



Youths Engagement in Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys. A case of Toangoma Ward in Temeke Municipal Council, Dar es Salaam.

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Abstract. The youths are a very important segment in Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys (PETS). The youths are ought to make a follow up of the public money in order to enhance accountability in the expenditure of scarce public money that directly and indirectly influences youths` lives. The expectations base on youths being perceived as a group which is active to demand value for money from the bureaucrats and politicians at the national level through the districts to service facility level. The youths voicing, protesting and visiting service units to read notice boards are a gauge for youth`s responsible citizenship. The study used a case of Toangoma Ward in Temeke Municipality which is a semi urban area to shade the experience of youths in both rural and urban areas. The sample of 200 respondents was drawn randomly among the 300 targeted population of youths due to limited financial ability. The study employed quantitative and qualitative methods in data collection whilst the analysis was based on descriptive statistics to generate frequencies and percentages. The study conducted between 2018 to 2020 has found that; most youths are inadequately socialized to engage in social accountability for their welfare. The learned and unlearned youths depict a tendency of cascading the following up of money at service facilities to elderly people. Most youths claimed to be highly occupied by personal affairs rather than the public life of which they are the beneficiaries. Conclusively, youths were inadequately engaging in PETS to promote accountability to power wielders. It is thus recommended, for the youths to be responsible citizens lingering efforts to offer civic education in the educational curriculum is a must do.

Keywords: PETS, youths, facility, accountability, public

1.0 Introduction

Social accountability is about the effectiveness with which the governed can exercise influence over the governors (Nkyabonaki,2019). Social accountability is concerned with the responsibility and responsiveness exercised by state authorities during the period in between political elections, as well as the ability of citizens to make claims and hold those who exercise power to account for their actions Boeckmann (2012). Enhancing social accountability thus, requires a focus on changing the relationship between citizen and state by establishing a social contract in which the state/government and citizens hold each other to account and engage in dialogue.



The rationale for social accountability associated with this emphasis is to increase development effectiveness (Nkyabonaki, 2018). An example of the second emphasis is Claasen and Alpín-Lardiés (2010:3) who see social accountability as being “*about how citizens demand and enforce accountability from those in power*”. This definition is largely concerned with citizen-led forms of accountability and claimed political space in between elections. The development outcomes associated with this literature are quality of governance and empowerment (McGee and Gaventa, 2010).

Using social accountability mechanisms, citizen may engage with powerful actors in either state institutions or private sector contracted by the state, across an array of platforms that are social rather than political, institutional or bureaucratic. As such, they aim going beyond formal democratic institutions of elections, the recall for representatives or internal government audits, though they may serve to trigger these political and institutional mechanisms (Ehmke, 2015).

Citizens have an option of voicing in order to demand accountability for their money. Voicing is bestowed on established structures which if operate as aligned would promote checks and balances particularly the citizens participating and demanding accountability (Ddungu, 1998). Voicing requires one to be rightly informed. This would be disseminated through different mechanisms such as notice boards, radio, newspapers, and websites/internet and public meetings. The study looked at the voicing mechanisms and the pattern of relationship between citizens and their local government authority in that regard.

In Tanzania for example, the legal basis for citizen participation in planning and implementation of development activities is determined from various pieces of legislation. The national constitution, the Local Government (district) Authorities Act no. 7 of 1982; the Local Government (Urban Authorities) Act no. 8 of 1982 and the Regional Administration Act of 1997 provide legal basis for citizen participation. The legislations outline, among others, the responsibility of LGAs to promote and ensure democratic participation and control of decision making by the people concerned through formulating, coordinating and supervising the implementation of all plans for economic, commercial, industrial and social development in its area of jurisdiction (Nkyabonaki, 2018). Social accountability involves mobilizing community members to monitor the way public funds are spent, and publicize the results in order to encourage greater accountability.

It is claimed and assertively put that youths occupy a large number of the population in Tanzania. Various reports show that, youths from the age of 18-35 years are facing a number of challenges including unemployment but as well poor service delivery. For the youths to gain adequate employment and good quality services require to participate fully in the public affairs and keep te responsible officials accountable. Accountability would be in the execution of the public policies or managing the public coffers. The bureaucratic and political class requires each segment of the society to voice in order to make them perform duties as efficiently and effectively as possible (Nkyabonaki, 2018). The reluctant approach by the youths to the bureaucrats as well as to politicians makes the latter two to collude and divert public resources



for personal gains. The youths in this regard are expected to be pioneers of following up the public budget in order to be able to demand for financial accountability from the duty bearers. Youths` participation in tracking can, strengthen oversight, identify systemic problems in intergovernmental transfers, uncover instances of mismanagement, inefficiency, or corruption and generate evidence to inform ongoing and future budget debate (Sundet,2007).

However, as per Chachage (2004) youths in Tanzania are facing a challenge of self-motivation to interrogate the government officials due to a political culture. However, since 1992 when Tanzania re-adopted a multiparty system, youths have gained more access to the media of which necessitate the informed culture. Therefore, the participative culture is more expected to youths today due to the socio-political and economic changes. However, a puzzle remains to be a limited youth participation in civic duties such as tracking public expenditures in their communities.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Youth participation is a crucial ingredient of achieving accountability in the public service (Boeckmann , 2012; SULGO, 2018; Nkyabonaki, 2019). The youths have a stake in tracking the public money as the money allocated for their facilities would enhance their living and better services. The duty of a citizen is to ensure his or her tax is used according to the intended objective and not otherwise. The released funds from the district to local facilities tend to be meager but also need to be monitored by community members to avoid leakages (Svensson, 2008). The leakage of any kind leads to problems such as ineffective policy execution and service delivery. The study seeks to examine if youths find participation in tracking public money at the service facilities as a civic responsibility.

1.2 General Objective

The study examines the youths` participation in the civic duties through tracking of public expenditures for the good of their community in Toangoma Ward.

1.2.1 Specific objectives

- i. Asses the avenues available for youths to participate in civic duties such as PETS in Toangoma Ward.
- ii. To analyze the extent of youths` engagement in tracking expenditure as a civic duty in Toangoma Ward.

1.3 Research Questions

- i. Are youths having avenues to participate in civic duties such as PETS in Toangoma Ward?
- ii. To what extent are youths engaged in tracking public expenditure as a civic duty?

2.0 Literature Review:

Management of financial resources involves the identification, receipt and allocation of financial resources by using a mechanism that ensures that resources are not misused either on receipt, custody or disbursement/usage to achieve laid down objectives of the organization (Richard, 1996). In order for the public sector to efficiently deliver public services and achieve its policy



objectives, it is critical that public finances are managed well. While the efficient and effective use of public resources is a universal concern at all levels of government, the appropriate use of decentralized public resources at the local government level is a special point of contention. This is particularly true in Lesser Developed Countries (LDCs), where local financial management seems to be at a relative disadvantage compared to central public financial management systems (Mbogela, 2009).

Tracking Expenditure refers to methodologies that populace and in this regard “youths” can use to examine how public resources flow from one level of government to the next, and eventually to the intended beneficiaries. By identifying places where the system for transferring funds breaks down voicing and other accountabilities actions can be pursued.

Citizenship is about the expectations of how individuals will act in society and how they will attempt to influence the direction of society. Responsible citizen is labeled by the following features; responsible citizens should question the actions of people with authority, responsible citizens know about the concerns facing their community and responsible citizens make choices based on good information.

Therefore, the study adopted the context of youths to be individuals between 18 years to 40 years in Toangoma Ward with regard to Public Expenditure Tracking at the street level government and facility within the Ward.

The functioning of PETS is predestined on accountability and participation. The idea of voicing and building stronger, wider participation in governance has been, like good governance, a dominant component of global political and development forums (Drucza, 2016). Tanzania since the adoption of PETS in 1999 there are mixed trends in LGAs financial management. Social accountability has to inculcate the culture of people to monitor their money. Social accountability functions through voicing. The voicing can be effective where the communities participate in public affairs. The avenues of direct participation in Tanzania are found at the grassroots levels that are *Mtaa* and Village assembly (Liviga, 2008). Hence, the study intended to examine the levels of communities voicing through various avenues of participation in following up for the public money.

Youth participation in community life refers to political participation but distances from it at least in two ways: it abstracts both participation mediated by political parties, as well as the one exercised by citizens when they elect political authorities. It expresses instead - although with multiple meanings- the direct intervention of social agents in public activities. Youth’s participation in this sense involves direct ways in which citizens’ influence and exercise control in governance, by avoiding the more traditional forms of indirect representation (Drucza, 2016).

2.1 Participation theory

Brett (2003) presents the role of participatory theory in managing development projects and programs in poor countries. He notes that participation has emerged in response to global demands for greater individual and social control over the activities of state and private agencies. That it has emerged particularly to the manifest failures of traditional top-down management



systems in less developed countries (LDCs). It is pointed out that participation can succeed for specific kinds of projects and programs in favorable circumstances, but is not suitable to some countries. It commonly fails in context where local conditions make co-operative and collective action very difficult, or where it is manipulated by implementing agencies to justify their own actions or poor performance. The study employs participation theory to benchmark the youths' engagement in PETS which signify the responsiveness on the civic duty. The PETS requires effective participation in public life such as attending public meetings in order to promote good governance of the public money. Youths as a most important and large group in Tanzanian society, participation in tracking of the public expenditures at the proxy service unit is ought to be a necessary civic duty (Haque et al., 2017). This is what engrosses the active civic culture that the study seeks to examine among youths in Tanzania..

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Research Design:

The study was exploratory research designed to examine the role of youths in social accountability in Toangoma Ward, Temeke Municipality. The strategy employed was the social survey. Questionnaires were used as the main tool for primary data collection. Data collected were analyzed quantitatively using descriptive statistics. Meanwhile, the interviews were employed for Mtaa (streets) chairpersons of Goroka A and Masuliza. Questionnaires employed were close ended in order to guide the respondents' views pertaining the focus of the study. Meanwhile, the interviews intended to capture information which leaders describe from their personal experiences and practices. The rationale for opting for a multi-method data collection strategy in this study was to increase reliability and validity of the findings.

3.2 Sample Selection and Data Analysis:

The total respondents were 200 out of the targeted population of 300 youths due to limited financial ability. Two were the chairpersons of Goroka A and Masuliza streets who were purposively selected because of their peculiar role in management of public finance at that level. Then 98 respondents were randomly sampled from Goroka A Street and likewise 98 respondents were sampled randomly from Masuliza Street. The study used questionnaires and interview methods to collect the primary data. The questionnaires were coded and interviews were generated to a raw data leading to the general categorization of similar information. This also allowed the coding and tabulation for correlating responses in order to produce frequencies and percentages. However, the verbalisms of the respondents were recorded accordingly. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences was used to process and analyze the data.



4.0 Results and Discussion

4.1 Characteristics of the Respondents

4.1.1 Sex of Respondents

The study captured both male and female. The study involved 66% females and 34% were males. The sex component was crucial to ascertain the youths' participation in PETS at the facility level as elaborated in the below table section.

Table 1: Sex of Respondents

Sex of Respondents	Frequency	Percentages (%)
Female	132	66%
Male	68	34%
Total	200	100%

Source: Field data (2020).

4.1.2 Youths' occupational status in Toangoma Ward

The question intended to find out if the youths would be facing challenges of irresponsibility due to the nature of their occupations. The study has found the following occupational status among the sampled youths in Toangoma Ward.

Table 2: Youths' occupation status

Youths' occupation status	Frequency	Percent
Formal Employment	38	19.0
Agriculture	38	19.0
Animal Keeping	41	20.5
Fishing	3	1.5
Business	80	40.0
Total	200	100.0

Source: Field data (2020).

Table 2 shows that only 19 percent of youths are found in formal employment and probably this percentage would be able to participate as they are assured of their income regularly. However, it



would also depend whether they are found in the private sector or public sector. In most private companies or voluntary organizations employees usually go in very early and come out very late in the evening unlike the government employees. The remaining percentage engaged in informal employment such as agriculture 19 percent, animal keeping 20.5 percent, fishing 1.5 percent and business 40 percent. This signifies that source of income by its very nature makes it difficult for youths to participate in the monitoring government allocated budgets in their localities. Hence, limited participation in the local affairs is not accidental but is affected by many factors including income sources and levels of income. The chairperson of Goroka Street had this to say;

You cannot expect to see many youths appearing in public meetings in this area as most people do not want to close their shops and lose income. The problem is that they keep on complaining about the government but do not appear to participate and give solutions. Moreover, “those who do attend particularly women do not ask questions”¹.

The response from this mtaa leader reveals that the economic status of youths can make them be either active or inactive participants in public issues in their communities. Hence, youths may be blamed as irresponsible citizens while it's due to environmental factors surrounding them. However, due to such hurdles youths sail through, one asks could that one not be a source of youths` participation to mitigate the challenges and become responsible citizens? It is therefore put with certainty that youths are inactive in public life.

The indicators of youths` engagement with their local authorities reveal that most youths in the two streets are passive and subjects. The Mamdani`s (1996) philosophy which described people in Africa to be subjects and not citizens are vividly seen in Toangoma Ward.

4.2 Voice and information supply systems

Social accountability is anchored on citizens having the right information at the right time. Youth`s participation begins with access to information. The motive of this study was to examine the medium of communication used by the residents of the two streets to secure financial information of the facilities in the Ward.

¹ The respondent is a female of 24 years and is a Nursery school teacher in interview on 5th October ,2020.



Table 3: Medium of information sharing for informed participation in Toangoma Ward

Toangoma Ward	Have you used the following instruments to fetch financial information of your mtaa or ward?							Total
	radio	news papers	internet	mobile phone	notice boards	public stories-hear say		
Goroka street A	27	10	4	16	21	22	100	
Masuliza Street	20	14	3	16	27	24	100	
Total	47	24	7	32	48	46	200	

Source: Field data (2020).

The field data in Table 3 above reveals that most youths depend on hear say to get information regarding financial matters and other matters from the district and municipal councils. For instance, 22 percent of the youths in Goroka A street and 24 percent of the youths in Masuliza street depend on hear say or public stories to receive information regarding public money. This means that a good number of citizens do not know where to access right information. This is dangerous as people may be deceived particularly by petty-local politicians who wish to be elected or remain on power. It was evidenced that only 21 percent and 27 percent at Goroka A street and Masuliza street respectively visited the notice boards. It means that citizens cannot query because only a few of them go to the right source of information. Notice board is not a proper mechanism to inform people though it is mainly used by the authorities. The streets chairpersons when asked if they ever use internet to fetch information from the districts, they said that they have never even dreamed of it as they have no computers or laptops. The use of radios seems to be very high in both communities and hopefully this would now be a good mechanism for informing the citizens. The radio use in Goroka A was about 27 percent while in Masuliza was around 20 percent. This shows that the best option for informing youths in communities is through radio stations rather than the internet, newspapers and notice boards.

The policy offers that the financial information of the districts is open and transparent. The disbursements are published in newspapers. At the local government level, district and urban councils inform wards, villages and mitaa that funds have been received, and details are placed on public notice boards. LGAs issue expenditure guidelines to wards, villages and *mitaa* based on the approved budget, and begin project implementation (URT, 2003). The reliance of the youths on hearsay depicts a sense of irresponsibility to the civic duty of safeguarding the common good.



4.3 Youths Voicing in demanding financial accountability

Vertical accountability and horizontal accountability require action and reaction. The vertical accountability requires more voice as it depends largely on the strength of the voice to change the course of action and increase the pattern of expected behavior. According to Goetz and Jenkins (2005) vertical or demand side accountability is concerned with the power relations between the state and its citizens and refers to the accountability of state to non-state actors in which citizens and their associations play a direct role in holding the powerful to account. It is the means whereby ordinary citizens; the media and civil-society actors attempt to enforce standards of performance by public officials and service providers. In this definition, periodic free and fair elections are the classic form of vertical accountability. However, social accountability has been taken as mechanism of promoting accountability in government in the inter-election period. Social accountability assumes that citizen participation contributes to reflexive deliberations, communication, effective representation and consensus building in the public sphere. Some scholars, in that regard, suggest that local governments need to be established since they are better placed to promote face to face interaction between officials and populace (Saltzstein, 2003 and Ventriss, 2005). What makes participatory public expenditure tracking different and powerful is the continuous public involvement in the exercise where by actual users or beneficiaries of services, such as parents of children attending school and youths who consume public services.

Table 4: Youths participation in meetings convened by mtaa authority in the past two years

Have you ever attended mtaa meetings in your community for the past two years?		Frequency	Percent
Valid	never	114	57.0
	once or twice	42	21.0
	a few times	44	22.0
	Total	200	100.0

Source: Field data (2020).

Youths when responding on the question whether they have attended public meetings convened by mtaa/village authority, 57 percent said they had never attended such meetings. It is a stance that leaves most questions to a political culture. Youths seem to be in a passive political culture where they feel their involvement cannot change anything (Mushi, 2004). Moreover, the percentage of youth population who claimed to have attended once or twice was 21 and those who did so rarely counted for 22 percent. The implication of this situation is that participation to foster accountability is an agenda of less importance to youths in these communities thus rendering them to be irresponsible citizens. The provisions of Article 103(2) of the LGA Act No.7 of 1982 which requires the grassroots leadership to summon the village/mtaa assembly once after three months (URT, 2012). This means that most youths do not attend the constitutional meetings in their communities. Hence, it is not difficult to conclude that, youths by



not participating in public meetings cannot track the expenditures, and thus become irresponsible for their lives and communities at large.

4. 4 Youths following up financial allocations in public places in Toangoma Ward

Youths' money monitoring is an ingredient of understanding how much has been disbursed from the district or municipal council to key sectors, in this respect, education sector.

Table 5: Youths following up budgetary allocations in public places

Toangoma Ward	Made follow up and seen financial allocation to key sectors posted in a public place			Total
	Never	once or twice	a few times	
Goroka A	49	26	25	100
Masuliza	60	22	18	100
Total	109	48	43	200

Source: Field data (2020).

Table 5 above shows that 49 youths at Goroka A and 60 youths at Masuliza street had never made any follow up to see the allocated funds for key sectors in their communities. Furthermore, when one looks at the data from Goroka A street and Masuliza street, one notes that in both streets, a great number of the respondents (109 out of 200) is of youths who have never bothered to make follow up for the public money allocated to their communities. This affirms the argument that, youths are not counting safeguarding public money as a civic duty in Toangoma Ward.

The other evidence of youths' limited participation is depicted by REPOA (2008) showing that the levels of income affect youths to participate particularly in urban areas. They argued that in urban areas youths are busy enough to search for their daily bread unlike rural areas where the life style is almost homogeneous and it is possible for youths to participate. However, because of the despair of the people, the system of governance participation has continued to be limited in both rural and urban areas. This makes it quite difficult for citizens to hold the government accountable for its maladministration of the public's money. Limited attendance in public meetings in Toangoma ward leads to a conclusion of viewing youths as not being responsible citizens.



4.5 Youths Following up school expenditure on school notice boards

The study also intended to examine the youths utilizing the available avenue such as visiting the school notice boards to crosscheck the expenditure and revenue.

Table 6: Youths visiting school notice boards to read financial statement

How do you rate your visits to school notice boards to read financial statements?	Frequency	Percent
Valid		
yes, very many	20	10.0
yes, many	44	22.0
yes, but very few	60	30.0
No	76	38.0
Total	200	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2020).

Table 6 reveals that 38 percent of respondents said no to the question which wanted to know if they ever visited school notice boards to read financial statements. Thirty percent of respondents said yes, while 22 percent said yes many. It was only 10 percent of respondents who said that they have had visited the notice boards many times.

In order for the youths to voice up regarding financial management, they are required to have right information from the authorities. The study findings reveal that the information supply with regard to public expenditure is a policy question as stipulated below.

“Councils and Schools are responsible to give information about funds that have been received and their expenditures on Council notice boards, school notice boards and public places where community gatherings take place. It is now obligatory for each citizen to know how much money has been received in Council or School and how has that been spent” (URT, 2003:22).

The essence of PETS has been to streamline populace` participation in order to meet the value for money philosophy. Hence, by youths defying from participation in tracking public money led to a conclusion of regarding youths as irresponsible in governance of their public purse.

5.6 Youths collective action to demand for accountability

Youths were asked if they could be ready to protest against non-remission of public expenditure reports by the mtaa government.



Table 7: Youths readiness to protest in demanding expenditure information from the mtaa or facility leadership

Are You Ready to Protest in Case Official Deny You Financial Information?	Frequency	Percent
Valid		
Yes	83	41.5
No	117	58.5
Total	200	100.0

Source: Field data (2020).

The mechanism which takes a form of protest is not welcome by the communities in demanding for financial accountability. Around 58.5 percent out of 200 respondents said no to the question which wanted to know if they would be ready to use protest to demand for financial accountability. The reason for this stance is based on historical factors. Tanzania after independence adopted a one-party ideology which emphasized on loyalty to authority rather than rejection and protest (Mushi, 2004).

The study findings tally with what Hyden (1999) observed in Tanzania's socio-political life. Hyden (2002) argues that associational life in Tanzania is quite weak, even by African standards. One reason for this is demographic. Tanzania is a large country where most of the people live in peripheral regions. While population density is high in some of these regions (as in Kilimanjaro on the border with Kenya), it is still lower than in Kenya. Tanzania's poorly developed and poorly maintained physical infra-structure makes social interaction difficult. Thus, in spite of villagization and rapid urbanization, organized efforts tend to be of small-scale and focus on implementing a single project with tangible results. In other words, very few Tanzanians engage in collective action in order to promote or defend a particular idea or cause. Another reason why social capital is so weak in Tanzania is people's lack of trust in each other.

The party-state undermined trust by encouraging corruption and theft. Liberalization has not promoted a richer associational life; instead, it has left more and more individuals doing things on their own. Liberalization has not yielded expected combinatorial freedom to communities. The same attitude that Edward Banfield described as "amoral familism" in his study of Montegrano in southern Italy in the 1950s is widespread in Tanzania today. Hyden's observations concur with our study findings as most respondents were not ready to participate in the tracking of public expenditure information. Hence, the society ecology makes youths to be regarded as irresponsible citizens.



5.7 Youths`level of education and knowledge on PETS as a civic duty

Table 8: Youths`level of education and knowledge on PETS as a civic duty

		Do you have any knowledge on Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys?		Total
		yes	no	
What is your level of education?	Primary	30	54	84
	Secondary	21	39	60
	higher	17	23	40
	learnig			
	Bachelor	3	6	9
	Masters	0	6	6
	PhD	0	1	1
Total		71	129	200

Source: Field data (2020)

Table 8 shows that regardless of the levels of education PETS is not known to almost all levels of education. The program of involving youths to track their money faces a big challenge as it seems not to have spread among the youth`s despite of it being in place since 1999. Most of the educated individuals (bachelor and PhD holders seem not to understand programs of PETS. 6 respondents for example with masters` degree from the two areas of study said that they were not aware of PETS. Based on observations by our study there is little evidence that the tracking surveys have been regarded as a civic responsibility to the youths. Hence, this leads to a conclusion that youths are irresponsible citizens as they should be adequately participation in the management of public money.

5.0 .Conclusions

The study has assessed the levels of youths` participation in civic duties and realized that there are several factors which hinder youths` engagement in tracking public expenditure. The issues noted with concerns involve youths` occupational status, youths` levels of education by which make it difficult for the youths to participate and turn them to be irresponsible citizens.

The youth`s engagement in tracking public expenditure would ensure proper management of public funds which in turn would be used to cater for youth`s health services, education and employment as well. However, the irresponsibility of youths to engage in tracking expenditures has tended to accelerate malgovernance of public funds and thus causing deterioration of services. Therefore, youths by shying away from participating in tracking public expenditures in the two streets of Goroka A and Masuliza in Toangoma ward leads to a conclusion of youths being irresponsible citizens by whatever standards.



7.0 Recommendations

The assumptions of participation theory entail empowerment. It should be put in place that youths are empowered with civic education in order to understand their civic rights and duties in order to become responsible citizens in Tanzania.

Responsible citizenship requires a culture of active participation in civic life. The avenues of participation should be more open to let the youths participate in PETS.

The use of various methods such as dances and other games during public meetings in order to maximize participation of youths.

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