

**INVESTIGATING FACTORS INFLUENCING SUSTAINABILITY OF COMMUNITY-
BASED PROJECTS IN GOBABIS, NAMIBIA**

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JULIA TJAAPO

STUDENT NUMBER: 219387913

SUPERVISOR: Dr Mpho M. Gilika (University of Botswana)

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CBP	Community-Based Projects
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CD	Community Development
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
MURD	Ministry of Urban and Rural Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
RDT	Resource Dependency Theory
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program

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DECLARATION

I would want to declare that this research is my own work and effort and that it has not been copied from somewhere.

ABSTRACT

The sustainability of community-based projects is important for economic development and improvement of the welfare of the locals. Constituencies, however, have been accused of ignoring the community's needs. The study investigated the factors influencing sustainability of community-based projects in Gobabis Constituency, Namibia. It specifically sought to; establish the types of community-based projects (CBP) available in Gobabis Constituency, Namibia; establish how community participation affects sustainability of community-based projects in Gobabis Constituency, Namibia; assess the influence funding had on the sustainability of community-based projects in Gobabis Constituency, Namibia; establish the role of project implementers on the sustainability of community-based projects in Gobabis Constituency, Namibia and suggest best practice strategies that can impact sustainability of community-based projects in Gobabis Constituency, Namibia. The study used sequential exploratory design. A mixed research approach was also used to allow for the integration of both methods' strengths. The population of this study was 250 community-based project's beneficiaries, staff members at Gobabis Constituency office as well as Omaheke Regional Council. Questionnaires and interview guide were used to collect data. Quantitative data collected were presented in the form of charts, graphs and tables and analyzed through content analysis. Qualitative data was analyzed through thematic analysis. The results for both quantitative and qualitative study found that; most respondents were aware of what community-based projects are, and most officials had experience working with community projects. Respondents also agreed to the fact that community-based projects have some advantages to them. The study concludes that community-based projects are important as they improve the living standards of people in that community. Based on the findings, the following recommendations were given: there is a need to involve beneficiaries from the beginning of the projects and there is great need to empower the project members, to develop policies and implement them as well as enact the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to reverse the need of unsustainability.

Key words: Community, development, Community development, community-based projects, livelihood, sustainability, Gobabis constituency.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

This section of the paper establishes the context underlying the research. The introduction and background to the study provides an overview of the research topic from a broader perspective, Therefore, this chapter presents the orientation of the study. The focus is on explaining the background of the study, the problem statement, research objectives, the significance of the study, delimitations, and limitations. The chapter ends with operational definitions of key terms and the structure of the thesis.

1.2 Background of the study

Human activities are under pressure to work toward sustainability on a global scale. According to Mearns (2012), sustainable development is defined as development that satisfies current demands without jeopardizing the capacity of future generations to satiate their own needs. Every day, this push for greater sustainability impacts every part of our life. Community-based development projects (CBDPs) are initiatives by local decision-makers that encourage communities to take the lead, be innovative, grow, and take ownership of their development (Alonzi, 2019). The definition of Community-Based Projects (CBP) can be found in Community Based Development (CBD), which Hoel (2013) defines as an approach that gives community groups control over development decisions and resources. This approach empowers communities, provides affordable infrastructure, improves livelihoods, and enhances community dynamics. The limited success of governments in securing essential social services and constructing basic infrastructure in many nations has given rise to community-based development initiatives. In the past, community-based development programs were sparked by

the concept of community development that emerged in the 1930s. Then, the democratic political revolutions in France and Britain and the Second World War are claimed to have impacted community development. According to Farooq (2012), after these incidents of significant destruction, the neighborhood became overwhelmed by socioeconomic issues, necessitating construction and repair.

Africa's emergence was impacted by the history of utopian movements in East Africa in the 1920s and 1930s, where plans for community development were considered a method for colonial rulers to aid local people to improve their circumstances indirectly (Shifotoka & Kanyimba, 2021). The community-based project's development goal is to provide a viable, effective tool to raise the standard of living and economic standing in underserved areas (World Bank, 2019). For these development initiatives to be successful in reaching their primary goal of development, sustainability is essential. Sustainability is an organization's capacity to accomplish its goals and ambitions for a very long time (Alonzi, 2019). Numerous elements, including community participation, financial backing, monitoring and evaluation, the ability of community leaders to lead, and community awareness of various programs, all play a role in determining the sustainability of community-based development projects.

Sadly, sustainability is not always considered when developing programs, even though community-based sustainability is a top issue for many organizations (Cepturreanu et al., 2018). As a result, community-based projects are frequently rendered unsustainable in this situation. Unsustainability is a notion that describes a process that cannot continue at the current rate or level and cannot be upheld or defended. In contrast, sustainability is about sustaining program services after the expired financing period. In this study, community development initiatives are used alongside unsustainability. Considering this, "Community-based development projects

(CBDP) is a strategy that advocates for community engagement in decision-making concerning and managing local development projects. To operate more successful development initiatives, it seeks to incorporate communities in the design and implementation of projects (Baldwin et al., 2016).

Communities worldwide have embraced the development agenda with the Sustainable Development Goals (Rosati & Faria, 2019). As a result, community-based projects have the potential to change communities. Generally, community-based projects affect various aspects of life, including food security, nutrition, health, sanitation, education, and environmental issues.

Community development is a tactic used in Namibia to work toward reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which include (i) eradicating poverty in all its forms worldwide and (ii) eradicating hunger, ensuring security and improved nutrition, and advancing sustainable agriculture (UN, 2015). Furthermore, the recently launched Harambee Prosperity Plan promotes social and economic improvement, efficient governance, and service provision. Although, when integrated, these tactical pillars support regional and local development (the Republic of Namibia, 2015) to address poverty-related issues that have been seen in the nation, particularly in rural communities where the majority (62%) of Namibians live, several community development strategies, including the Poverty Reduction Strategy, Rural Development Strategy, and Community-Based Natural Resource Management programs, were subsequently launched by both government and non-governmental organizations (National Planning Commission, 2011).

Implementing community development initiatives in various rural Namibian communities heavily relies on non-governmental and community-based organizations. The government and other development partners have launched exceptional initiatives, including community radios,

gardening initiatives, HIV/AIDS support groups, craft, and tourism centers, green initiatives, and community conservancies (African Development Bank, 2004). However, the number of people living in extreme poverty is still high despite the government's unwavering political action and reasonable attempts to abolish poverty and hunger (National Planning Commission, 2011, p.17).

According to research by IFAD (2013), the national poverty line for rural and urban residents is 28.7 per cent. Low community involvement in development programs is an issue for Namibia, as it is for many other Sub-Saharan African nations (MURD, 2015). According to the MURD assessment, numerous rural communities' projects funded by the government and donor organizations, including USAID, UNDP, the American Embassy, and the German Initiative program, failed due to a lack of community involvement.

Communities do not survive well if no projects occur in them. Community-based projects have a significant impact on the community members' overall living standards. Community projects around the world play an important role in the development of society, ranging from social enterprises in some of the poorest rural areas of the globe, to projects designed to enhance quality of life for the more vulnerable members of society in any country or region. Local community involvement ensures that the needs of all stakeholders are considered and met to the best of the project manager's ability, creating outcomes that are advantageous to larger sectors of society.

Since Namibia's independence (1990), the government has actively promoted and supported actual community-based development. The long-term policy frameworks, such as the Namibia Vision 2030, and the medium-term frameworks, like the Namibia Development Plan 5 and the Harambee Prosperity Plan, reflect Namibians' commitment to sustainability in community development. These national policy frameworks contain a variety of claims and commitments to

sustainability, as shown by analysis (Shifotoka & Kanyimba, 2021). For instance, the Namibian Vision 2030 argues that sustainable development is a form of growth that satisfies present demands without interfering with the ability of future generations to satiate their own needs. Continually, the low level of community involvement urges people to take charge of their development, support initiatives that cater to their actual needs, and call for greater community involvement in development (Shifotoka & Kanyimba, 2021).

Furthermore, the Harambee Prosperity Plan states, "The most effective strategy to fight poverty is through wealth creation, which is accomplished by increasing the economy sustainably and inclusively and by creating excellent work opportunities" (Government of Namibia, 2017). Furthermore, Namibia is expected to be able to manage its natural resources sustainably by 2022, according to the National Development Plan 5 (2016), which emphasizes community involvement (Government of Namibia, 2017). Namibia's national policy frameworks for national development support partnerships between the government and communities, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), strengthening institutional and human capacity, good governance, democracy, and protection of human rights. They also support environmental protection, political stability, and gender equality.

Based on the above, in Namibia, the sustainability of community-based projects is an essential issue as this help in ensuring that the lives of community members are uplifted. However, those planning community projects may fail to work out their sustainability effectively, and this causes project failure (Hassan, 2017). This will be very worrying as these areas will have high unemployment, poverty, and underdevelopment.

The sustainability idea has been used in CBDPs in the Namibian context. Therefore, CBDPs have focused on promoting sustainability through community capacity building, education, and

microenterprise growth (Shikongo, 2013). The community is anticipated to continue managing the projects and achieving self-sufficiency when local authorities withdraw during gestation. During this time, CBDPs are developed and implemented by the local authorities. CBDPs are created in collaboration with communities by government agencies and NGOs (Shikongo, 2013). However, once funders' funding for the initiative in Namibia's Oshana region gradually ended, the project's activities ended (Shikongo, 2013).

A research gap is essentially an unanswered question or unresolved problem in a field, reflecting. The researcher identified a study gap in factors affecting the sustainability of community-based projects in the Gobabis Constituency. Although similar studies were done before, none of them focused on community-based projects in Gobabis. The findings of the studies of previous research and this one pull in different directions, making it difficult to draw firm conclusions. With this study, there will be a generation of knowledge on improving the sustainability of community-based projects.

1.3 Statement of the problem

In developing countries, national and regional governments, local and international NGOs, and other concerned organizations invest large sums yearly to implement community-based projects (Persoon, 2016). For example, as stated in the Omaheke Regional Council – Rural Service Annual Progress Report 2021/2022, in Namibia, constituencies receive national funding to ensure it meets the essentials of the community at each level. However, these constituencies have been accused of ignoring the community's needs, resulting in many challenges.

A study was done on “Factors Influencing Sustainability of Community-Based County Projects in Kenya: A Case of Isiolo North Sub County, Isiolo County” (Kaimenyi, 2019). The study's findings revealed that participation is crucial in undertaking projects. In addition, funding,

capacity building and project implementers' PV: were also essential factors influencing sustainability.

Another study, “Factors influencing sustainability of community-based projects: A case of health project in Garissa County”, was done in Kenya by Hassan (2017). The study found that community participation influences the sustainability of community-based projects in Garissa County. In any community development, there is a need for co-operation between the organization and the community. The study also established that monitoring and evaluating projects influence the sustainability of community-based projects in Garissa. The same study concluded that community participation affects the sustainability of community-based projects in Garissa County.

Despite coming up with factors influencing the sustainability of community-based projects in different countries, no similar study has been done in Namibia’s Gobabis Constituency. In this regard, the researcher wishes to determine the factors influencing the sustainability of community-based projects in the Gobabis Constituency.

Research objectives

The study's main objective is to investigate the factors influencing the sustainability of community-based projects in Gobabis Constituency, Namibia. The specific purposes are;

1.4.1 To determine the types of community-based projects (CBP) available in Gobabis Constituency, Namibia,

1.4.2 To determine how community participation affects the sustainability of community-based projects in Gobabis Constituency, Namibia.

1.4.3 To assess the influence funding has on the sustainability of community-based projects in Gobabis Constituency, Namibia.

1.4.4 To determine the role of project implementers on the sustainability of community-based projects in Gobabis Constituency, Namibia.

1.5 Significance of the study

The findings of this study provided critical information and knowledge that influences policy and reforms aimed at improving projects' sustainability. In addition, communities, implementing partners, donors, the government, and international NGOs can use the lessons learned from this study to address sustainability challenges and plan better ways to implement sustainable community-based projects, which could be integrated into the project cycle.

Secondly, because the study highlighted the causes of projects' lack of sustainability, it encourages donors to support and invest in more community-based development initiatives. Thirdly, the study demonstrated the scope of the issue. Organizations can examine where they fall short in their development projects to reach their maximum potential by looking at the scope that is being disclosed. The study also investigated the integrity of any discovered elements that may contribute to the unsuitability of Community Based Development Projects. Finally, the study contributed by adding more information to the existing knowledge on community-based projects. Because of this study there is additional literature about community-based projects that have been added.

1.6 Limitations of the study

There were difficulties in reconciling conflicting and antagonistic results. The respondents did not answer all the questions in the questionnaire or the interview guide fully, which negatively

affected data collection. To avoid this, the researcher informed the participants of the importance of this research. Another challenge was the lack of cooperation of the respondents. This was, however, mitigated by assuring the respondents that the data collected would be used solely for academic purposes and that the data would be treated with confidentiality.

1.7 Delimitations of the study

The research was delimited to factors affecting the sustainability of community-based projects in the Gobabis Constituency. Residents of the Gobabis Constituency were the sampling units. The reason is that it is in constituencies that developmental projects are taken for granted and not finished on time, regardless of total funding by the project sponsors. The study was conducted from 2015 to 2019 to see how projects in those five years were handled. This allowed for comparison with studies that might be done in future for years other than 2015-2019. Only three variables (community participation, funding, and role of project implementers) were focused on as per the research objectives.

1.8 Definition of key terms

The following terms critical to the study are defined below:

- **Community:** The term “community” in this study refers to a group of people who are regarded as a unit because they share interests, belong to the same social group, or are of the same nationality (Somerville, 2011).
- **Development:** According to Israel (2018), development is a process that results in expansion, advancement, positive change, or the addition of elements that are physical, economic, environmental, social, and demographic. The development aims to improve people’s quality of life while protecting the environment’s resources and creating or expanding employment opportunities locally and regionally.

- **Community Development (CD):** Community Development refers to a participatory learning process whereby people, particularly in rural areas, gain knowledge, skills, and competencies, shape values, and work to plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate community development activities to have more control over their environment and have a more significant say in their own lives and futures (De Beer & Swanepoel, 2011).
- **Community-based project:** Refers to an activity undertaken by more than ten community members to enhance their standard of living (Twala, 2010).
- **Livelihood:** It is a way of generating income. It includes all a person's capacities, resources, means of subsistence, and activities (Twala,2010).
- **Sustainability:** This is the capacity of funded projects to continue to profit from the same advantages after the funding has ceased (Ceptureanu et al., 2018).

1.9 Structure of the thesis

The thesis was divided into five chapters. Chapter one presented an orientation to the study. It focused on presenting the background to the study, statement of the problem, research objectives, significance of the study, delimitations, and limitations.

Chapter two presented a review of the literature. The chapter dwelt on a theoretical framework that informed the study and selected literature relevant to the survey using previous and current studies.

Chapter three presented the research methodology. It focused on explaining the research paradigm, approach, and design. The study population, sampling methods, data collection instruments and procedures, data analysis and ethical considerations were also discussed.

Chapter four provided an analysis and presentation of data and a discussion of key findings. The discussion was supported by relevant literature selected from Chapter Two.

Chapter five presented the summary, conclusion, and recommendations of the study. In the same chapter, suggestions for future studies were also provided.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The chapter presents a review of relevant literature. The chapter begins by explaining the two theories that informed the study: the Empowerment Theory and Resource Dependency Theory. Then, the review of selected literature using empirical studies will form the most significant section of the chapter. Next, the chapter focused on project sustainability as a concept, how community participation affects the sustainability of community-based projects, and the influence of funding on the sustainability of community-based projects. Finally, the chapter ended by discussing the best practice strategies to promote the sustainability of community-based projects.

2.2 Theoretical framework

This study was based on theories that are related to organizational sustainability. The asset-based community development model and empowerment model were worth discussing.

2.2.1 The Empowerment Theory

According to Rathakrishnan and Padma (2013), empowerment is the process of moving from being powerless to having some degree of influence over one's life, destiny, and environment. People get the support they need that is right for them. This definition lends support to the argument that one of the main goals of the principles of empowerment theory is to promote professional practices and efficient output production in a community. Additionally, the literature argues that the notion of empowerment offers a unique strategy for coming up with treatments and enacting social change (Havig, 2010). Because it restores the skills needed to

effect change and gives people control over problems that can impede the transformation process, the empowerment theory effectively embodies the logic of community development.

In literature, psychological empowerment is described in four cognitive aspects. First, meaning refers to the value a community member attributes to their work concerning their values, beliefs, ideas, conduct, and standards (Shifotoka & Kanyimba, 2021). Competency describes a community member's sense of self-efficacy and confidence in their ability to achieve specific work goals. In contrast, self-determination refers to the community member's demand for choice and the freedom to act independently concerning work-related decisions and techniques (Shifotoka & Kanyimba, 2021). The impact is the final component, and it deals with how community members feel about making a difference and having the chance to impact decisions about strategic and administrative concerns (Weidenstedt, 2017). According to the empowerment philosophy accepted here, community people are prepared through communication, education, training, and awareness programs that help them comprehend how they may alter their lives for the better.

The literature review conceptualizes three interconnected processes that potentially influence and define the empowerment idea (Weidenstedt, 2017). In groups and organizations, active participation in social change processes leads to the first type of empowerment, which has specific benefits for both the individual and the environment. The second concept is community empowerment, which means empowering communities to shape and influence what public institutions do for or with them (Weidenstedt, 2017). Thirdly, empowering professional practice is a systematic approach meant to promote community and individual empowerment processes. Professional activity that arises from social systems intending to foster processes of increasing control of those people and groups whose lives these systems intrude on is known as

“empowering professional practice” (Adamson & Bromiley, 2013). According to Shifotoka and Kanyimba (2021), these processes that define the empowerment theory seem to point to the necessity of involvement, partnerships, wealth, and, most importantly, the provision of educational opportunities for the benefit of communities.

Shifotoka and Kanyimba (2021) used concepts from the empowerment theory’s traits and cognitive components of psychological empowerment to guide their research. Although, in this context, the empowerment thesis focuses on the significance that residents attribute to the unsustainable nature of community-based development projects in the Oshana region of Namibia, the concepts of self-determination and impact become crucial. These opinions are consistent with those of Puncreobutr and Wattanasan (2016), who contend that anyone who achieves a high level of personal empowerment theory is used since it relies on linking community members’ more comprehensive social and administrative processes that result in the acquisition of competences for project design and implementation as well as sustaining project sustainability.

One of the important goals of community development is empowering the people and improving the quality of their lives. Also, the community can be given additional power through increased participation in the community building process. In other words, if the community members can manage and control their living environment, community empowerment can be attained. It is through empowering community members that development in that community takes place. In essence, empowered residents contribute immensely to the development of their communities.

2.2.2 Resource Dependency Theory (RDT)

In the 1970s, Jeffrey Pfeffer and Gerald Salancik invented Resource Dependency Theory (RDT). The foundation of RDT is the assumption that access to and control over resources are

essential for organizational performance (Muthaura & Mburugu, 2019). The foundation of Resource Dependency Theory (RDT) is also how the outside resources of organizations influence their behavior. Organizations need resources, which eventually come from the environment and other organizations. This is accurate when it comes to community water borehole initiatives' sustainability. In addition to the availability of financial resources, sustainability also depends on the training, expertise, and understanding of human resources in the upkeep of water infrastructure.

Frequently, other organizations hold the resources that one group needs. Power is based on resources, and even legally separate entities are dependent on one another (Ledwith, 2020). Stakeholder composition, influence, knowledge, intentions, and behaviors are always changing and unpredictable at any given moment and place (Shikuku, 2012). The notion aided in comprehending the financial resources most essential to a project's viability. Resource reliance requires further investigation since its very claims of dependence are where it fall short. Given the shifting patterns in financial uncertainties, it is necessary to rely on various theories of uncertainties. This idea holds that organizations depend on resources for their continued existence; as a result, resources are necessary for any organization to attain sustainability.

2.3 Project sustainability as a concept

Sustainability has numerous definitions, and there are numerous ways to understand what it means. Project sustainability is defined by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Strategic Framework (Conway & Barbier, 2013) as the capacity to ensure that the institutions supported by projects and the benefits realized are maintained and continue after the project's external funding has ended. Another definition of sustainability is a development project's capacity to extend or maintain a flow of benefits at a given level for a considerable

amount of time after project inputs have ceased. If the community/beneficiaries can continue to produce benefits for themselves without the aid of outside development partners for as long as their issue persists, the initiative is sustainable (Muthaura & Mburugu, 2019).

Project sustainability is the ability to continue providing services and benefits without causing harm to the community or the institution, even when special help like financial, technical, or managerial support has been reduced to a minimum. A project's likelihood of continuing long after outside funding has stopped. The success of community-based projects depends on considering a variety of sustainability factors at every step of the project's lifecycle. This is accurate when outside involvement ends once a project is completed, as it frequently does with development initiatives. To achieve sustainability in community-based programs, several factors have been recognized as essential. The most crucial factors, according to Luvenga et.al. (2015), are community involvement, project outcomes, and outside help.

It is important to identify and examine the four components of sustainability, which are: Community Influence (which assesses how a community affects the project in terms of the social contract and stakeholder influence), Environmental Impact (which assesses how the project affects its geophysical environment); Organizational Culture (which assesses the relationships between the project's internal stakeholders); Finances (which assesses whether the risk taken in pursuit of sustainable development and financial sustainability has yielded an adequate return). The United Nations (UN) (2015) defines sustainability as having three economic, social, and environmental pillars. The social pillar is further divided into socio-cultural respect, community involvement, and political cohesiveness.

2.4 Effects of community participation on the sustainability of community-based projects

The community's ability to adapt to new circumstances and deal with change is a sign of sustainability. Numerous studies focusing on how community initiatives might be sustained past their initial financing source and extend their durability in meeting the community's needs have been conducted due to inadequate knowledge and understanding of what sustains community-based programs. Studies such as "Community development: A critical approach" (Ledwith, 2020) and "The illusion of empowerment: Community development within a colonial context" (Serrano-García, 2014) are some of the studies. In Tanzania, the implementation of community-based projects particularly those that are community-owned, presents one of the biggest hurdles (Kigume, 2021). Community initiatives supported by Harambee spirit money deteriorate and, in most circumstances, fail. Because the communities lack the resources to pay for replacement or maintenance, there is abandonment and less access to secure community development trust funds, which suggests that the achievements obtained have been undone. To pay for such assessments, which can be fraught with dangers and moral conundrums because CBPs lack the resources and influence of the governments they criticize, they must turn to kind donors. The ethical tension between donors' wishes and CBPs' implementation of programs as requested and necessary versus that tension is obvious. There have been ethical disputes and issues in community-based projects (Mwaura & Ngugi, 2014).

Most community-based projects started by national and county governments have not successfully maintained them. Most projects have not achieved their goals because they do not start as planned, face several obstacles due to poor project evaluations, reliance on support, and a lack of ownership of project ideas by other participants, and thus neglect the sustainability

component. It is projected that these difficulties will have caused the majority of the county's projects to fail (Oino, Towett, Kirui & Luvega, 2015). Inadequate funding, little community involvement, and a lack of close monitoring to address problems arising have all been cited as causes. Anyway, most of the time, community members should be left in charge of operating such initiatives, allowing them to run such projects however they see fit due to poor management.

Communities that reduce expenses or stabilize maintenance fund raising make communities more sustainable by making more resources available for preserving and extending benefits. Accountability and responsibility go hand in hand with this (Hodgkin, 1994). Priority interventions, which may be based on the project area's physical parameters, may, in turn, impact on the amount of capital needed and ongoing finance requirements. Equipment, labor, and material expenditures related to initial project activities, including all construction costs, are capital costs (Hodgkin, 2014). The ability of the target community to produce the funds required to sustain project changes is crucial. Although "in-kind" contributions can be a valuable complement to a project, money is still needed for many things like fuel and equipment. Beneficial contribution to capital expenses, whether in terms of labor or capital expenditure, may be a key sign of system sustainability. Contributions are likely to show a genuine interest in the advantages that result from project interventions. However, a desire to contribute to capital expenditures in form or financially does not guarantee sustainability in and of itself (Hodgkin, 2014). To ensure that anticipated results and benefits are realized within the set resource restrictions, managing project costs and budget throughout the project's phases and securing finance is essential.

Since they have a greater impact, many project funders prefer to support short-term, narrowly focused programs; effective help typically requires core, unrestricted funding over a longer period to facilitate local institutional improvement. A project has a higher chance of success if the money is certain and adequate locally and from other health partners. The projects that can secure long-term financial commitments are the most successful (Seyfang et al., 2014). Steady enough funding is needed to enable sustained programs that have the intended impact.

Most initiatives lack clear policies. Therefore, they run in a hazy manner. Lack of enthusiasm for the project is another concern. For instance, rather than being interested in the project, some community members may start it because there are requests to support initiatives. Furthermore, funding organizations appear to have areas they are prepared to support that may not be what the community members desire. Still, because monies are available, the community members may settle for what the donor or funding organization wants. Therefore, the project could not be their top priority in this aspect, which could make initiatives unsustainable.

The absence of possibilities for empowerment is cited as another reason. Once, especially community projects must consider empowerment as a key component. For people to own the project and put up the effort necessary to keep it going, they must be empowered. According to Norman (2012), inadequate management, a lack of community involvement, a lack of monitoring and evaluation by the government and private sectors responsible for the project, access to funds management, and a lack of or failure to consult local people are all reasons why community-based development projects are unsustainable. In literature, empowerment is often mentioned as one of the things that make community-based development efforts unsustainable. However, Usadolo and Caldwell (2016) noted that community involvement in decision-making and project implementation allows the project to continue after the development experts and

donors leave the process. This is further supported by the notion that local empowerment programs, through their participation in project decision-making and implementation, ensure the success of a project.

2.5 The influence funding has on the sustainability of community-based projects.

The most important resource for a project's sustainability is money. Based on this view, community members must handle financial management to operate and upkeep community initiatives successfully. Participation of the local community in the resource mobilization process develops and expands relationships with local stakeholders and generates opportunities for shared learning (Muthaura & Mburugu, 2019). By enhancing project performance, focusing on a pro-poor approach, and lowering the likelihood of failure, Bhavesh (2016) demonstrated how participatory resource mobilization processes yield welfare outcomes. Building and retaining the commitment of individual participants in community projects depends on transparency (Ville & Wicken, 2012). The management committees of community projects tend to be more responsible and open in their operations when the beneficiaries actively participate in the financial management of those programs. Projects receive the resources they need from internal and external sources since they cannot succeed without the resources necessary to carry out a project plan (stakeholders or community contribution). Resources include people, things, and money. The strategic resource mobilization process is based on the transparent administration of community-based ventures (Muthaura & Mburugu, 2019).

Poor maintenance is a common cause of project failure and is heavily influenced by a lack of funding (Hacker, Tendulkar & Di-Girolamo, 2012). Project benefits cannot be produced without sufficient financial, human, natural, and technical resources to support them. Benefits cannot last after a project unless resources have been transferred to or can be acquired by the appropriate

host country organizations. Development projects frequently provide financial, human, and technical resources. Because natural resources are limited, responsible use is necessary to ensure their availability for the development of future generations.

The availability of financial resources, including raising and maintaining enough funding for water supply structures, essential to sustainability, is another aspect impacting the development process (Shifotoka & Kanyimba, 2021). Therefore, beneficiary communities' commitment to resources – particularly the availability of financial resources – is a vital sign of how much value these communities might expect from the project.

According to the beneficiaries of the CBDP, climate change and lack of funding make community-based development projects in Namibia unsustainable (Shifotoka & Kanyimba, 2021). People put a lot of effort into their efforts, but they have no control over the changing climate. Thus, they are unable to stop it. For instance, even if someone is determined to work hard if they are engaged in a gardening project, and their only water source is rain, they may not be successful. Because of how the climates have changed, it is difficult to predict when it will rain, when there will be no rain, or when there will be floods. The problem of money was one that the Community-Based Development recipients raised. Without enough funds to support a project, it may become unsustainable. The misappropriation of monies is connected to another issue (Shifotoka & Kanyimba, 2021). This occurs when individuals or project managers spend project funds on endeavors unrelated to the project. Projects become sustainable when money problems arise because the project participants may become disheartened and decide to leave. According to Dinnie and Holstead (2018), funding is essential to any project's success and long-term viability. This entails identifying resources that should be available in the future while also minimizing the risk of project failure.

In a study by Shifotoka and Kanyimba (2021), which examined the factors influencing community-based development's inability to be sustained in the Oshana region of Namibia, it was found that after donor funds are withdrawn from these CBDPs, communities are unable to maintain these projects and are eventually compelled to return to conditions of destitution and privation. The study's findings indicate that the following issues contributed to sustainability: climate change, a lack of resources, a lack of land, a lack of trained management staff, a lack of security, and a lack of possibilities for empowerment (Dinnie and Holstead, 2018). When the local population lacks sufficient funds to meet the financial demands of projects, there is an issue known as inadequate funding. The issue of self-reliance in assuring sustainable community development projects can be complicated by the community members' poor economic situation, just as it can be by the supporting organization's poor economic situation, whether it be governmental or non-governmental.

2.6 The role of project implementers on the sustainability of community-based projects

Community involvement is the involvement of members of a community in initiatives to address local issues (Siles, 2019). It is a core tenet of community-based development projects that community members must be involved in all phases of project development, from the identification stage through implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, to influence the sustainability of the project. Wasilwa (2015) asserts that raising awareness, utilizing the resources already in place, creating capacity, and promoting transparency are all ways to increase community participation. Other strategies for gaining community engagement included upholding excellent relationships and thoughtful activity planning.

The durability of community development projects depends on a variety of roles. First, one's responsibility is to contribute perspectives and resolve conflicts. By participating, people can

examine their personal circumstances, band together as a strong group, and work imaginatively to transform society and create a new world. In this way, learning is encouraged, and people are empowered to help themselves. The bottom-up strategy that results from community participation enables communities to mobilize and assist themselves in reducing reliance on the state. The goal of participation is to become more empowered (Davids, 2009).

The community's empowerment is the second role. People who are empowered are more able to comprehend the reality of their surroundings, think about the reasons influencing their surroundings, and take action to improve the situation. The key to empowerment is for people to understand their situation and social reality critically. Giving the project's beneficiaries a chance to participate in decision-making helps them feel more invested in its success (Siles, 2019).

The third role is capacity building. Building community capacity allows the group to identify, carry out, monitor, and evaluate development projects more effectively and efficiently. Wasilwa (2015) claims capacity building entails providing better knowledge, skills, tools, equipment, and other resources necessary to execute a task.

Creating a mechanism to determine own values and priorities is the fourth role. Community engagement is an important component of a successful community-based development project, particularly when needs assessments are implemented and priorities for community action are chosen. Community-based organizations that include all pertinent community members in creating community action plans assure an egalitarian decision-making process and improve the interventions' cultural acceptability (Shalowitz et al. (2009).

Based on the above discussions, the community must play a role in achieving sustainable development. They should be able to define their development by taking an active role. The

concept of sustainability may be difficult to determine without the community, or the community may refuse to take responsibility for the development process (Rabinowitz, 2015).

Promoting community-based development has increased the popularity of projects that rely on the use of social capital in the organization and the involvement of the local population in development processes from the formulation of the plan through its implementation and management (Setokoe, 2020). This helps ensure that development projects boost local employment and revenue production and promote the growth of local institutions and individuals (Imbaya et al., 2019). This further provides the community's empowerment to encourage proactivity through community ownership, self-regulation, and community-based tourism management, ensuring that participants in the tourism process receive a fair and equitable share of the benefits realized from development initiatives (Sripun et al., 2017). However, the ability of the host communities to effectively and fully participate in project activities targeted at their development is frequently detrimental to the success of community-based projects given the various difficulties described above (Yanes et al., 2019). This is consistent with an old English proverb that reads, "Give a man a fish, and he will eat for a day; teach a man to fish, and he will eat for life". An ongoing discussion about how to ensure community engagement will guarantee the maximization of community benefits, and the equal distribution of such advantages among community members lend validity to this (Durkin et al., 2017).

According to researchers, the goal of community involvement is to plan development such that intended beneficiaries are encouraged to take the matter into their own hands and play an active role in it by mobilizing their resources, defining their own needs, and choosing how to meet those needs (Setokoe, 2020). This puts the community at the center of development since

community involvement as a strategy necessitates using resources that belong to the community to meet community needs.

2.7 Best practice strategies that can influence the sustainability of community-based projects.

One essential strategy to increase participation is giving participatory analysis enough time and funding and reacting to demand-driven techniques. Short-term programs cannot guarantee the sustainable capacity creation of crucial organizational structures within target populations (Zerhusen, 2012). However, the beneficiaries of the emergency program have been persuaded and motivated to actively participate in the program's execution by integrating poverty reduction measures. This has also encouraged people to engage in self-development activities, which increases ownership (Brooks, Waylen & Mulder, 2012).

Community-Based Development Projects must have a policy for each project, and (a) the project participants must be involved in the project's beginning phase. It is further suggested that the project participants must own the project and be empowered (Shifotoka & Kanyimba, 2021). Community leaders and government authorities need to step up their supervision, according to Norman (2012). Project participants also need to be motivated to work hard for the expansion of community projects by being made aware that programs is not founded to make them wealthy. Community-based development initiatives are not sustainable. It is advised that once the community realizes the value of projects, they will stop damaging the project components. The results support Usadolo and Caldwell's (2016) finding that initiatives can continue even after development professionals and funders stop funding them if the community is involved in decision-making and project implementation.

Among the measures to reverse the trends of unsustainability, one study found the need for mentors, the use of local language for training purposes, and the need to involve beneficiaries from the beginning of the projects (Shifotoka & Kanyimba, 2021). Therefore, there is a great need to empower the project members to develop policies and implement them, as well as enact monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Consequently, project beneficiaries must participate in decision-making and take ownership of such initiatives for any production development strategy. According to a study by Phetogo et al. (2020) on the Sustainable Utilization of Indigenous Goats in Southern Africa, the ultimate success of improvement programs depends on whether the beneficiaries comprehend and concur with the projects' goals. This is true regardless of how much money and technological support is provided. Research and extension must incorporate recipients' knowledge, ideas, and behaviors. It has been discovered that community-based initiatives are crucial to the efficient management and use of animal genetic resources.

The success of community development initiatives aimed at reducing poverty depends on how well monitoring and evaluation strategies are implemented. However, rarely do local government agencies oversee and assess development initiatives. For example, Khumalo (2014) argues that inadequate leadership management and public policy formation are the fundamental causes of the insufficient monitoring and assessment of community development programs. To avoid interfering with community development programs and compromising their autonomy, organic growth, and correct functionality, the government must, through legislation, foster an atmosphere that allows them to flourish.

For community development to be a successful component of government initiatives to reduce poverty and create jobs, a robust infrastructure must be in place. According to Mensah et al. (2013), such issues facing community development initiatives should be addressed through

grassroots and integrated community approaches where people are consulted on how to improve their infrastructure moving ahead.

The development of skills should be encouraged by establishing vocational training facilities that offer training and employment opportunities for those actively engaged in the economy. It is essential to regularly monitor and assess community development programs to find any weak points, corruption, or mismanagement. The local government should execute public-private partnerships (PPPs) with private businesses, community-based organizations (CBOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesspeople, and other pertinent stakeholders to combine both financial and human resources for poverty alleviation.

De Beer and Swanepoel (1998) state that community development entails ownership, asset creation, and capacity building. The ability of a community to sustain itself successfully and confidently through contributions from its members is the most crucial aspect of community development, according to the authors (Shava & Thakhathi, 2016). They also backed the idea that a strong community requires citizens and others to share duties for the good of society. According to Swanepoel and De Beer (2012), all three components must be present to classify an activity as community development. They clarified that asset building is a strategy used in community development to increase the quantity and value of resources that community members may use to better their personal lives and forge a sense of collective identity. According to the initiatives above, community development should involve public participation and give locals more economic power.

2.8 Chapter summary

The chapter presented a review of relevant literature. The chapter began by explaining the two theories that informed the study: The Empowerment and Resource Dependency theories. Then,

the review of selected literature using empirical studies formed the most significant section of the chapter. Next, the chapter focused on project sustainability as a concept, how community participation affects the sustainability of community-based projects, and the influence of funding on the sustainability of community-based projects. Finally, the chapter ended by discussing the best practice strategies to promote the sustainability of community-based projects.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the research methodology of the study. The chapter explains the research design, approach, and paradigm, population, and sampling methods. Data analysis, data collection instruments, procedures, and ethical considerations will end the chapter.

3.2 Research Paradigm

A worldview or philosophy that aids in defining what is appropriate for an investigation and how it might be conducted is known as a research paradigm (Bertram & Christiansen, 2014). The pragmatic paradigm used in this work fits the desired mixed-methods design. Utilizing both paradigms can give the research a chance to benefit from each one's advantages, including the ability to examine human behavior in real-world settings (interpretivism) and objectively and measurably (positivism) (Saunders, Lewis & Thornhill, 2016).

3.3 Research Approach

This study will adopt a mixed-methods approach (a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods). Since a single strategy alone will only produce a partial understanding of the phenomenon being examined, the mixed method has an advantage over any single approach. Additionally, it allows for the integration of both methods' strengths. According to McMillan and Schumacher (2016), more detailed results and conclusions are produced since the type of data that is collected is not limited to one method.

3.4 Research Design

The study used an exploratory sequential design. With a focus primarily on quantitative approaches, qualitative and quantitative data are collected sequentially in this design, frequently in two periods. Gathering and analyzing qualitative data comes next (McMillan & Schumacher, 2016). To further explain or elucidate quantitative findings, this qualitative data is required. While the second phase employs qualitative, in-person interviews to obtain greater insight into investigated factors, the first phase is quantitative and uses random sampling procedures. This design was favored because it provides both an etic objective view and an emic subjective view of the events under study. The hybrid design methodically incorporates a complementary strategy to make up for the drawbacks of depending on only one method. Last, the strategy enabled the researcher to mix inductive and deductive reasoning (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016).

3.5 Population

The study's population comprised the inhabitant of Gobabis Constituency, which has 22 registered CBPs and two donor-funded agencies. Therefore, the targeted population for this study was 250 community-based project beneficiaries, staff members at the Gobabis Constituency office, and Omaheke Regional Council.

3.6 Sampling and sample size

Sampling is a systematic process of selecting people, behaviors, settings, objects, and items that will be included in the study (Bertram & Christianse, 2016). The study has adopted both probability and non-probability sampling methods. The preferred probability sampling method is a stratified sampling technique that allowed the research to symbolically sample even the smallest and most difficult-to-reach sub-groups of the population and minimized sample selection bias. Stratified sampling has been used to select 56 community-based project

beneficiaries. The sample size was obtained using Slovin's formula computed as $n = N / (1 + NE^2)$: Where; n = sample size, N = study population, and e = margin of error. For a population of 250 participants and a margin of error of 10%, $n = 250 / (1 + 250 (0.1)^2)$, the calculated sample size (n) is 71 respondents.

The preferred non-probability sampling method is the purposive sampling technique, where the researcher uses personal judgement to draw participants based on their leadership hierarchy in the constituency (McMillan & Schumacher, 2016). The participants were purposively selected based on their being representative of the target population and possessing in-depth knowledge regarding the sustainability of community-based projects in the constituency. Purposive sampling was adopted in drawing 15 participants at Gobabis Constituency Office, two donor-funded agencies in the Constituency, Omaheke Regional Council, and senior project managers in the selected CBPs.

A sample refers to elements selected from the target population from which primary data will be collected for the study (Christensen, Johnson & Turner, 2015). Therefore, the sample was expected to resemble the population from which it was drawn. In this study, the study sample comprised 71 participants.

3.7 Research Instruments

The researcher utilized closed-ended questionnaires and an interview guide to gather data. A close-ended questionnaire is a form with prepared questions and fixed alternative answers from which participants choose the appropriate response (Cohen, Manion & Morrison, 2018). Of 15 officials, closed-ended questions were given. Closed-ended questions were favored because they were quicker to complete, easier to analyze, and enabled respondents of various literacy levels to respond appropriately without suffering an unfair advantage.

The interview guide was administered by project managers. The outline of interview guides increased the comprehensiveness of the data and made data collection somewhat systematic for each respondent (Cohen, Manion & Morrison, 2018). In addition, another plus for the interview guide was that logical gaps in data could be anticipated and closed. Interviews were directed at 15 officials at the Gobabis Constituency office, Omaheke Regional Council, two donor-funded agencies, and senior managers at the selected CBPs.

3.8 Data collection procedures

Firstly, the researcher obtained permission from UNAM. Data was only collected after a consent letter was granted; primary data was obtained through interviews and questionnaires, and secondary data was obtained from Gobabis Constituency's official documents and reports on performance indicators. A letter of introduction, objectives and the purpose of the study accompanied each questionnaire.

All questionnaires were self-administered by participants. Closed-ended questionnaires were hand-delivered to each of the 56 participants and left behind for three days for them to complete filling them. The researcher returned on the 4th day to collect questionnaires for data capturing.

The interviews were conducted over four days. The researcher ensured that each interview was held at a convenient place for each participant to make them feel free to express themselves without reservations. The duration for each interview was a maximum of 25 minutes. Although all interviews were audio recorded to facilitate transcription and useful data analysis in the future, the audio was recorded with the participant's permission.

3.9 Data analysis

Data analysis entails reducing accumulated data to a manageable size, developing summaries, and looking for patterns (Cooper & Schundler, 2017). The study being mixed, quantitative and qualitative data would be analyzed separately.

Quantitative data were analyzed using a computer program called Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, graphs and tables were used to show the relationship between the sustainability of the projects and the factors influencing this sustainability.

Qualitative data was analyzed through thematic analysis. Data organization through coding, grouping data into recurring themes and patterns, recognizing related topics, and locating data of the responses to research questions are all steps in analyzing the data process.

Data analysis software was preferred to overcome subjective ways of analyzing data, leading to increased accuracy and interpretation. Analyzed data would be stored for five years before it is destroyed. After that, data would be stored manually in a file and electronically in the computer database.

3.10 Research ethics

“Research ethics” relates to proper and improper research conduct (Sekaran & Bourgie, 2016).

The researcher respected the following research principles in this study:

- **Obtaining the participants’ knowledge-based permission**

Participants were informed of the investigation’s goal and all relevant details, including their ability to decline participation in or withdraw from the study. Before data collection began, the researcher acquired the subjects’ informed consent.

- **Making sure that no one is harmed.**

According to the principle of non-maleficence, the researcher must prevent deceit, assure honesty, and promote openness so that no participant suffers mental, physical, or social harm from participating in the study.

- **Ensuring that consent is gotten.**

Before data collection, the researcher sought permission from the Constituency office and the respondents through a signed consent letter.

- **Protecting privacy and anonymity**

The researcher ensured that the data collected from participants remained confidential. All tools used to collect data remained anonymous to protect participants' identities. In addition, individual data for the study was not made accessible to anyone other than the researcher.

3.11 Chapter Summary

This chapter presented the research methodology of the study. The chapter also explained the research design, approach, and paradigm, population, and sampling methods. Data analysis, data collection instruments, data collection procedures and ethical considerations ended the chapter. The next chapter will analyze and present data and discuss key findings.

CHAPTER 4

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

Chapter three outlined the methodological and research design aspects employed in this study. This chapter presents the data that was collected through an empirical investigation. The data presented in this chapter relates to the findings of the interviews with project managers, Gobabis Constituency and Omaheke Regional Council staff members, representatives of donor funders and project beneficiaries who are the community members. Firstly, the collected data from interviews and questionnaires are analyzed and presented. Secondly, the findings are interpreted and discussed supported by data from literature. This chapter, therefore, establishes the factors influencing the sustainability of community-based projects in Gobabis Constituency, Namibia. The data analysis and presentation will be divided into responses generated by the interview guide and responses generated by questionnaires.

4.2 Interview guide responses

4.2.1 Response rate

In any research, a response rate is the percentage of the responses received compared to the total number of targeted respondents. The response rate is also denoted as the completion rate or return rate, and it is usually expressed in percentage form. Information on the rate of response for this research is displayed in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Study response rate on interviews

Response	Frequency	Percentage %
Interviewed participants	13	86.7%
Un-interviewed participants	2	13.3%
Total targeted interviewers	15	100%

Table 4.1 shows that fifteen (15) participants were scheduled to be interviewed in Gobabis Constituency. The study findings show that out of the fifteen (15) targeted participants, thirteen (13) respondents were successfully interviewed. This translated to an 86.7% response rate. The response rate aligns with Mugenda and Mugenda (2017), who stated that a study with a minimum 70% response rate is sufficient for analysis and conclusion.

4.2.2 Background and respondent characteristics

The researcher set out to determine the background and respondent characteristics of the study's targeted fifteen (15) respondents. Highlighted are the background and respondent characteristics derived from Part A of the study's interview guide, which included; gender, number of years working with donor funded projects and the main duties done by the participants.

4.2.3 Gender of respondents

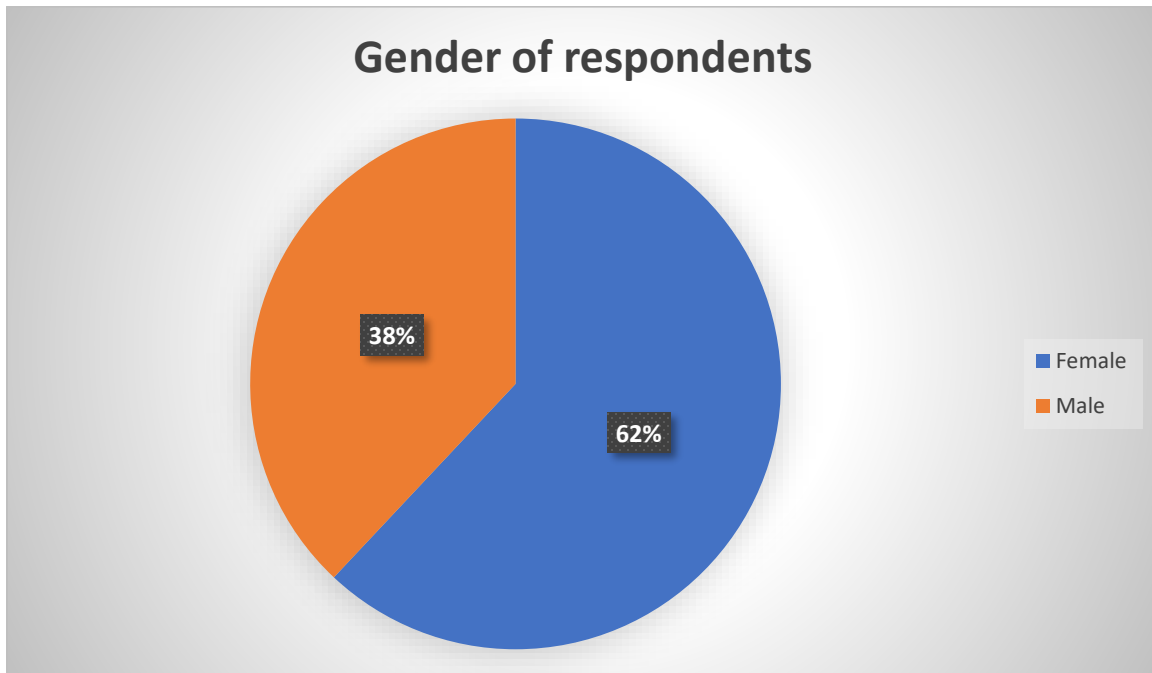


Figure 4.1: Gender of respondents

The targeted respondents were requested to specify their gender. This was to determine if gender had any bearing on the factors influencing the sustainability of community-based projects in the Gobabis Constituency. The findings are displayed in Figure 4.1. The study established that 38% of respondents were male, whereas 62% were female. From the results, the majority of those that responded were female respondents. The even spread in the number of respondents in accordance with gender is an indication of a lack of bias. It also shows that women officials are more active in the sustainability of community-based projects. The global goal of achieving gender equality and sustainable development cannot be fully achieved without paying great attention to the extent of women's involvement in community-based projects. It is vital for women to engage in community-based projects because women are a corporate part of our communities.

4.2.4 Experience working with donor-funded projects.

The respondents were also asked about their experience working with donor-funded projects. This was done to ascertain whether experience working with donor-funded projects had any impact on the factors influencing the sustainability of community-based projects. The results are shown in Figure 4.2 below.

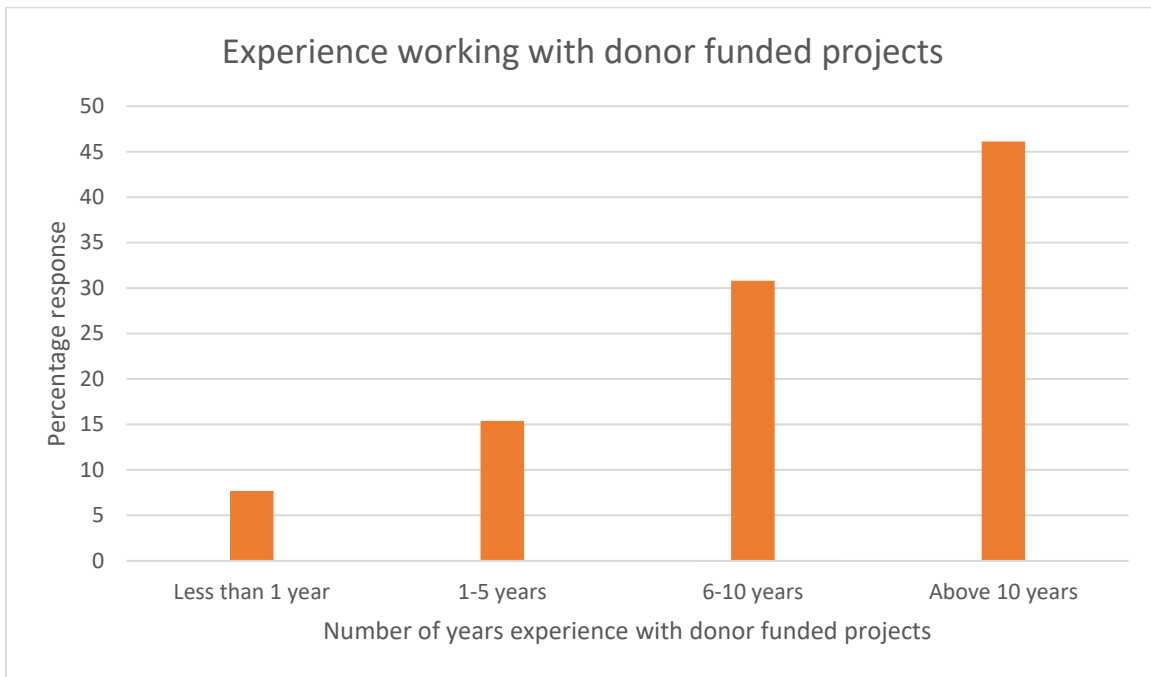


Figure 4.2: Experience working with donor funded projects.

According to Figure 4.2, most respondents had over six years of working experience with donor-funded projects compared to the ones below five years. 7.7 per cent of them had less than a year's experience. This high experience working with donor-funded projects meant that respondents had more than enough knowledge of factors influencing the sustainability of community-based projects in the Gobabis Constituency. Having worked for more than one year on community-based projects means one would have acquired enough knowledge on projects' sustainability.

4.2.5 Main duties of the participants

Participants were also asked about their main duties in this environment of donor-funded projects. Various responses were received.

Respondent A, a Project Manager, asserted, *my duties include planning and execution of projects in this constituency. I approve the projects that need to be done, and my approval is based on what these projects will bring to the constituency in terms of the benefits. I also ensure that the projects are completed on time, effectively and satisfactorily. And that the funds sourced for the projects are used for their intended purpose. I lead my project team and monitor the project's progress. Some issues may arise during the project implementation, so I solve them to the stakeholders' satisfaction*".

Respondents B and C, who are staff members at Gobabis Constituency and Omaheke Regional Council have similar assertions. According to them, *"as staff members of the constituency and the Regional Council, we are responsible for identifying the projects that need to be done and we communicate with the project manager. We do this in consultation with the project beneficiaries who in this case are the members drawn from Gobabis constituency, we also ensure that all the projects that are done in our constituency are done and completed well"*.

The above is in line with a study done by Bredillet, Tywoniak and Dwivedula (2015) 'who asserted that project managers have a big task of managing projects and seeing that projects are completed by managing the project team well'.

4.2.6 Understanding community-based projects

The respondents were also asked if they understood what community-based projects are. This was done to ascertain whether understanding community-based projects had any bearing on the

factors influencing the sustainability of community-based projects in the Gobabis Constituency. According to all the respondents, community-based projects are project activities that take place within a particular area. In this case, they take place within the Gobabis constituency. These projects have a reason why they are set up.

4.2.7 Community-based projects found in Gobabis Constituency

Several community projects are embarked on in different communities. In the Gobabis constituency, according to the respondents, there are several community-based projects such as chicken and goat rearing, cattle rearing, market gardening, sewing, bakery and so on.

4.2.8 Importance of the projects to the beneficiaries

The respondents were also asked if these community-based projects were helpful to the beneficiaries. Their responses indicated that community-based projects were worthwhile as they employed some community members, thereby reducing unemployment in the constituency. Other respondents also mentioned that these projects help by providing food for the beneficiaries, which allows them to improve the participants' diets. They also said that community projects help to develop the community and that these projects also help to improve the quality of life for the more vulnerable members of society.

These findings are consistent with the study done by Mughai (2017), which explored the importance of community projects. According to her, community projects around the world play an essential role in the development of society, ranging from social enterprises to enhancing the quality of life of the inhabitants.

4.2.8 Understanding of community participation in projects

Participants were also asked if they understood what community participation in projects meant. Various responses were received from these respondents. For example, respondent A asserted that “*community participation in projects is when the community members participate and get involved when the projects are being executed*”. Other respondents also supported the above assertion by saying that community participation is when community members are employed on the projects that will be done. These respondents went on to say that people are not forced to participate in projects, but they should be given opportunities to participate where possible.

4.2.9 Ways in which members of the community participate in the community projects.

It is in several ways that community members participate in projects. First, according to the respondents, community members experience deciding which projects they want in their communities to improve their lives. They also participate, as respondents proclaimed, in the implementation when they contribute directly to the project's activities. Finally, respondents also asserted that community members participate in the projects by providing funding or sourcing the funds needed to succeed.

4.2.10 How the ways mentioned above assist in the sustainability of these projects.

Community participation helps in the sustainability of the project. According to the respondents, when community members are involved in projects, they feel part of that project and want to see its success. Suppose community members decide which projects they need the community to embark on. In that case, they will choose projects they may be able to do as a community, and the probability of those projects succeeding will be high. If people participate in the projects they have assisted in formulating, they will be motivated to make the success of those projects a reality.

4.3 Questionnaire guide responses

4.3.1 Demographic Information

4.3.1.1 Gender Respondents

The findings showed that of the 71 participants, 64,93% were female, while 43.66% were male. This denotes that both male and female gender participated in investigating the factors influencing the sustainability of community-based projects in Gobabis Constituency, Namibia, thus promoting diversity. This information is presented in table 1 below.

Table 4. Gender of respondents on questionnaires

Gender respondents	Number of respondents	Percentage
Female	39	54,93
Male	32	45,07
Total	71	100

Source: Field Survey 2022

From the above table, it can be concluded that females were more dominant, with 54.93%, while males constituted 45.07%.

4.3.1.2 Age Group

The findings from the study revealed that of 71 respondents, 11.27% are within the age range of 18 to 25 years, 25.23% within 26 to 30 years, while those within the age range of 31 to 35 years represent 38.03%; 36 to 40 years represents 22.54% and those above 41 years constitute 4.23%. Additionally, the results show that there are fewer people who are over the age of 41 years who participated in the study. This information is shown in table 4.2 below.

Table 4.3 Age group of respondents

Age Group	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
18 to 25 years	8	11.27
26 to 30 years	17	23.94
31 to 35 years	27	38.03
36 to 40 years	16	22.54
41 years and above	3	4.23
Total	71	100

Source: Field Survey 2022

4.3.2 Number of years stayed in Gobabis Constituency

Out of 71 respondents who took part in this study, 11.27% stayed less than one year in the Gobabis constituency, 14.08% represented those who had stayed between 1 and 5 years, 33.80% represented those who stayed between 6 to 10 years while 40.85% represent those visited over ten years in the Gobabis Constituency. This shows that most people waited for an extended period in the Gobabis Constituency, while fewer stayed for less than one year. This information is presented in table 3 below.

Table 4.4 Number of years stayed in Gobabis Constituency

Number of years stayed in Gobabis Constituency	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
Less than one year	8	11.27
1 to 5 years	10	14.08
6 to 10 years	24	33.80
Over ten years	29	40.85

Total	71	100
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Source: Field Survey 2022

4.3.3 Awareness of the community-based projects community base

The study aimed to investigate the factors influencing the sustainability of community-based projects in Gobabis Constituency, Namibia. The findings are presented using the Likert Scale that identified the level of agreement among the participants. Therefore, the following key was employed: 1 strongly agree; 2 – agree; 3 – neutral; 4 – disagree, and 5 – strongly disagree.

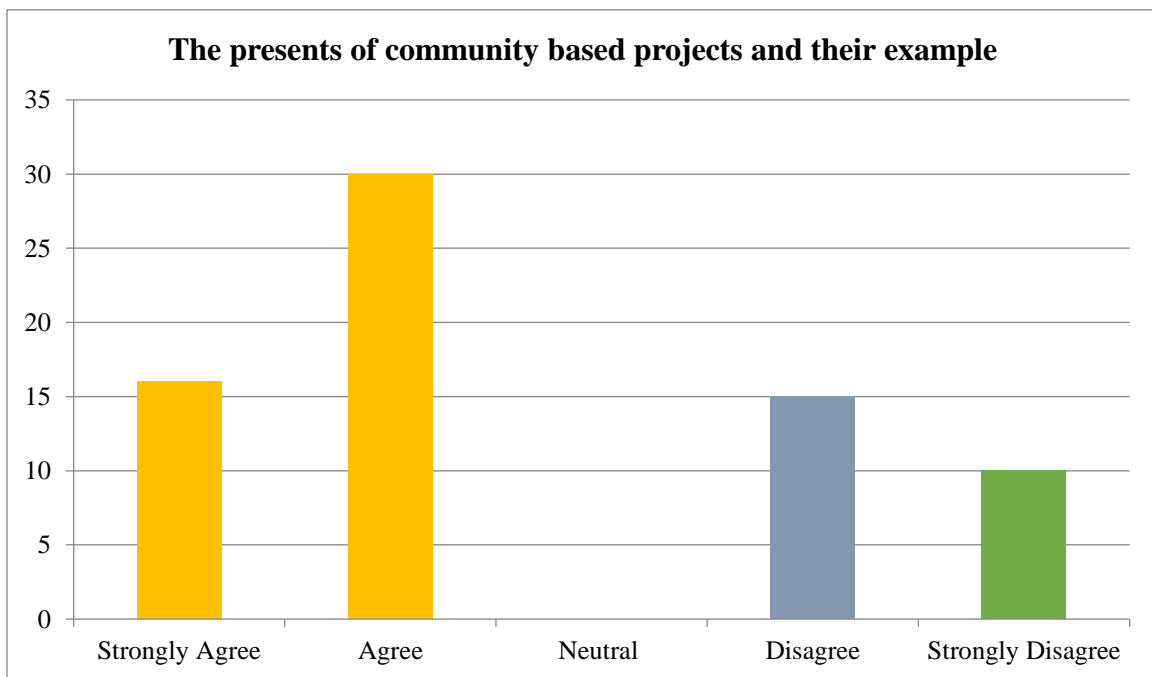
4.3.4 Knowledge of community-based projects

The results revealed that all (100%) respondents strongly agree they know what community-based projects are. This shows that the government of Namibia educates people about the value of community-based projects in the Gobabis constituency. According to Oino et al. (2015), most projects have not achieved their goals because they do not start as planned, face several obstacles because of poor project evaluations, reliance on support, and a lack of ownership of project ideas by other participants, and thus neglect the sustainability component. These difficulties are projected to cause most of the county’s projects to fail (Oino, Towett, Kirui & Luvega, 2015). Inadequate funding, little community involvement, and a lack of close monitoring to address problems arising have all been cited as causes. To lift people out of poverty or provide alternative social money through community-based groups since they are best positioned to meet people’s needs. Consequently, most of the time, community members should be left in charge of operating such initiatives, allowing them to run them however they see fit due to poor management.

4.3.5 The presents of community-based projects in your constituency

On whether the community-based projects are in Gobabis Constituency and whether participants could provide some examples of these projects in their constituency, the findings revealed that 22.54% strongly agreed, 42.25% agreed, 21.13% disagreed, and 14.08% strongly disagreed with the statement. With most of the participants agreeing that Gobabis have community-based projects in their constituency and can provide an example, this shows that people are involved in setting up community-based projects by the government of Namibia. Therefore, majority agreed that the presents of the community-based projects in the Gobabis consistency were involved in helping in the provision of social services in the constituency. Fewer respondents did not see any community-based projects being done in their consistuence. This information is presented using the following graph 4.1.

Figure: 4.1 The presents of community-based projects and their examples



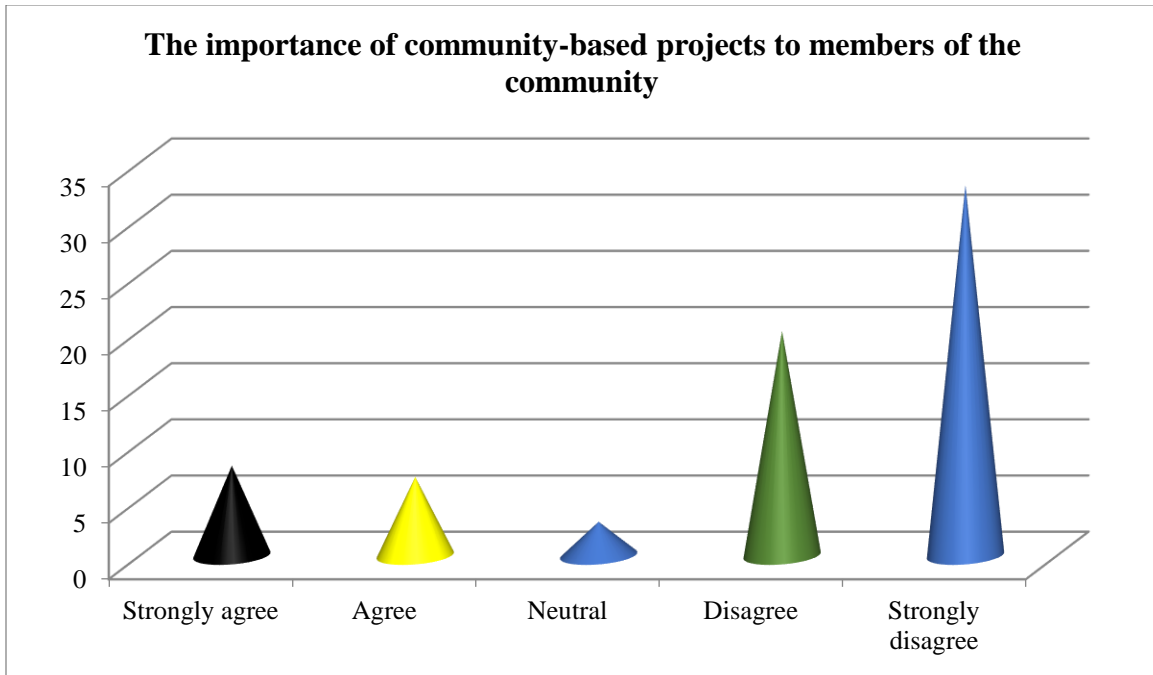
Source: Field Survey 2022

Consequently, the above figure 4.1 revealed that 22.54% strongly agreed, 42.25% agreed, 21.13% disagreed, and 14.08% strongly disagreed with the statement.

4.3.6 The importance of community-based projects to members of the community

Out of 71 respondents, the findings revealed that 25.35% strongly agreed, 43.66% agreed, 8.45% were neutral, 7.04% disagreed, and 15.49% strongly disagreed on the importance of community-based projects to members of the community. Most respondents agreed that community-based projects play a vital role in their daily lives by employing the constituency and that people rely on them. According to Hodgkin (1994), accountability and responsibility go hand in hand with this. Priority interventions, which may be based on the project area's physical parameters, may, in turn, impact on the amount of capital needed and ongoing financial requirements. Equipment, labor, and material expenditures related to initial project activities, including all construction costs, are capital costs. Mwaura & Ngugi (2014) argued that the ability of the target community to produce the funds required to sustain project changes is crucial. Although "in-kind" contributions can be a valuable complement to a project, money is still needed for many things like fuel and equipment. Beneficial contribution to capital expenses, whether in terms of labor or capital expenditure, may be a key sign of system sustainability. Contributions are likely to show a genuine interest in the advantages that result from project interventions. However, a desire to contribute to capital expenditures in form or financially does not guarantee sustainability in and of itself (Hodgkin, 2014). To ensure that expected results and benefits are realized within the set resource restrictions, managing project costs and budget throughout the project's phases and securing finance is essential. This information is presented in Figure 4.2 below.

Figure 4.2 The importance of community-based projects to members of the community



Source: Field Survey 2022

The above figure 4.2 indicates that 25.35% strongly agreed, 43.66% agreed, 8.45% were neutral, 7.04% disagreed, and 15.49% strongly disagreed on the importance of community-based projects to members of the community. Most respondents agreed that community-based projects play a vital role in their daily lives by employing the constituency and that people rely on them.

4.3.7 Advantage of having many community-based projects in the constituency

Out of 71 responses with descriptive statistics, the findings reveal that 11.27% strongly agree. In contrast, 9.86% agree, and 4.23% are neutral. Those who disagree account for 28.17%, while 46.48% represent those who strongly disagree that having many community-based projects in their constituency is an advantage. From the findings, it can be shown that most respondents disagree that there are advantages to having many community-based projects in the Gobabis Constituency. Therefore, this implies people do not see the value of community-based projects

as they feel are the worst of government resources. This agrees with Norman (2012), who asserts that inadequate management, a lack of community involvement, a lack of monitoring and evaluation by the government and private sectors responsible for the project, access to funds management, and a lack of or failure to consult local people are all reasons why community-based development projects are sustainable. In literature, empowerment is often mentioned as one thing that makes community-based development efforts unsustainable. However, Usadolo and Caldwell (2016) noted that community involvement in decision-making and implementation allows the project to continue after the development experts and donors leave the process. This is further supported by the notion that local empowerment programs, through their participation in project decision-making and implementation, ensure a project's success. This information is presented in table 4.3 below.

Table 4.4: Advantages of having many community-based projects in the constituency.

Advantages of having many community-based projects in the constituency	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	8	11.27
Agree	7	9.86
Neutral	3	4.23
Disagree	20	28.17
Strongly Disagree	33	46.48
Total	71	100

Source: Field Survey 2022

The above table indicates that of 71 responses with descriptive statistics, the findings reveal that 11.27% strongly agree. In contrast, 9.86% agree, and 4.23% are neutral. Those who disagree

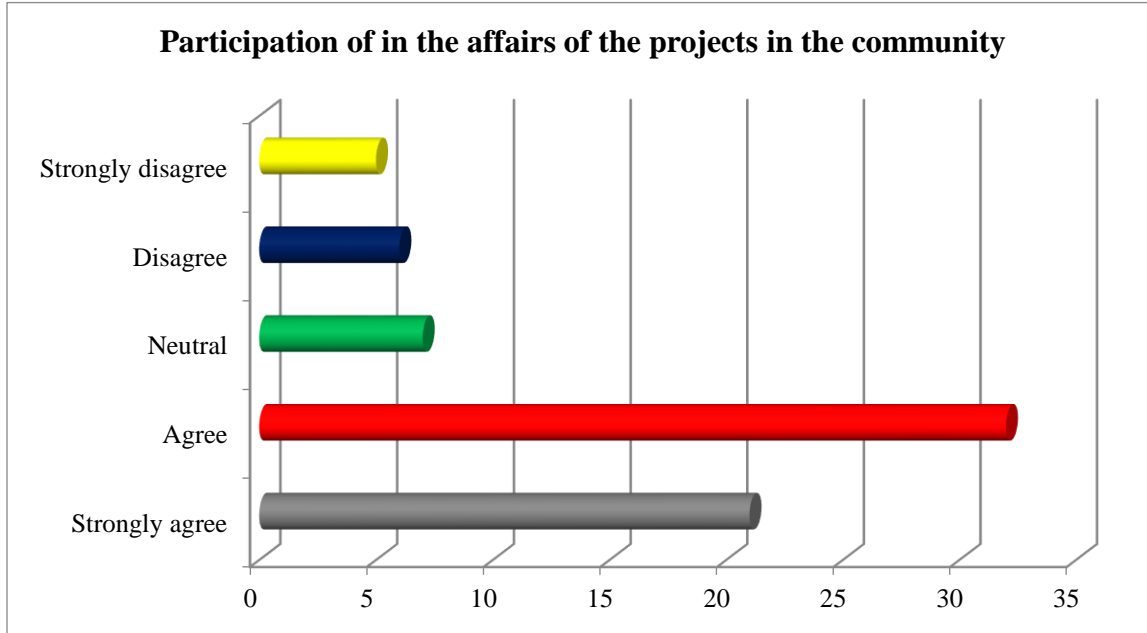
account for 28.17%, while 46.48% represent those who strongly disagree that having many community-based projects in their constituency is an advantage.

4.3.8 Participation in the affairs of the projects in the community

Out of 71 respondents, the findings revealed that 29.58% strongly agree, 45.07% agree, 9.86% were neutral, 8.45% disagree, and 7.04 strongly agree that they sometimes participate in the affairs of the project in the Gobabis Constituency. The findings demonstrate that most people participate in the affairs of the projects in the community in the Gobabis Constituency. Therefore, this implies that people are educated about the value of community-based projects in their constituency hence their participation. However, Oino et al. (2015) concurred that most community-based projects started by national and county governments had not been successfully maintained.

Most projects have not achieved their goals because they do not begin as planned. They face several obstacles due to poor project evaluations, reliance on support, and a lack of ownership of project ideas by other participants, and thus neglect the sustainability component. These difficulties are projected to cause most of the county's projects to fail (Oino et al., 2015). Inadequate funding, little community involvement, and a lack of close monitoring to address arising problems have all been cited as causes. To lift people out of poverty or provide alternative social money through community-based groups since they are best positioned to meet people's needs. Most of the time, community members should be left in charge of operating such initiatives, allowing them to run them however they see fit due to poor management. The results are presented in figure 4.5 below.

Figure 4.5 Participation of community members in community-based projects



Source: Field Survey 2022

However, the above figure shows that out of 71 respondents, the findings revealed that 29.58% strongly agree, 45.07% agree, 9.86% were neutral, 8.45% disagree, and 7.04% strongly agree that they sometimes participate in the affairs of the project in the Gobabis Constituency.

4.3.9 Involvement in the affairs of the community-based projects makes them sustainable.

Out of 71 respondents, whether the involvement in the affairs of the community-based projects makes them sustainable. The findings revealed that all (100%) participants agreed that their participation makes community-based projects bearable. Usadolo and Caldwell (2016) explained that most initiatives lack clear policies. Therefore, they run in a hazy manner. Lack of enthusiasm for the project is another concern. This is supported by Norman (2012), who noted that funding organizations have areas they are prepared to support that may not be what the community members desire. Still, because monies are available, the community members may

settle for what the donor or funding organization wants. Therefore, the project could not be their top priority in this aspect, which could make initiatives unsustainable.

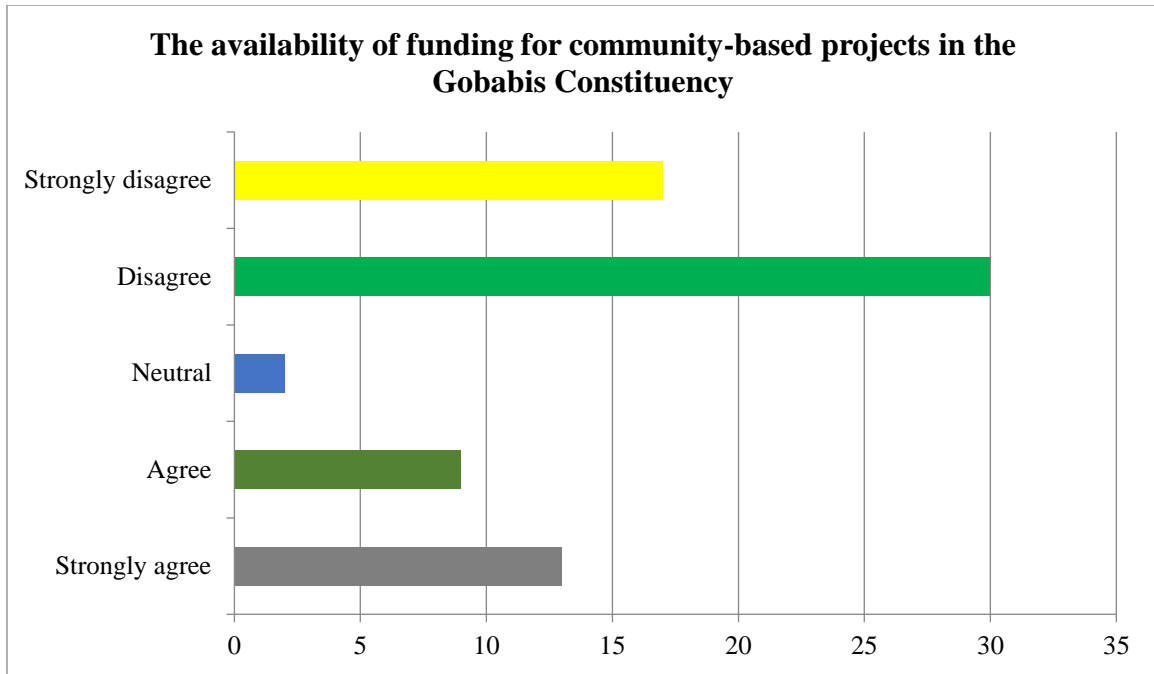
The absence of possibilities for empowerment is cited as another reason. Once, especially community projects must consider empowerment as a critical component. For people to own the project and put up the effort necessary to keep it going, they must be empowered. According to Norman (2012), inadequate management, a lack of community involvement, a lack of monitoring and evaluation by the government and private sectors responsible for the project, access to funds management, and a lack of or failure to consult local people are all reasons why community-based development projects are unsustainable. In literature, empowerment is often mentioned as one of the things that make community-based development efforts unsustainable. Usadolo and Caldwell (2016) noted that community involvement in decision-making and implementation allows the project to continue after the development experts and donors leave the process.

4.3.10 The availability of enough funding for community-based projects

Out of 71 respondents, the findings reveal that 18.31% strongly agree, 12.68% agree, 2.82% are neutral, 42.25% disagree, and 23.94% strongly disagree with the statement that community-based projects get enough funding. This means that the government does not have adequate funds for the project to sustain them once they are completed and handed over to the community. The findings mean there is a lack of adequate funding for community-based projects such that once handed over to the constituency, they will not achieve the desired impact on the community as they lack continuity. Ville and Wicken (2012) agree by highlighting that the most essential resource for a project's sustainability is money. Based on this view, community members must handle financial management for the successful operation and upkeep of community initiatives.

Participation of the local community in the resource mobilization process develops and expands relationships with local stakeholders and generates opportunities for shared learning (Muthaura & Mburugu, 2019). By enhancing project performance, focusing on a pro-poor approach, and lowering the likelihood of failure, Bhavesh (2016) demonstrated how participatory resource mobilization processes yield welfare outcomes. Building and retaining the commitment of individual participants in community projects depends on transparency (Ville & Wicken, 2012). The management committees of community projects tend to be more responsible and open in their operations when the beneficiaries actively participate in the financial management of those programs. Projects receive the resources they need from internal and external sources since they cannot succeed without the resources necessary to carry out a project plan (stakeholders or community contribution). Resources include people, things, and money. The strategic resource mobilization process is based on the transparent administration of community-based ventures (Muthaura & Mburugu, 2019). This information is presented in figure 4.4 below.

Figure 4.4: The availability of enough funding for community-based projects



Source: Field Survey 2022

4.3.11 Donors also finance projects.

When respondents were requested to indicate their agreement with the statement that donors also finance these community-based projects, the findings indicated that 100% agreed that finance also comes from donors. This shows that the Namibia government and the donors fund these community-based projects in the Gobabis constituency. Shifotoka and Kanyimba (2021) noted that beneficiaries of the CBDP, climate change and lack of funding are factors making community-based development projects in Namibia unsustainable (Shifotoka & Kanyimba 2021). People put a lot of effort into their efforts, but they have no control over the changing climate. Thus, they are unable to stop it. For instance, even if someone is determined to work hard, if they are engaged in a gardening project, and their only water source is rain, they may not be successful. Because of how the climates have changed, it is difficult to predict when it will rain, when there will be no rain, or when there will be floods. The problem of money was one

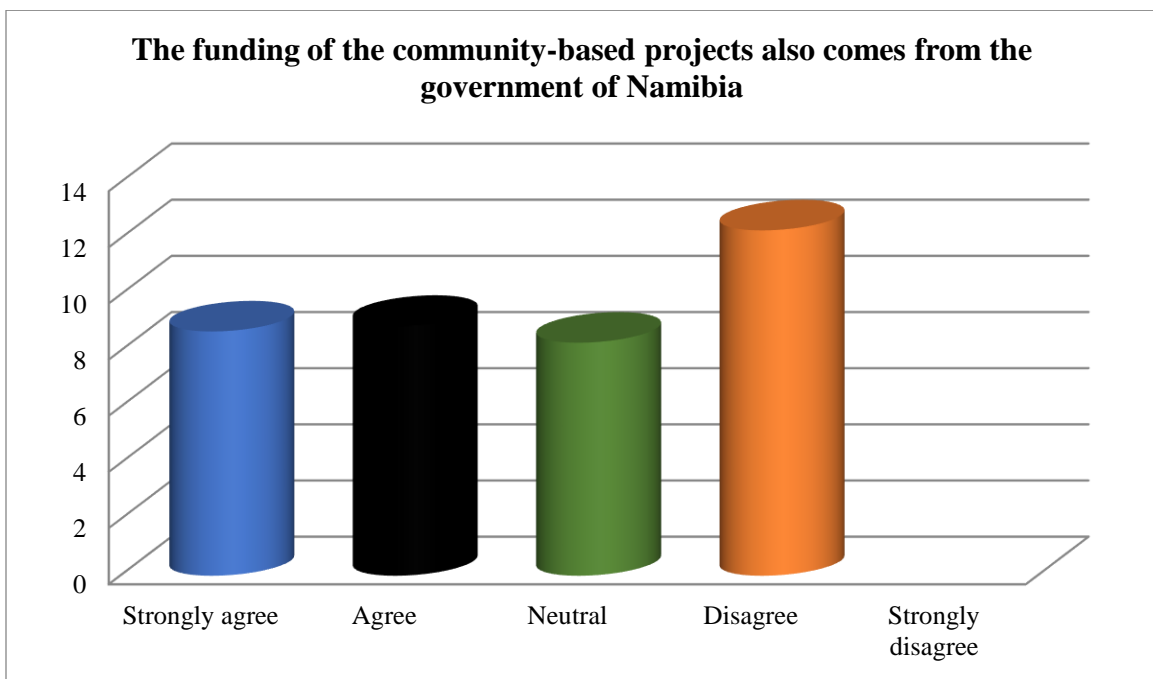
that the Community-Based Development recipients raised. Without enough funds to support a project, it may become unsustainable. The misappropriation of monies is connected to another issue (Shifotoka & Kanyimba, 2021). This occurs when individuals or project managers spend project funds on endeavors unrelated to the project. Projects become sustainable when money problems arise because the participants may become disheartened and decide to leave. According to Dinnie and Holstead (2018), funding is essential to any project's success and long-term viability. This entails identifying resources that should be available in the future while also minimizing the risk of project failure.

4.3.12 The funding of the community-based projects also comes from the government of Namibia.

The findings revealed that 32.21% agree, 45.07% agree, 11.27% disagree, and 8.45% strongly disagree that the community-based projects' funding also comes from Namibia's government. Most of the participants agree that the government of Namibia has a budget for community-based projects. From the findings, it can be concluded the government of Namibia creates a budget for the community-based project to cater for the Gobabis constituency. Project benefits cannot be produced without sufficient financial, human, natural, and technical resources to support them. Benefits cannot last after a project unless resources have been transferred to or can be acquired by the appropriate host country organizations. Development projects frequently provide financial, human, and technical resources. Because natural resources are limited, responsible use is necessary to ensure their availability for the development of future generations. Hacker et al. (2012) supported this by highlighting that the availability of financial resources, including raising and maintaining enough funding for water supply structures, which is essential to sustainability, is another aspect impacting the development process. Poor

maintenance is a common cause of project failure and is heavily influenced by a lack of funding (Hacker et al., 2012). Beneficiary communities' commitment to resources – particularly the availability of financial resources – is regarded as a key sign of how much value these communities might expect from the project. This information is presented in figure 4.7 below.

Figure 4.7: The funding of the community-based projects also comes from the government of Namibia.



Source: Field Survey 2022

4.3.13 Projects implementers are helpful in ensuring the success of community-based projects.

100% of the respondents agree that project implementers help ensure the success of community-based projects. This shows that the success of project implementation is the stakeholders' responsibility. Community involvement involves community members in initiatives to address local issues (Siles, 2019). It is a core tenet of community-based development projects that

community members must be involved in all phases of project development, from the identification stage through implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, to influence the project's sustainability. Wasilwa (2015) asserts that raising awareness, utilizing existing resources, creating capacity, and promoting transparency can increase community participation. Other strategies for gaining community engagement included upholding excellent relationships and thoughtful activity planning.

The durability of community development projects depends on a variety of roles. First, one's responsibility is to contribute perspectives and resolve conflicts. By participating, people can examine their circumstances, band together as a strong group, and work imaginatively to transform society and create a new world. In this way, learning is encouraged, and people are empowered to help themselves. The bottom-up strategy that results from community participation enables communities to mobilize and assist themselves in reducing reliance on the state. Participation aims to become more empowered (Davids, 2009).

4.3.14 More practical strategies that can be employed to influence the sustainability of community-based projects in Gobabis.

The findings reveal that 25.35% agree, 43.66% agree, 8.45% are neutral, 7.04% disagree, and 15.49% strongly disagree that more practical strategies can be employed to influence community-based sustainability projects in Gobabis. The findings show that the majority agree that more practice strategies can be employed to influence the sustainability of community-based projects in Gobabis. One essential strategy to increase participation is giving participatory analysis enough time and funding and reacting to demand-driven techniques. Short-term programs cannot guarantee the sustainable capacity creation of crucial organizational structures within target populations (Zerhusen, 2012). The beneficiaries of the emergency program have

been persuaded and motivated to actively participate in the program's execution by integrating poverty reduction measures. This has also encouraged people to engage in self-development activities, which increases ownership (Brooks, Waylen & Mulder, 2012).

Community-Based Development Projects must have a policy for each project, and (a) the project participants must be involved in the project's beginning phase. It is further suggested that the project participants must own the project and be empowered (Shifotoka & Kanyimba, 2021). Community leaders and government authorities need to step up their supervision, according to Norman (2012). Project participants also need to be motivated to work hard for the expansion of community projects by being made aware that programs are not founded to make them wealthy. Community-based development initiatives are not sustainable. It is advised that once the community realizes the value of projects, they will stop damaging the project components. The results support Usadolo and Caldwell's (2016) finding that initiatives can continue even after development professionals and funders stop funding them if the community is involved in decision-making and project implementation.

Among the measures to reverse the trends of unsustainability, one study found the need for mentors, the use of local language for training purposes, and the need to involve beneficiaries from the beginning of the projects (Shifotoka & Kanyimba, 2021). Therefore, there is a great need to empower the project members to develop policies and implement them and enact the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Consequently, it is crucial that project beneficiaries participate in decision-making and take ownership of such initiatives for any production development strategy. According to a study by Phetogo et al. (2020) on the Sustainable Utilization of Indigenous Goats in Southern Africa, the ultimate success of improvement

programs depends on whether the beneficiaries comprehend and concur with the projects' goals. This is true regardless of how much money and technological support is provided.

4.4 Chapter summary

This chapter provided and presented the analysis of data that was collected from the questionnaires. Therefore, the next chapter presents the summary of findings, conclusions recommendations and recommendations for further studies.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The previous chapter presented and analyzed data. This chapter summarized the research study's findings, conclusion, recommendations, and suggested areas for further research. The following are summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations into the factors influencing the sustainability of community-based projects in Gobabis Constituency, Namibia

The research objectives of this study were to establish the types of community-based projects available, to establish how community participation affects the sustainability of community-based projects, to assess the influence of funding on the sustainability of community-based projects, to develop the role of project implementers on the sustainability of community-based projects and to suggest best practice strategies that can influence the sustainability of community-based projects Constituency, Namibia.

5.2 Conclusion

The study explored the factors influencing the sustainability of community-based projects in Gobabis Constituency, Namibia. Chapter one presented the orientation of the study, explaining the background to the study, statement of the problem, research objectives, significance of the study as well as delimitations and limitations of the study as well as the operational definitions of key terms and structure of the thesis. Additionally, chapter two presented a review of the literature. They, therefore, focused on a theoretical framework that informed the study and selected literature relevant to the study using previous and current studies. Furthermore, chapter three presented the research methodology. It focused on explaining the research paradigm,

approach, and design. The study population, sampling methods, data collection instruments and procedures, data analysis and ethical considerations were also discussed.

5.2.1 Types of community-based projects (CBP) available in Gobabis Constituency, Namibia,

There are several community projects that are embarked on in different communities. In Gobabis constituency, according to the respondents, there are several community-based projects such as chicken and goat rearing, cattle rearing, market gardening, sewing, bakery and so on. These community-based projects provide employment to people who live in Gobabis. Community-based projects help in uplifting the standards of living of the people who live in Gobabis.

5.2.2 Effects of community participation on the sustainability of community-based projects

The community's ability to adapt to new circumstances and deal with change is a sign of sustainability. Numerous studies focusing on how community initiatives might be sustained past their initial financing source and extend their durability in meeting the community's needs have been conducted due to inadequate knowledge and understanding of what sustains community-based programs. Community initiatives supported by Harambee spirit money deteriorate and, in most circumstances, fail. Because the communities lack the resources to pay for replacement or maintenance, there is abandonment and less access to secure community development trust funds, which suggests that the achievements obtained have been undone. To pay such assessments, which can be fraught with dangers and moral conundrums because CBPs lack the resources and influence of the governments they criticize, they must turn to kind donors. The ethical tension between donors' wishes and CBPs' implementation of programs as requested and

necessary versus that tension is obvious. There have been ethical disputes and issues in community-based projects (Mwaura & Ngugi, 2014).

Communities that reduce expenses or stabilize maintenance fund raising make communities more sustainable by making more resources available for preserving and extending benefits. Accountability and responsibility go hand in hand with this (Hodgkin, 1994). Priority interventions, which may be based on the project area's physical parameters, may, in turn, impact on the amount of capital needed and ongoing finance requirements. Equipment, labor, and material expenditures related to initial project activities, including all construction costs, are capital costs (Hodgkin, 2014). The ability of the target community to produce the funds required to sustain project changes is crucial. Although "in-kind" contributions can be a valuable complement to a project, money is still needed for many things like fuel and equipment. Beneficial contribution to capital expenses, whether in terms of labor or capital expenditure, may be a key sign of system sustainability. Contributions are likely to show a genuine interest in the advantages that result from project interventions. However, a desire to contribute to capital expenditures in form or financially does not guarantee sustainability in and of itself (Hodgkin, 2014). To ensure that anticipated results and benefits are realized within the set resource restrictions, managing project costs and budget throughout the project's phases and securing finance is essential.

Since they have a greater impact, many project funders prefer to support short-term, narrowly focused programs; effective help typically requires core, unrestricted funding over a longer period to facilitate local institutional improvement. A project has a higher chance of success if the money is certain and adequate locally and from other health partners. The projects that can

secure long-term financial commitments are the most successful (Seyfang et al., 2014). Steady enough funding is needed to enable sustained programs that have the intended impact.

Most initiatives lack clear policies. Therefore, they run in a hazy manner. Lack of enthusiasm for the project is another concern. For instance, rather than being interested in the project, some community members may start it because there are requests to support initiatives. Furthermore, funding organizations appear to have areas they are prepared to support that may not be what the community members desire. Still, because monies are available, the community members may settle for what the donor or funding organization wants. Therefore, the project could not be their top priority in this aspect, which could make initiatives unsustainable.

5.2.3 The influence of funding on the sustainability of community-based projects.

Poor maintenance is a common cause of project failure and is heavily influenced by a lack of funding (Hacker, Tendulkar & Di-Girolamo, 2012). Without sufficient financial, human, natural, and technical resources to support them, project benefits cannot be produced. Benefits cannot last after a project unless resources have been transferred to or can be acquired by the appropriate host country organizations. Development projects frequently provide financial, human, and technical resources. Because natural resources are limited, responsible use is necessary to ensure their availability for the development of future generations.

5.2.4 The role of project implementers on the sustainability of community-based projects.

One of the major roles of project implementers is capacity building. Building community capacity makes it possible for the group to identify, carry out, monitor, and evaluate development projects with greater effectiveness and efficiency. Wasilwa (2015) claims that

capacity building entails providing better knowledge, skills, tools, equipment, and other resources necessary to execute a task.

Creating a mechanism to determine own values and priorities is the fourth role. An important component of a successful community-based development project is community engagement, particularly when needs assessments are implemented and priorities for community action are chosen. Community-based organizations that include all pertinent community members in the creation of community action plans not only ensure an egalitarian decision-making process but also improve the interventions' cultural acceptability (Shalowitz et al. (2009).

Community involvement is the involvement of members of a community in initiatives to address local issues (Siles, 2019). It is a core tenet of community-based development projects that community members must be involved in all phases of project development, from the identification stage through implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, to influence the sustainability of the project. Wasilwa (2015) asserts that raising awareness, utilizing the resources already in place, creating capacity, and promoting transparency are all ways to increase community participation. Other strategies for gaining community engagement included upholding excellent relationships and thoughtful activity planning.

The community's empowerment is the second role. People who are empowered are more able to comprehend the reality of their surroundings, think on the reasons influencing their surroundings, and take action to improve the situation. The key to empowerment is for people to get a critical understanding of their situation and social reality. Giving the project's beneficiaries the chance to participate in decision-making helps them feel more invested in its success (Siles, 2019).

5.3 Recommendations to the Community

- Community-Based Development Projects must have a policy for each project, and (a) the project participants must be involved in the project's beginning phase. Project participants also need to be motivated to work hard for the expansion of community projects by being made aware that programmes are not founded to make them wealthy. Community-based development initiatives are not sustainable. It is advised that once the community realizes the value of projects, they will stop damaging the project components.
- Among the measures to reverse the trends of unsustainability is using local language for training purposes and the need to involve beneficiaries from the beginning of the projects. Therefore, there is a great need to empower the project members to develop policies and implement them and enact the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Consequently, project beneficiaries must participate in decision-making and take ownership of such initiatives for any production development strategy.
- The success of community development initiatives aimed at reducing poverty depends on how well monitoring and evaluation strategies are implemented. Unfortunately, local government agencies rarely do they oversee and assess development initiatives. To avoid interfering with community development programmes and compromising their autonomy, organic growth, and correct functionality, the government must, through legislation, foster an atmosphere that allows them to flourish.
- For community development to be a successful component of government initiatives to reduce poverty and create jobs, a robust infrastructure must be in place. These issues facing community development initiatives should be addressed through grassroots and integrated

community approaches where people are consulted on improving their infrastructure moving ahead.

- Developing skills should be encouraged by establishing vocational training facilities that offer training and employment opportunities for those actively engaged in the economy. It is essential to regularly monitor and assess community development programmes to find any weak points, corruption, or mismanagement. The local government should execute public-private partnerships (PPPs) with private businesses, community-based organizations (CBOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesspeople, and other pertinent stakeholders to combine both financial and human resources for poverty alleviation.

5.4 Recommendations for further studies

This study investigated the factors influencing the sustainability of community-based projects in Gobabis Constituency, Namibia. Therefore, further study areas should focus on stakeholders' involvement in implementing these community-based projects to ensure success and continuity. Additionally, further study should focus on funding sources for the successful implementation and continuity of community-based projects that usually fail due to adequate funding.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: QUESTIONNAIRE GUIDE for community-based project beneficiaries.

July 2022

Dear Respondent,

RE: REQUEST FOR RESEARCH DATA

My name is JULIA TJAAPO. I am a student at the University of Namibia (UNAM), studying for a Master of Business Administration: Management Strategy. Currently I am conducting research on the topic entitled, “AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE FACTORS INFLUENCING SUSTAINABILITY OF COMMUNITY BASED PROJECTS IN GOBABIS CONSTITUENCY, NAMIBIA.” To accomplish this, you were selected to assist in generating the needed data for this study. The data will be applied only for academic work and there will be no mentioning of your name anywhere in the report. You are assured that your responses will be treated with maximum privacy and confidentiality. The data collected shall be used for the purpose of this study only. In this regard, your contribution will be acknowledged. In case you may need the findings of this study, they will be availed to you upon request.

Part 1: Demographic information

1. Gender

What is your gender? Male Female

2. What is your age group?

18 – 25 26-30 31-35 36-40 41+ years

3. Number of years you have been staying in Gobabis constituency.

Less than one year 1-5 yrs. 6-10 yrs. More than 10 yrs.

13. What Community Based Projects in Gobabis are you familiar with?

14. What can you share about these projects' sustainability?

15. What are some of the factors you believe either positively or negatively influencing sustainability of Community Based Projects?

16. Talk about what can be done to improve sustainability of community-based projects Gobabis.

Appendix B: INTERVIEW GUIDE for Project managers and staff members at Gobabis constituency and Omaheke Regional Council.

July 2022

Dear Respondent,

RE: REQUEST FOR RESEARCH DATA

My name is JULIA TJAAPO. I am a student at the University of Namibia (UNAM), studying for a Master of Business Administration: Management Strategy. Currently I am conducting research on the topic entitled, “AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE FACTORS INFLUENCING SUSTAINABILITY OF COMMUNITY BASED PROJECTS IN GOBABIS CONSTITUENCY, NAMIBIA.” To accomplish this, you were selected to assist in generating the needed data for this study. The data will be applied only for academic work and there will be no mentioning of your name anywhere in the report. You are assured that your responses will be treated with maximum privacy and confidentiality. The data collected shall be used for the purpose of this study only. In this regard, your contribution will be acknowledged. In case you may need the findings of this study, they will be availed to you upon request.

Part 1: Demographic information

4 Gender

What is your gender? Male Female

5 Number of years working with donor funded projects.

Less than one year 1-5 yrs. 6-10 yrs. More than 10 yrs.

6 What are the main duties that you do?

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Part 2: Community based projects

7 What is your understanding of community-based projects?

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8 What community-based projects do we find in Gobabis Constituency?

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9 How helpful are these projects to the beneficiaries?

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Part 3: Community participation and effects sustainability of community-based projects

10 What is your understanding of community participation in projects?

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11 In what ways do members in your community participate in the community projects?

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12 How do the ways you have mentioned above assist in the sustainability of these projects?

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Part 4: Funding and sustainability of community-based projects

13 Who are the funders of these community-based projects in Gobabis Constituency?

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14 To what extent does funding help in making community-based projects a success or a failure?

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Part 5: Project implementers and sustainability of community-based projects

15 What is your understanding of project implementers?

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16 How far do project implementers help in ensuring the success of community-based projects?

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Part 6: Best practice strategies for influencing sustainability of community-based projects in Gobabis Constituency.

17 What are the best practice strategies that can be employed to influence the sustainability of community-based projects in Gobabis Constituency?

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Appendix C: LETTER OF LANGUAGE EDITING



The Language Experts

A DIVISION OF PAN AFRICAN PUBLISHING AND ACADEMIC CONSULTANCY

PROOFREADING, COPYEDITING, LANGUAGE RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY, TRANSLATIONS

12 Andromeda Court
Windhoek, Namibia

21 October 2022

RE: CONFIRMATION OF COPYEDITING AND PROFESSIONAL PROOFREADING

To whom it may concern

This serves to certify that I have proofread JULIA TJAAPPO's thesis titled "***AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE FACTORS INFLUENCING SUSTAINABILITY OF COMMUNITY BASED PROJECTS IN GOBABIS CONSTITUENCY, NAMIBIA***".

I confirm that I proofread the entire thesis and removed all mistakes and errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation. Where necessary, I also improved the structure of sentences without affecting the content and intended meanings as envisioned by the student. I also declare that I am qualified to do professional editing and proofreading.

Please feel free to contact me should you need further clarification.

Regards,


Prof. Collen Sabao

(BA Hon English and Communication, MPhil Linguistics, PhD Linguistics, ACLS Fellow, AHP Fellow)

E-mail: sabaocol@gmail.com

Cell: +264 813050871

Appendix D: TURNITIN / SIMILARITY REPORT



Ouriginal
by Turnitin

Document Information

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Analysis address	mwakipg.unam@analysis.arkund.com