paper will depict the strength gained from citizenship by participation. The extension of citizenship legitimises the right to participation as part of the bundle of rights due to the citizen. Participation is a fundamental citizenship right that protects and supports all other rights. This paper will illustrate the importance of linking citizenship and participation for the purposes of deepening development which is the central concern of all stakeholders. The harmonised draft and the promulgated Kenyan constitution are used to illustrate the power that portends from linkages between citizenship and participation. Additionally, the paper will explore key themes that affect claims to full citizenship by women. In conclusion, the various limitations to citizenship, as a tool for participation will be exposed.

Keywords: Citizen Participation, Women, Agency, Development, Kenya.