

Socio-economic Factors Affecting Participation of Young Women in Political Processes: Case Study of Nyamira South Sub County, Kenya

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To cite this article:

Onyancha Rachael Moraa, Chesikaw Lillian, Obonyo Josephine. Socio-economic Factors Affecting Participation of Young Women in Political Processes: Case Study of Nyamira South Sub County, Kenya. *Advances in Sciences and Humanities*.

Vol. 7, No. 4, 2021, pp. 102-111. doi: 10.11648/j.ash.20210704.11

Received: August 17, 2021; **Accepted:** August 31, 2021; **Published:** October 12, 2021

Abstract: The Constitution of Kenya 2010 offers young women key entry points for engagement in political processes through elective and appointive positions in national and county governments. However, their participation appears to be minimal, which in turn creates a gap in ensuring gender equality. Across the globe, socio-economic factors have been reported to influence participation of women in political processes. This study aimed at investigating the effects of socio-economic factors on participation of young women in political processes in Nyamira South Sub County. The study adopted modernization theory and mixed methods research design, with both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods utilized. The target population was 76,392 registered voters drawn from the Sub County. However, a total of 157 study participants were sampled to take part in the study. Data obtained in the study was analyzed using the Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25. Descriptive and inferential statistics was employed in analysis of quantitative data while content analysis and theme were used to analyze qualitative data. Pearson's correlation coefficient analysis was conducted to ascertain the statistical influence of financial resources on young women to their political participation. Socio-economic factors which include; age, gender, marital status, employment status, household head and size influences an individual's participation in political processes in the Sub County. A significant positive correlation coefficient ($r=.938$; $p<0.05$) existed between financial resources and young women's political participation. This implies that financial resources ultimately influence young women's decision to participate in political processes. The study therefore recommends that more funding opportunities and specific policies on young women's participation in political processes should be implemented. This will promote gender equality by encouraging more women to participate in political processes.

Keywords: Young Women, Financial Resources, Political Processes, Gender Equality, Gender Equity

1. Introduction

Political participation of women has been internationally recognized as an important measure of ensuring their economic, social and political empowerment [1]. As numbers of women in politics around the world increase, young women have become more inspired to take part in politics. This is because, with modernization, more women have received higher education, participate in the global workforce and hold professional decision making positions which lead to their improved status [2].

Financial status of women to a greater extent plays a significant role in enhancing their participation and representation in political decision-making bodies [3]. Therefore, poverty and unfair distribution of resources for women in Kenya continue to increase the inability of women to occupy public positions. According to Briggs, young women are less privileged politically compared to other groups because of their lower socio-economic status [4]. Inadequate financial resources further exclude these women from mainstream political activities.

According to Gichuki, the financial cost of electoral

campaigns in Kenya is a heavier burden to women who unlike men lack the financial muscle due to existing income inequalities [5]. Whereas men are able to hire security personnel, women cannot afford, hence more likely to face violence and threats. In addition, money is important for logistical purposes. A study on women politicians in Ethiopia by Hora found that women needed to pay hefty amounts to mobilize voters through the electoral process and also for a certificate of party nominations [6]. According to World Development Report, women only access 65% of personal financial resources available to men [7].

Financial resources can be a barrier to women participation in politics because majority live below the poverty line [8]. Young women are mainly confined to domestic sphere as wives and mothers and therefore few qualify to advance their careers or make up successful businesses or entrepreneurs to gain financial strength. Lack of adequate funds hinders young women from active participation in politics because they are perceived weak and inferior [9]. Young women therefore, due to lack of name recognition and record of accomplishments, are unable to achieve any political strides. On the contrary, men are likely to penetrate and succeed in politics because of their financial resources [10].

Lately, the political interest of young women in Kenya has increased, mainly due to their enhanced income levels and improved economic status [11]. However, due to patriarchal

tendencies in Nyamira South Sub County, young women tend to be controlled by either husbands or fathers on their expenditures. This limits their decision making power in participation and financing political activities [12]. Despite their high population and existence of other motivating factors such as relevant education requirements, young women with inadequate financial support might unsuccessfully compete with their financially stable male counterparts [13]. This highlights the significance of evaluating the effects of socio-economic factors on participation of young women in political processes in Nyamira South Sub County. The findings of this study will enable development and implementation of policies that will enhance young women representation in political processes.

2. Methodology

2.1. Study Site

This study was conducted in Nyamira South Sub County. The Sub County has five administrative wards, namely; Township, Nyamaiya, Bonyamatuta, Bogichora and Bosamaro wards. The Sub County has 76,392 registered voters with young female voters making more than 33% of registered voters (18,128 voters) [14] (Figure 1).

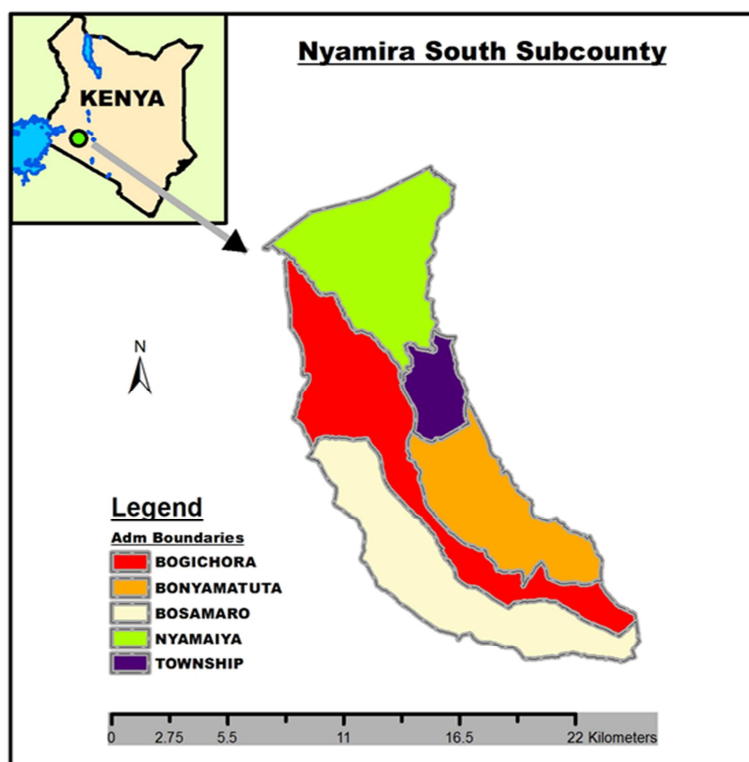


Figure 1. Map of Nyamira South Sub-County (Source: Geography Department, Egerton University).

2.2. Research Design

The study employed mixed methods research design and applied both qualitative and quantitative methods of data

collection. This design is appropriate because it precisely determines and reports on variables such as attitudes, possible behavior, values and characteristics without manipulation. Therefore, it was effective in describing and

explaining the relationship between socio demographic factors and financial resources and participation of young women in political processes.

2.3. Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

This study used stratified random sampling to select participants from different wards which formed the strata. This criterion ensured equal representation of the whole Sub County. The formula by Creswell was used to determine the sample size, 157 participants, due to its acceptability in a mixed method type of research [15]:

$$n = \frac{NC^2}{C^2 + (N-1)e^2} \quad (1)$$

Where: n=Sample size, N=Population, C=Coefficient of variation e=Standard error.

C=25% was acceptable according to Creswell, e=0.02

Stratified random sampling was used to select study participants. Further, the study used simple random sampling to select respondents for each stratum to provide for equal representation and avoid human judgment that would affect the final results. Nyamira South Sub County IEBC officer, 3 women political leaders and 4 Sub County political parties' officials were included as respondents in the study. This is because these groups of participants had detailed information regarding the research topic due to their roles, knowledge and vast experience within the Nyamira South political environment.

2.4. Survey Questionnaires for Respondents

Questionnaires were administered to the selected 157 study participants. The questionnaire was structured to capture information about influence of the two factors under study on participation of young women in political processes. These factors included socio economic characteristics of study participants and their financial resources.

2.5. Interview Schedule for Key Informants

The interview schedule had 14 open ended questions that were important in gathering information concerning young women participation in political processes in Nyamira South Sub County. The IEBC officials indicated why there were fewer young women in politics whereas the female political leaders elaborated on their experiences. The political party leaders also highlighted on measures that had been applied in increasing number of young women participating in political processes.

2.6. Data Analysis

Descriptive and inferential statistics was employed in analysis of quantitative data while content analysis and theme were used to analyze qualitative data collected from key informant's interviews. Descriptive analysis was used to summarize the survey data while inferential analysis was incorporated to test the statistical significance. Pearson's

correlation coefficient was conducted to determine the effect of financial resources on young women participation in political processes with statistical level set at 5% significance. Qualitative data was analyzed using content analysis with results presented in narratives and quotes. Analysis of data was done using the Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25 and results presented in form of tables and figures.

2.7. Ethical Consideration

This study was authorized by Egerton University Ethical committee. The privacy and safety of study participants was guaranteed. Voluntary participation was encouraged and confidentiality of respondents maintained during the research.

3. Findings and Discussion

3.1. Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The characteristics of respondents comprising registered voters in Nyamira South Sub County were evaluated. These included: Age, gender, marital status, employment status, household head and size of household.

3.1.1. Gender of Respondents

From this study, majority of respondents were females (53.2%) compared to males (46.8%) (Table 1).

Table 1. Gender of respondents.

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	73	46.8
Female	83	53.2
Total	156	100.0

Majority of respondents were females because of their easy accessibility and availability during the entire study period. Most women were present in their homesteads, carrying out domestic chores and engaging in small and medium enterprises. This favored their flexible schedules in taking part in the study. However, male participants were fewer due to nature of their work, which require them to stay away from their homesteads and Sub County. Concentration of women in domestic spheres limits their active participation in political processes as well as the support accorded to young women political aspirants. Majority of women politicians rely on support by fellow women. However, this support is often insufficient in the ballot because most women are often absent on the voting day, probably due to their busy gender roles and schedules. These findings are similar to those of Kabwato, who observed that rural communities still view women as caregivers and not leaders [16]. This factor downgrades women to lower positions of political participation, considered feminine, such as entertainment. Similarly, Women's family obligations including childcare interfere with their ability to take up political jobs [17]. This was further affirmed from an interview with Nyamira South Sub County IEBC officer.

"Indeed women voters are more but their voter turnout on

Election Day is lower because majority stay at home to take care of their families and attend to their land which affects success rates of women who rely on support by women” (Sub-county IEBC officer).

Civic and voter education is therefore important in order to equip women on significance of participation in political processes and election of effective leaders in key positions, especially young people [18].

3.1.2. Age of Respondents

The registered voters sampled in this study were drawn from varied age brackets as summarized in Table 2. Most of the respondents were aged between 18 – 47 years, with a cumulative percentage of 80.8%.

Table 2. Age of the respondents.

Age brackets in years	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
18-27 Years	37	23.7	23.7
28-37 Years	55	35.3	59.0
38-47 Years	34	21.8	80.8
48-57 Years	19	12.2	92.9
58 and above	11	7.1	100.0
Total	156	100.0	

Age is an important factor in various political processes and affects participation of all groups, including young women [19]. According to statistics from the Inter Parliamentary Union, young people make up less than 2% of the world’s parliamentarians with young women being the most under-represented [20]. The average age of parliamentarians globally is 53 years for men and 50 years for women [21].

However, this study demonstrated contrary results. According to information gathered during interviews from key informants, Nyamira County assembly had majority of its membership comprising of young men and women, including the young speaker. The whopping 80.8% of study participants drawn from voters whose age bracket was between 18-47 years expressed their desire for more youthful representation. This could be attributed to increased awareness on political rights, rise of social media activism and increased expectations on leaders that are not only more approachable but also able to address issues familiar to youthful generation. These observations coincide with findings of Briggs, who noted that increased voter awareness among young people increases leadership opportunities for youth [22]. This was affirmed by the ODM party Sub County youth leader.

“More young people and women are taking up grassroots party leadership and winning elections because the electorate are more informed and expectant that youth leadership can solve societal problems such as unemployment among the youth and poverty prompting the party to equally nominate young women to the county assembly to ensure the gender gap is reduced” (Nyamira County ODM youth leader).

3.1.3. Respondents’ Marital Status

The study participants belonged to various marital statuses. Majority of respondents were married, 56.4%; while about 32.7% were single. Very few participants were widowed (5.1%), separated (3.8%) and divorced (1.9%) (Table 3).

Table 3. Respondents’ marital status.

Marital status	Frequency	Percentage
Married	88	56.4
Single	51	32.7
Separated	6	3.8
Divorced	3	1.9
Widowed	8	5.1
Total	156	100.0

Fathi & Dastoori found that marital status had a statistical significance on individual political interests [24]. Across the globe, women’s engagement in political processes as voters and campaigners, or their respective election and appointment to political seats is influenced by cultural gender norms. These norms define roles of women such as reproductive roles and societal expectations with regard to their involvement in public and private sectors, including their marital status [24]. Kenyan cultures value marriage as a significant rite of passage. Culturally, marriage is of great value. Those married are considered wiser and normal in terms of human behaviors [25]. Hence political leadership is valued against marital status. Marital status of young women determines level of progress of their political participation. In most cases, young women are expected to get married, have children and take care of their families. Hence most young women tend to give up on politics in order to fit in society and avoid any violence or sexist labeling. This was explained by a female political aspirant from the Sub County in the study.

“Young women in politics are often viewed as immoral and sexual objects for the older men in order to gain political support and therefore majority will drop their political interests and conform to societal norms of good wives and mothers to avoid demeaning labels for example” (Aspiring MCA Township Ward).

These findings correlate with those of Biegon who found that once a young female declares her political interest, the question on marital status emerges [26]. Therefore, young women’s political rights are limited by factors such as reproductive roles as a result of marriage. This affects women’s ability to balance between work and family with the public political life [25].

3.1.4. Respondent’s Employment Status

In this study, 26.3% of respondents were in formal employment while about 25.6% were unemployed. Other respondents were engaged in self-employment (24.4%) while the rest engaged in informal employment (23.7%) (Table 4).

Employment has often been described as an agent of socialization. According to Lorenzini & Giugni, employment not only enables individuals to form political opinions but also influences their interests in participation in politics [27].

In this study, the employment status of respondents determined their support and expectations from political leaders. The success of a political leader, including young women relied on how they address various issues in employment sector. Respondents agreed that politicians relied on various groups such as labor unionists to mobilize and rally for their political support which could affect young women's participation in politics. Besides, those in informal sector, self-employed as well as unemployed are often vulnerable to promises of better opportunities used to lure them in supporting politicians. This can affect young women's participation by enabling or limiting their chances depending on how various groups perceive. These findings relate with those of Robert et al, who noted that various levels of employment affect participation of young people in politics [28].

Table 4. Respondent's employment status.

Employment status	Frequency	Percent
Formal employment	41	26.3
Informal employment	37	23.7
Self-employment	38	24.4
Unemployed	40	25.6
Total	156	100.0

3.1.5. Household Head

Majority of respondents indicated that their households were headed by males as represented by 78.2% of the total responses. About 21.8% of respondents were from households that were headed by females as summarized in Table 5.

Table 5. Type of household head.

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male head	122	78.2
Female head	34	21.8
Total	156	100.0

Culturally and socially, men have always been regarded and accepted as household heads. This therefore meant that only men were allowed to make major family decisions and hold positions of power. However due to modernization, more female headed households are starting to be part of modern day households. This can also be attributed to increased rates of divorce/separation, migration of male partners and also increased numbers of women in the productive sphere. The high number of male headed households in this study conforms to the patriarchal nature whereby men are expected to be in decision making and leadership positions. Studies involving family and politics have shown that young women seeking political positions have to seek permission from their husbands or male heads for those unmarried [25].

3.1.6. Respondents' Household Size

A cumulative of 82.7% of respondents belonged to households whose size comprised of 1-6 members. Majority

of respondents represented a household size of 1-3 members (44.9%) of the total responses. About 37.8% of the respondents' households had 4-6 members. Households with 7-9 members, 10-12 members and >12 members were 14.7%, 0.6% and 1.9%, respectively (Table 6).

Table 6. Size of the respondents' household.

Household size	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1-3 Members	70	44.9	44.9
4-6 Members	59	37.8	82.7
7-9 Members	23	14.7	97.4
10-12 Members	1	.6	98.1
>12 members	3	1.9	100.0
Total	156	100.0	

Household size is directly linked to number of registered voters from constituencies to national level. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, the country's average household size is 3.9 [29]. Schmidt found that there existed a correlation between family size and support for political leaders and issues they addressed in the U.S [30]. As per their family size, the study respondents indicated that they voted for leaders depending on issues they addressed for instance; on reproductive health issues, education, and promises on the standard of living. Family size also determines whether voters vote or seek elective posts. Kenyan politics is characterized by ethnicity and clanism. Culturally, families' clans are developed on patrilineal lines, which could ultimately affect the political participation of young women [11]. In explaining how households influence young women's political participation a nominated female MCA highlighted that:

"Young women are at a disadvantage in political participation because they are often not considered to be full members of families or their specific clans because they will be married off to other places and hence start their families elsewhere, similarly if they are married to a different family or clan they are viewed as foreigners and that children belong to the males hence lack support from their family" (Nominated MCA, Nyamira County).

More so, households with more female members are more likely to remain passive in politics, with majority opting to abstain from voting or seeking elective posts. However, they prefer engaging in gendered roles such as being entertainers or political informants [16]. These findings are similar to findings in Nyamira South Sub County where few women seek elective positions and irrespective of their large numbers as registered voters, very few turn up to vote due to their young households [31].

3.2. Young Women Participation in Political Processes

This study sought to evaluate ratings of young women on their participation in political processes in Nyamira South Sub County (Table 7).

Table 7. Women ratings on their participation in political processes.

Participation in political processes	SA	A	U	D	SD	Total	Mean	Std. dev.
I am an active registered voter	20 (24.1%)	43 (51.8%)	16 (19.3%)	3 (3.6%)	1 (1.2%)	83 (100%)	4.217	0.041
I have active party membership	3 (3.6%)	7 (8.4%)	2 (2.4%)	41 (49.4%)	30 (36.1%)	83 (100%)	1.937	0.016
I would vie as youth leader	3 (3.6%)	6 (7.2%)	4 (4.8%)	54 (65.1%)	16 (19.3%)	83 (100%)	2.107	0.013
I would vie to be women league leader	2 (2.4%)	5 (6%)	11 (13.3%)	53 (63.9%)	12 (14.5%)	83 (100%)	2.182	0.028
I vied/would vie for an elective seat as a candidate	2 (2.4%)	8 (9.6%)	4 (4.8%)	53 (63.9%)	16 (19.3%)	83 (100%)	2.119	0.013
I am informed of nominations/appointments procedures	7 (8.4%)	4 (4.8%)	17 (20.5%)	33 (39.8%)	22 (26.5%)	83 (100%)	2.288	0.021
							2.475	0.023

From the results, most respondents agreed that they were active registered voters. Majority, 24.1%, strongly agreed to the fact that they were active registered voters, while 51.8% were in agreement with the statement. On the other hand, a paltry 3.6% of respondents disagreed being active registered voters, while 1.2% strongly disagreed. About 19.3% of respondents were undecided.

On having active party membership, majority of respondents disagreed. A total of 49.4% disagreed to this statement with 36.1% respondents strongly disagreeing with the statement. On the other hand, some respondents agreed (8.4%) and strongly agreed (3.6%) with the statement. About 2.4% of the respondents remained undecided.

Concerning the possibility of vying for youth leadership positions, most respondents disagreed. A total of 65.1% of respondents disagreed while 19.3% strongly disagreed with this idea. Although 7.2% of respondents were open to the idea of vying in youth leadership positions, only 3.6% of respondents had strong ambitions of vying. However, 4.8% of the respondents were uncommitted.

With regard to possibility of vying as women league leaders, most respondents disagreed. Specifically, 63.9% disagreed to this idea, while 14.5% of respondents were strongly opposed to the idea. On the other hand, 6% of respondents agreed to consider the idea while 2.4% of the respondents were strongly positive with this idea. However, 13.3% of respondents were unsure on whether they could vie as women league leaders or not.

Pertaining the possibility of vying for any elective seat, most respondents were negative. A whopping 63.9% of respondents were uncomfortable with this idea, while 19.3% of respondents were in strong opposition with this proposition. However, while 9.6% of respondents were in approval, 2.4% strongly assented to the prospect of vying for any elective position in the Sub County. About 4.8% of the respondents were uncertain.

In relation to knowledge of nomination /appointment procedures, most respondents had no idea. A total of 39.8% of respondents expressed their disagreement while 26.5% strongly differed on knowledge of procedures followed in nomination/appointment. On the contrary, 4.8% of respondents agreed on knowing the procedures while 8.4% of study participants expressed a strong agreement on this issue. However, 20.5% of respondents were unsure.

The highest area of women participation in political processes was on registration as voters as represented by a mean of 4.217 with a standard deviation of 0.041. There was generally low participation of women on political processes;

such as registration as members in political parties (mean=1.937), participation as political youth leaders (mean=2.107), participation as women league leaders (mean=2.182), vying for an elective seat as a candidate (mean=2.119) and information on political nominations/appointments (mean=2.288). The overall score attained by the sampled women with respect to their participation in political processes was represented by a mean of 2.475 with a standard deviation of 0.023. In this study, a female political leader noted that:

“Ignorance, Male dominance in politics as evidenced by their dominance in youth leadership, cultural stereotypes, poverty, and lack of education are the factors that limit young women from political participation” (Nyamaiya Ward political aspirant).

The proportion of representation of young women in key political positions in Nyamira South Sub County is depicted in Figure 2.

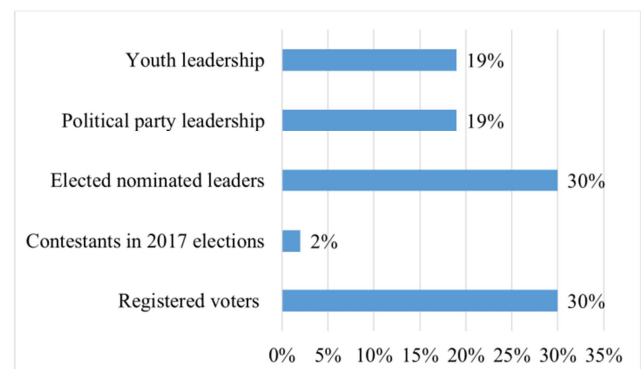


Figure 2. Proportion of young women participation in political processes (Source (IEBC, Nyamira South sub-county)).

Figure 2 shows that representation of young women in voters registration was approximately 30%. Only 2% young women contested in 2017 elections in Nyamira South Sub County. There are approximately 30% of young women who are nominated leaders in the Sub County. The representation of young women in political party leadership and youth leadership in the Sub County is about 19%. On understanding the criterion to be elected or nominated, the findings are reported as follows;

“The criterion for members to be nominated/elected is as stipulated in the IEBC act with specific education requirements, political party guidelines or independent candidate requirements and clearance by the IEBC (Nyamira south sub-county IEBC official)

All key informants cited financial challenges and other

socio-demographic factors as the main factors that limit women's participation in political participation. The findings of this study concur with findings of Henn & Foard; Krook; and Oyesomi et al, who in their various studies indicated that socio-economic factors such as socio demographic factors and financial constraints across the globe limit women's successful engagement in political processes [32-34].

3.3. Effect of Financial Resources on Participation of Young Women in Political Processes in Nyamira South Sub County

Women's monthly income

The monthly income of sampled study participants was summarized in Table 8 below:

Table 8. Women monthly income.

Monthly incomes (Kshs.)	Frequency	Percent
<5,000	36	43.6%
5,001-10,000	27	32.4%
10,001– 15,000	13	16.0%
>15,000	7	8.0%
Total	83	100.0%

Minimum=0; Maximum=86,500; Mean=4,025; Std. Deviation=218

These results illustrate that 43.6% of women earn less than Kshs5,000 per month. A total of 32.4% of women earn between Kshs5,001-10,000 monthly. Women with higher monthly incomes constituted about 16% (Kshs10, 000 – 15,000) and a paltry 8% (>Kshs15, 000 monthly). The low incomes earned by most women in the Sub County condemn

them to manipulation and exploitation by rich politicians during their hunt for votes. Also notable is the high cost of contesting for elective positions, which ultimately discourages majority of low earning women. This observation concurs with Mwatha et al, who noted that young women lack political support from fellow women due to lack of money for voter bribery, a common occurrence during voter mobilization [11]. Similarly, one female political leader noted that:

“Most of the women within the Sub County are in informal employment and in the subsistence farming with low income levels therefore their participation in political processes is influenced by those with high income levels” (Aspiring MCA Township Ward).

According to the World Economic Forum, women are underpaid, earning Ksh62 per hour compared to men who earn Ksh100 for the same period [35]. Although the Kenyan Constitution guarantees right to fair pay for every worker, the Global Gender Report shows that Kenya lags behind, ranking 63 out of 144 states. It is evident that gender pay disparity affects women's spending power, which may directly influence their role in politics. This particularly affects young women, majority of whom lack of financial power to fund their political aspirations [26]

3.4. Effects of Financial Resources on Political Participation of Young Women

This study compiled the impacts of constrained financial resources on political participation by young women and results summarized in Table 9 below:

Table 9. Effect of financial resources on political participation of young women.

Statements	SA	A	U	D	SD	Total
Financial constraints affect young women's decisions to participate in politics	92 (59)	58 (37.2)	2 (1.3)	3 (1.9)	1 (0.6)	156 (100)
Payment of campaign and security personnel affects young women participation in politics	75 (48.1)	65 (41.7)	4 (2.6)	10 (6.4)	2 (1.3)	156 (100)
Young women lack finances to develop and produce campaign materials and meet other logistics	84 (53.8)	56 (35.9)	3 (1.9)	12 (7.7)	1 (0.6)	156 (100)
Minimum political fees requirements limits young women participation in politics	52 (33.3)	73 (46.8)	6 (3.8)	19 (12.2)	6 (3.8)	156 (100)
Financial dependency affects young women's participation in politics	66 (42.3)	69 (44.2)	7 (4.5)	11 (7.1)	3 (1.9)	156 (100)

Key: SA=Strongly Agree; A=Agree; U=Undecided; D=Disagree; SD=Strongly Disagree

Most respondents, 59%, strongly concurred with the fact that women participation in politics is affected by financial constraints, while another 37.2% of the participants also gave their approval. On the contrary, a small population of the participants, 0.6% expressed their strong disagreement with this statement. However, 1.3% of the participants were unsure on how financial constraints affected women participation in politics. Majority of study respondents also confirmed that young women were less likely to make successful gains in politics because of lack money to fund their campaign. Most voters rate political capability of individual depending on their financial powers. Therefore, aspirants with meager finances are perceived as weak, incapable and presumed more likely to embezzle funds rather than address development issues. These findings correlate

with Mwatha et al, who demonstrated that young women were often advised to get large amounts of money before joining politics because of the enormous political expenses [11].

With regard to reimbursement of campaign and security personnel, most respondents, 48.1%, strongly agreed with this factor as a determinant to women participation in politics. An additional 41.7% of participants agreed with this fact. However, 6.4% and 1.3% of respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively with the statement. About 2.6% were unsure on how payment of campaign and security personnel affected women participation in politics. According to Kamau, the biggest political expenditure in Africa, Kenya in particular, is holding of campaign rallies and hiring security personnel [10]. This study concurs with Kamau's study in the sense that massive

financial resources needed for conducting frequent campaign rallies and reimbursement of security personnel is a significant hindrance to participation of young women in politics. Furthermore, political campaigns may compel politicians to work up to late hours, interact with rogue community members or enter some highly insecure places, all of which require hiring of security guards. From the interviews a female nominated MCA commented that:

“As a young woman with political aspirations I was unable to contest for elective posts because I had no money to campaign, I feared for my security and could not afford to hire guards and therefore chose to support a contestant from my political party but remained active earning me a nomination post” (Nyamira County nominated MCA).

A total of 53.8% respondents strongly believe that women participation in politics was affected by lack of finance to produce campaign materials, while 35.9% of the study participants concurred with this statement. On the contrary, a few of the participants, 7.7% and 0.6%, disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement respectively. A total of 1.9% of the participants had no idea on how lack of finance to produce campaign materials affected women participation in politics. Campaign materials such as banners and posters are important in ensuring the politicians are visible and known to voters up to grass root levels. Responses from this study confirmed that most young women were unable to print campaign materials, hence remained strange to the electorate. This lowers their chances of being elected, nominated and/or appointed into political positions.

The influence of political fees required by aspirants prior to contesting in elective positions was a factor assessed in this study. A total of 46.8% respondents agreed that probability of women participation in politics was affected by this component. Another 33.3% of respondents strongly concurred with this element, but 3.8% were undecided on how political fee requirements affected women participation in politics. In Kenya, the IEBC has set minimum nomination fees requirements for each political aspirant. Presidential aspirants pay Ksh200,000, Governors Ksh50, 000 Senators Ksh20,000 MPs/Women Rep Ksh20,000 while MCAs Ksh5,000 [14]. In addition, political parties have also set minimum fee requirements for aspirants in each position as well as general membership, averagely Ksh500 for each party. Despite calls for affirmative action, which have reduced the costs by half for women, youth and persons with disabilities, young women are still unable to afford these costs. According to the Electoral campaign and Finance Bill, regulation on campaign funds mobilization could limit funding for young women who have little political experience and networks.

Regarding financial dependency, 42.3% of respondents strongly agreed that women participation in politics was affected by financial dependency, while 44.2% others agreed with the statement. However, 7.1% and 1.9% of respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement respectively. About 4.5% were unsure on the effect of financial dependency on women participation in politics. According to Kabeer, the public private divide has placed

women into domestic spheres where their work is unrecognized, unpaid or underpaid [24]. Therefore, women lack financial autonomy, a factor which necessitates men to make most decisions pertaining finances. In this study, majority of respondents agreed that young women depend financially on their parents or partners, who may be unwilling to fund their electoral desires. The interview session with the IEBC official in Nyamira South confirmed that financial resources affect participation of young of young women in politics:

“Lack of money has hampered young women. Majority of the youth are unemployed which makes them to be financially dependent and lack the independence to control or engage in activities that require use of money. Most young women are focused on financial sponsorship/funding to facilitate their political campaign which is rare” (Nyamira South IEBC official).

3.5. Sources of Funds Adopted by Young Women in Financing Their Political Pursuits

This study found that young women resort to various sources in order to raise funds for their political aspirations and pursuits, as summarized in Table 10.

Table 10. Funding sources for young women in financing of political pursuits.

Source	Frequency	Percentage
Fundraisings	60	38.5%
NGOs	103	66.0%
Family support	144	92.3%
Loans	51	32.7%
Income and savings	106	67.9%

According to 92.3% of respondents, family support is the most common source of funds that young women resort to in order to finance their political ambitions. A total of 67.9% and 66.0% of respondents indicated exploring their personal income/savings and seeking sponsorship from NGOs respectively. Other strategies included fundraisings, 38.5% and loan acquisition, 32.7%.

Without adequate financial support, young women aspirants may not successfully compete with their financially stable male competitors [13]. Financial resources are vital in maintaining effective campaigns such as hiring of campaign personnel, vehicles used for transportation as well as catering for advertising expenses [36]. According to interview schedules conducted with female politicians, affirmative action funding female politicians, non-government organizations funding and support from friends and family are some of the most common solution to financial challenges faced by women in politics.

According to Mwatha et al, young women are politically disadvantaged compared to other aspiring candidates not only due to their lower socio-economic status but also due to lack of financial resources [11]. These factors exclude them from mainstream political activities. These results show that irrespective of age and cultural affiliation, lack of funds is a big impediment to political participation.

3.6. Pearson's Correlation Coefficient Analysis

Pearson's correlation analysis was used to evaluate the extent

to which financial resources affect political participation of young women in political processes in Nyamira South Sub County, with results summarized in Table 11:

Table 11. Correlation coefficient analysis on effect of financial resources on participation of young women in political processes.

		Monthly incomes	Participation of young women in political processes
Monthly incomes	Pearson Correlation	1	.938
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.006*
	N	83	83
Participation of young women in political processes	Pearson Correlation	-.938*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.006	.
	N	83	83

Note: *=Correlation is significant at 0.05 (2-tailed test).

The results in Table 11 shows that a strong positive correlation ($r=.938$) existed between monthly income and participation in political processes. This correlation was statistically significant ($p=0.006$) at 5% confidence level. This implies that financial position of a young woman aspirant influences participation and ultimate success in political processes.

3.7. Summary of Findings

Socio-economic factors such as; age, gender, marital status, employment status, household head and size influence an individual's participation in political processes in the Sub County. Most respondents consented to statements that financial constraints (96.2%), payment of campaign and security personnel (89.8%), lack of finances for development and production of campaign materials and meeting other logistics (89.7%), political fees requirements (80.1%) and financial dependency (86.5%) affect young women's decisions to participate in politics. This study found that a number of funding sources was being sort by young women in order to address their financial demands in political participation. These included family support (92.3%), personal income/savings (67.9%) and funding support from NGOs sources (66.0%). Other sources included fundraisings and loans acquisition. The correlation coefficients ($r=.938$) for the effect of financial resources on participation of young women in political processes was statistically significant at 5% level.

4. Conclusion

This study confirms that socio-economic factors affect political participation of young women in political processes in Nyamira South Sub County. Inadequate finances compromises young women's ability to organize for campaign, hire security personnel, develop and produce campaign materials, meet campaign related logistics, pay the political fees required by political parties and take care of persons who financially depend on the candidate. Financial resources have a statistically significant effect on participation of young women in political processes. It is therefore recommended to financially support young women in order to encourage their participation in political processes.

Further studies involving the effect of other parameters such as reproductive roles, culture and political experience on participation of young women in political processes are recommended.

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