



## Influence of Citizens' Participation on Human Security in Nyamyumba Sector of Rubavu District in Rwanda

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### ABSTRACT

*The purpose of this study was to examine the influence of citizens' participation on human security in Nyamyumba sector of Rubavu District in Rwanda. Despite efforts to improve human security in Nyamyumba sector, challenges persist, particularly in areas of citizen involvement and women's participation. The specific impact of citizens' participation on human security in this context remained insufficiently understood. Democratization theory was used to guide the study. The study employed mixed methods, using both qualitative and quantitative approaches with descriptive and correlation research designs. A target population of 30,851 people was used; with a sample size of 407 respondents selected using Yamane's (1967) formula. Data were collected through questionnaires, interviews, focus group discussions, and document analysis. Quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS version 27, while qualitative data underwent thematic analysis. The findings revealed that 83.7% of respondents agreed that there is a requirement to empower women in various activities in Nyamyumba sector. This implies that setting out the requirements to empower women helps the local leaders to be objective while empowering women. The study also found that the variables like framework, accountability and participation in neighbourhood security influence 53.9% of human security. It was also found that local citizens in Nyamyumba sector participate in Irondo as a social service to maintain security in the area, organized at the household level. The study concludes that there is a statistically significant relationship between citizens' participation and human security. However, the level of public participation and citizen's engagement in human security decision making processes tends to be low in Nyamyumba sector. The study recommends that there should be strategies to enhance the wealth of youths, which could lead to sustainable future families and improved human security.*

**Keywords:** Citizen, Citizens' Participation, Human Security, Participation, Rwanda

### I. INTRODUCTION

Globally food security, health care, security and mitigate insecurities caused by disasters, heavy storms, floods, earthquakes, famine, droughts, and so on, that have claimed lives of people across the globe are taken as tremendous challenge to human security (Ball, 2002). In Africa, the human security has remained a big challenge and entirely affects general security in the region.

Citizens, Global Civic Engagement on Online Platforms: Women as Transcultural Citizens.” Dissertation helped us examine how these managed platforms encode global citizenship with pre-designed participatory practices that reinforce the hegemonic definition of youth political participation (Pathak-Shelat, 2019). Interviews of young bloggers on two online global spaces foreground the process of negotiation with the dominant definitions and the use of decoding strategies to create scope for subjective, more local definitions, as well as practices of civic engagement and global citizenship (Pathak-Shelat, 2019).

Both experts and literature emphasize that socio-economic factors should be central to understanding the conflict like in Tunisia, high rates of unemployment, poverty, diseases like HIV/AIDS and terrorism which leads to a slowdown of the economy have led to economic suffering and contributed to growing decline toward the government (Baldwin, 2007).

In Africa, It argues that whilst lack of community trust has been lauded as one of the factors that have brewed citizen protests over the years, there is evidence to show that between the core values of procedural justice and public trust, citizen perception of power to influence may be vital to minimize proclivity to protest (Msenge, & Nzewi, 2021).



The article finds that in addition to the interactional and informational justice components of procedural justice, meaningful citizen participation can be measured as a combination of these justice areas with mechanisms that highlight citizens' positive perceptions of their power to influence decisions (Msenge, & Nzewi, 2021).

In Kenya, the main factors that affect citizen participation in formulation of public policy include direct benefits (financial, material), tangible or non-tangible to long or short term, among others (Kamau & Mbirithi, 2021). Other factors such as culture, history, government policy and social, political, and economic structures influence community participation. Also, the findings of the study revealed that citizens are well acquainted with public policy processes and there is an effective county government guideline and clear standards enhance public policy making processes. Kamau and Mbirithi (2021) revealed that involvement in policy formulation is positively related to performance. Also, consultation enables easy supervision of work.

According to Onyalo (2024) decentralization influences citizen participation in devolved Governance. 77.3% of the respondents agreed decentralization had promoted political entrepreneurship while 75% contended that decentralization had influenced citizen participation in development of policies and legislation (Onyalo, 2024). Moreover, 57.2% of the respondents felt that citizen participation in decentralized policy-making was high while 69% of the respondents were satisfied that decentralization had made it possible for citizens to participate in county budgeting.

In Rwanda, the system of governance is decentralized in nature (Chemouni, 2014). It is guided by the performance contracts (*imihigo*) between the district authorities and the President of the Republic where the ministerial, provincial; district and sector level leaders commit themselves to the accomplishment of the developmental goals.

Democracy and governance have become an important public policy topic area in recent years. A large body of research has focused on understanding the linkages between political institutions, in general, and economic development (Protik et al., 2018). The general consensus is that countries whose political systems are open and democratic are better economic performers than those whose systems are not (Protik et al., 2018).

The local government leaders have the responsibility in implementing the policies and designing frameworks towards homegrown solutions to ensure the wellbeing of Rwandan community.

### 1.1 Statement of the Problem

The aspect of human security in Rwanda is about wellbeing of the citizens of this country. The effective local government should consider various multi-dimensions of human security of a fully-fledged human centered security; and these shall be the indicators of human security in Rwanda (Tadjoeddin, 2015).

Therefore, as far as this study is concerned, the final goal is to ascertain how the following multi-sectoral forms of human security have been achieved in Rwanda because of good governance. However, Rwanda was politically a divided nation between north and south during President Habyariman's time.

The northern part of Rwanda was more favored than the south. Rubavu district after genocide was a security risk to Rwandans since genocide perpetrators used to come from Congo and attacked, killed citizens which became a security concern. The local governance practices are community partnership, citizens' participation, equitable resource allocation, capacity building and policy compliance and these may influence human security especially on citizens living in Nyamyumba sector of Rubavu District.

Gervais (2018) revealed that since the intra-state conflicts occurred, 68% of people in western province especially in Rubavu district, faced insecurity which affected the socio-economic tensions in the region. Gervais (2018) also added that the personal and economic security as well as socio-political security as indicators of human security was mistreated.

The study therefore, sought to determine the influence citizens' participation on human security in Nyamyumba sector of Rubavu District in Rwanda.

### 1.2 Research objective

The objective of this paper was to examine the influence of citizens' participation on human security in Nyamyumba sector of Rubavu District in Rwanda.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Theoretical Review

Citizens participate in matters of human security when leaders involve them, empowered and motivated to participate. It also depends on how leaders influence them. There are a number of things that leaders may employ to influence their relationship with their followers. Fostering collective identification such as family, place of employment



and informal social group; a self-sacrifice leader may thus shift the emphasis from the pursuit of solely the owner interest to the pursuit of group interests (Ololube et al., 2015).

Every law enforcement-community collaboration aims to strengthen public confidence in law enforcement, initiate informal social control mechanisms that support the avoidance of deviance, and give police officers access to a range of information originating from their respective fields. These coalitions aim to resurrect the informal surveillance and social control strategies that were formerly employed to monitor and impede the expansion of large-scale criminal businesses, even if their main objective is to involve the public in the legal system (Giwa, 2018).

A leader who communicates with followers, solicits their recommendations, and seriously considers these recommendations before making a decision is critical to citizen involvement. Involvement would increase the clarity of the paths to various goals from a path-goal perspective (Zenker & Seigis2012). Citizens' participation in local affairs that affect them is crucial to human security.

In different nations, citizens' participation both in politics and other social and economic affair empowers them. Though such obstacles do exist, they should be overcome. This is why this research seeks to find the out what impact citizens' participation has on human security.

The 21st-century obstacles to human security call for the promotion of a broader definition of democracy that takes into account issues related to human rights, the ability to advance social and economic development, accountability, the ability to forge consensus in highly diverse environments, enhanced electoral procedures, and the encouragement of public participation (Giwa, 2018).

Exclusion and restricted access to resources and power are major causes of insecurity. Ololube et al. (2015) state that the idea of human security places a strong emphasis on defending individuals against serious dangers to their life, shielding them from injury and violent conflict, and empowering them to combat societal problems like crime and sickness. Human rights progress, equality before the law, and institutional protections for peoples are made possible by democracy.

Additionally, there is an asymmetry in the current worldwide efforts to build freedom. The concentration on open elections that is currently placed on the political system may serve to strengthen certain political regimes and the competition between political parties, but it does not guarantee that the ruling classes in developing and transitioning nations will be held ethically and politically responsible, that civil society will take part in the process of making decisions, or that the state will address the needs at large.

The perception that in many nations democracy allows the state to be "captured" by elites driven by personal gain, the worry that violent conflict can be sparked by democratic transitions and public dissatisfaction with some elected governments' failure to provide economic opportunity for all are the main causes of the republic's crisis.

Based on the basic concept that politics promote equal treatment, the formal tools of democracy must be designed appropriately for the societies they are intended to serve (Del Biondo, 2015). In actuality, the moral consensus that underpins the law determines how powerful its force is, the nature of political power and military rights, law enforcement, the duties of the judiciary and legislature in relation to the executive branch, and human rights may all be affected in the long run by particular authority that are presumed to address both internal and external threats (Kumar, 2019).

People have fought for democracy throughout history in an effort to reshape power dynamics and express diversity and identity within a common political framework. Such objectives call for long-term solutions tailored to specific situations and requirements. Ololube et al. (2015) also stated that the systematic techniques of evaluation in particular circumstances are necessary, and that the quality of the democratic process, including transparent and responsible governance and justice before the law, is crucial.

### 2.1.1 Theoretical Review

Democratization theory by Rousseau came the early Modernization Thought owes a lot to current democratization theory (of the 1950s and 1960s). The transition to a regime in which taxation and distribution are based on the interests of the people rather than the desires of a few rich elite is referred to as democratization. In the liberal community, liberalization is the result of a constitutional conflict among institutional actors over the allocation of political rights and competencies (Schimmelfenning, 2010).

Democracy can help in establishing stable and legitimate leadership that can bring about positive influence on human security and respect for the rule of law. While democratic governance provides citizens access to participate in electing their leaders, as well as other political benefits such calling for the accountability of these leaders.

Case (2010) points out that democracy requires that participants strike a fine balance between competitiveness and restraints. In a vibrant democracy, political parties, civil society, organization and social movements compete over institutional positions and policy outcomes. Winners must apply tolerance, while losers prepare to compete another day. Following Cases' argument participation in democratic process means that all participants are allowed equal chance to



compete and as such when competition is over the losers accept their defeat peacefully. This study identifies democratic process as a serious security threat and focuses on factors such as community partnership, citizens' participation and policy compliance as possible solutions to the problem. The securitization theory thus provides a theoretical underpinning.

## 2.2 Empirical Review

### 2.2.1 Citizens' Participation and Human Security

Zenker and Seigis (2012) revealed on different sorts of citizen engagement (i.e. circumstances where the outcome was binding for the city vs. cases where the result was nonbinding) were investigated using a between groups design. The output was examined with three experts, all of whom had worked in the topic, in a second phase to validate the results.

Surprisingly, it appears that the circumstance of being asked, rather than the sort of engagement or happiness with the initiative, makes a difference in service quality. One could argue that the sense of regard is the most important intermediary in this process. Friedmann and Cannon (2017) investigated whether homeland security and community policing approaches compete or complement one another.

The research found that the two public safety approaches have a lot in common, and that national security will benefit from incorporating community oriented policing principles into its localized initiatives. The study found that Human security and community policing policies attempt to avoid significant crime and terrorism which also establish the concept focusing the response that become effective.

The methodology mixture of traditional reaction in function that strengthen the strategy of community collaboration. Giwa (2018) reviewed about the participation police in community and realized that potential role for police social work. The study did theoretical analysis of community policing, objectives, principles, used in Canada are first provided. Discussions about epistemology are still sparked by the examination of public policies that are being implemented "elsewhere," especially in Africa (Eboko, 2015).

Even though "the analysis of government policies has entailed a proliferation of studies across the African continent since the end of the 1990s" (Darbon, 2019), some authors still advise caution, arguing, for instance, that the most basic use of the concept of public policy is prohibited due to the fragility of aid-receiving states (Lavigne & Delville, 2018).

Despite being internationalized and involving several stakeholders, these doubts are linked to the discussion surrounding the "exportability of concepts" (Gazibo & Thiriot, 2009) and do not cast doubt on the existence of public policies in Africa (Hinderink & Sterkenburg, 2022). Furthermore, as highlighted by Hassenteufel (2019), states in the developing world are susceptible to the same kinds of globalized financial flows as OECD nations with regard to the tools and principles of public policies in particular, and officials are no longer consistently at the center of public action, just like in Western nations.

Given that it enables us to move beyond the "conception of the state as a company of control defined by its efforts to impose an overall political order, changing it with a perspective centered on its results" (Saidou, 2019). This field of political science offers an original viewpoint on African politics.

In order to "question the tools, the processes, the approaches and the results of the sub-discipline by bringing them to bear on novel circumstances in order to provide a more detailed analysis of public policies," the analysis of African cases produces invaluable heuristic results (Darbon & Provini, 2018).

By analyzing the case of citizen participation in public security policy in Niger and Burkina Faso, this essay adds to these observations. These two Sahelian nations are currently dealing with the greatest obstacle of their lives since the 2011 Libyan catastrophe (Maiga, 2017).

Due to the severity of the security situation, people are taking up self-defense projects. A window of opportunity for security policy reform has also been created by this crisis (Tisseron, 2015). As a result, these two states started a participation-based security policy overhaul. In 2017, a nationwide dialogue known as the "National Security Forum" took place (Kovtun & Vartovnyk, 2024).

As a result, it became acceptable to discuss security, a topic that the state had historically monopolized. The selection of this citizen-based method suggests a shift in the way security policies are established, considering the importance of civil society in this process. The term "civil society," which has generated significant controversy in Africa, is used here to refer to any structured actor that operates outside of the state (Glaser, 2017).

The 1990s saw a rapid shift in public space that is gradually becoming more distinct from society, which allowed for the formation of a civic society (Gazibo, 2007). According to this perspective, the presence of a civil society, with individuals functioning on its behalf and presenting themselves as a counter-power, is an undeniable reality. This interpretation of citizen participation refers to the state or civil society's self-initiated involvement in the formulation or execution of security policy.

These policies adopt a holistic strategy, meaning they consider homeland security and defense (Balzacq, 2016; Collins, 2016; Chihan, 2016; Bauer & Soullez, 2011). The colonial system brought this democratic privilege to Africa in a restricted manner, and it was progressively extended in the late 1940s (Jaffrelot, 2000, 25–32; Loada and Ibriga, 2007). The majority of African regimes ended the plurality that the colonial system had fostered after independence (Bayart et al., 2019).

But some of these regimes continued to allow citizens to participate in "symbolic" ways that shaped authoritarian institutions and aided the propaganda of the ruling classes (Danda, 2013). During a period when "Africa [was] reverting to pluralism and the competitive systems it had given up or curbed in the process of political liberalization," these forms of involvement all but vanished with the third wave of democratization (Bayart et al., 2019).

With liberalization and structural adjustment initiatives, new kinds of public participation have become the norm (Fresia & Lavigne, 2018). There has been a global directive pertaining to "good governance" measures in aid-receiving nations. The concept of governance, disseminated throughout Africa by global financial institutions, is showcased as a vector.

This new approach aligns with the logic of "good governance," which promotes involvement, transparency, the rule of law, and equity in the management and allocation of resources to address common challenges (Gaudin, 2017). Although "effective governance" has not eliminated neo-patrimonialism, it has increased citizen participation, even though security is one of the most resistant area to these changes (Gazibo, 2017).

As a result, discussions about citizen participation are central to the security forums in Niger and Burkina Faso, where it is seen as a response to "democratic fatigue" (Reybrou, 2014). As a result, the security forums in Niger and Burkina Faso seem to be triggering a renewal of citizen participation, which also lies at the center of debates in the old democracies, where it appears as a reaction to "democratic fatigue" (Desclaux, 2019) or, more generally, to the crisis of minimalist democracy (Schumpeter, 2022).

While "good governance" has not ended neo-patrimonialism, it has increased citizen participation even though security is one of the domains most resistant to these changes (Gazibo, 2017). According to Boisvert and Brodeur (2020), participatory democracy, this encompasses all of the methods by which citizens exercise their political power prior to, during, and following the enactment of laws, is the foundation for citizen engagement (Robbe, 2015).

"The authority of science and progress, state supervision of society, and the legitimacy of elected officials are today being, if not dethroned, at least clearly relativized," according to Gaudin (2017), who refers to this as a "new democratic modernity" Democratic participation, which gives rise to "good governance," reorganizes the relationship between the government and civil society without displacing representative democracy.

In Africa, civil society is "watching over public administration" (Loada, 2011). The character of public activity is complicated by such a transformation. Additionally, it was observed that in recent years, a wide range of private and public players have collaborated on the creation of public policies, making it an increasingly collaborative process (Boisvert & Brodeur, 2020). The "de-monopolization" of security as a sovereign role has been brought about by "effective governance" (Chevallier, 2011).

In this arrangement, the state loses its exclusive position as peace "maker" and becomes one of many actors as (Gazibo, 2017). The idea of human security gained traction in the 1990s, which made citizen participation in security problematic (Ganascia, 2012). This idea denotes a paradigm shift in security, where security is now citizen-centered rather than state-centered (Hall, 1993). Security theory was similarly impacted by the Anglo-Saxon models of neighborhood security and Security Sector Reform (SSR) (Saidou, 2019).

Transferring these ideas that have been developed elsewhere is required to meet two goals: to draw in foreign aid and to respond to insecurity with appropriate policies (Fresia & Lavigne, 2018). The 2017 security forums in Niger and Burkina Faso drew official rhetoric from these models. Even while the use of these models deviates somewhat from the logics seen in Western nations, it nevertheless creates new opportunities for establishing public involvement.

Although public engagement is explored here as a constituent element in a policy-making process, it is linked to security as a substantive policy. Thus, all choices and public actions that are made with the intention of ensuring and enhancing the operation of the state apparatus come under the purview of institutional policies (Knoepfel et al., 2016).

This signifies a shift in the structure of public action (Palier & Surel, 2010). According to Palier and Surel (2010), "the dichotomy of "marginal change versus radical change" that has become commonplace in the analysis of public action" can be transcended by highlighting the various timeframes involved and emphasizing the importance of considering the long-term perspective.

This approach more especially, the problem put up by Bruno Palier and his associates is the basis for this study. It employs a comparative analysis and considers the long term (Palier & Surel, 2010). A sequential strategy that isolates the many timeframes of change is necessary for such a viewpoint (Cairney, 2012).

The extraversion paradigm, which emphasizes "the creation and capture of a rent generated by interdependence and which operates as a historical matrix of inequality, political centralized control, and social struggle," is one of the



problems that the problem is aware of. To put it briefly, the issue at hand involves challenging the internal and external factors that influence citizens' involvement in security measures.

Overall, this study contributes to the comparative examination of public policies (Hassenteufel, 2019), specifically to the binary comparison approach, which aims to elucidate the differences and parallels between examples that show "fundamental analogies." The article, which takes a longitudinal approach, looks at public participation in security over long, medium, and short time periods (Gazibo, 2022).

As a result, its main focus is on the process of agenda-setting, or how individual issues become group issues. According to Knoepfel et al. (2016), it is the "first output that the analyst must study when he empirically approaches the cycle of a public policy."

### **2.2.2 Framework and Accountability as an Aspect of Citizen Participation and Human Security**

The implementation of security for people offers a tried-and-true method for "why" and "how" the various components of the UN system must cooperate in order to use its resources more intelligently by emphasizing the connections between the Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Annan, 2014).

Application of human security lessons shows the added benefit of such a thorough strategy for eradicating poverty and advancing sustainable development. Furthermore, a deeper awareness of how many nations, regions within nations, and social groups encounter the multifaceted dimensions of poverty are made possible by the use of human security (Annan, 2014).

A national security strategy can respond in a more inclusive, integrated and multifaceted manner by tackling the underlying causes of poverty and emphasizing the influence of income and other inequalities on broader development (Shittu et al., 2021).

Even while local discrepancies may not be sufficiently addressed by national assessments, identifying bottlenecks at the local level can promote equitable revenue generation that yields notable international gains (Annan, 2014). Such advantages are exemplified by instances from national human security programming (Azzain, 2014).

As demonstrated in Kenya, Mongolia, Nepal, and Paraguay, the human security approach breaks down social and economic indicators at both the national and local levels to identify the different barriers that women, marginalized populations, and members of minority groups face when trying to access public services and economic opportunities.

Services can then be customized to match these groups' unique needs. Thus, in order to promote an inclusive development process where the most marginalized can benefit from economic progress, national and local targets are set (Azzain, 2014). Furthermore, the application of human security tackles problems resulting from several causes impeding economic growth and the fight against poverty in addition to developmental obstacles.

Thus, it contributes to the understanding of how various problems from environmental degradation and violence to impoverishment in all of its manifestations interact and call for all-encompassing, situation-specific remedies (Chinkin, 2024). Chinkin (2024) has demonstrated that fragile and conflict-affected nations have had the slowest pace of progress in achieving the MDGs.

For instance, a development paradigm that ignores the behavioral and structural roots of violence will not be able to stop a relapse into fragility and crises in nations where there is a high rate of violence and low trust in individuals and organizations. The human security strategy can assist in addressing issues arising from and leading to seven ongoing conflicts, marginalization, and extreme poverty.

Its foundational objective is to attain freedom from fear, want, and indignity (Chinkin, 2024). Human security can highlight the crucial relationship between these variables and ensure that strategies for reducing poverty are focused on the underlying causes and corrective measures required to stop the spread. It can do this by highlighting the triangle relationship between stability and peace, growth, and human rights.

Consequently, the use of human security enhances and supplements the procedures that would be required in order to achieve the SDGs, (Karamé, 2021). Through the conceptualization of the interdependencies across the many SDG components, the human security approach can help to organize future responses in a more cohesive and methodical manner.

It can assist in elucidating the ways in which various concerns interact and necessitate complementary solutions in order to guarantee more equitable and sustainable development. Karamé (2021) went on to say that the SDGs can help the UN system find the right answers in this new direction and progress the significant extension of the goals toward greater respect for human dignity and planetary sustainability for all, because of its united values.



### III. METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Study Area

This study took place in Rubavu District covering Nyamyumba sector. This sector was affected by insecurity during the time when infiltrators attacked Rwanda from Democratic Republic of Congo in 1997-1999. This brought concerns to the central government and the local population on how this ended, as far as local government and people’s participation on how to bring peace in this area collaboration on both sides is crucial.

#### 3.2 Research Design

The study utilized a descriptive survey research design to make a concurrent triangulation model with descriptive survey research design. This design was employed in order to establish some descriptive statistics related local governance practices and human security in Nyamyumba sector of Rubavu District and also help to establish the extent through local governance practices can influence human security.

#### 3.3 Target population and sample size

This study involved people who are resident and enumerated in Rubavu District having business or farming activities or an administrative staff in Nyamyumba of Rubavu District, participant must have above 18years and above years of age. This made a total of 30851 respondents that were the target population. Corresponding. The sample size of 407 respondents through the usage of Yamane formula (Umar & Wachiko, 2021). The study used stratified sampling technique to select the administrative staff of cell and the residents consisting of Nyamyumba sector were Rubona, Kiraga, Burushya, Munanira, Busoro and Kinigi.

#### 3.4 Data collection instruments

Questionnaire, interview guide, focus group discussion and document analysis review were taken as data collection instruments.

#### 3.5 Data analysis technique

During data analysis, software of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 27 was used in analysis of quantitative data and thematic analysis for qualitative data. Tables and textual mode were used in the presentation of the obtained findings respectively.

### IV. FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

The findings of this paper are presented focusing of the specific research objective which was to determine the influence of citizens’ participation as an aspect of local governance practices on human security in Rubavu District. Descriptive analysis and multiple linear regression analysis were established for quantitative data and content analysis for qualitative data. Table 1 presents the status of citizen's participation in Nyamyumba sector for the purpose of enhancing the level of human security in the area. Descriptive analysis and multiple linear regression analysis were established for quantitative data and content analysis for qualitative data.

**Table 1**

*Status of citizens’ participation in Nyamyumba Sector*

Statements Perception of responses citizens’ participation	Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Mean
	%	%	%	%	%	
A shift security of states to neighborhoods	21.8	45.3	20.0	7.1	5.8	3.71
There is a need of political and economic context	25.0	41.8	21.6	9.5	2.1	3.72
Strengthening issue of human security	26.8	46.1	17.1	7.4	2.6	3.87
Human security evolved from traditional to center notion	25.5	50.3	14.2	7.9	2.1	3.89
Women empowerment in various activities	35.8	47.9	9.2	5.0	2.1	4.10
Level of public partnership and citizen engagement	18.2	27.9	24.2	18.7	11.1	3.23
Local governance implements and designs public policies	18.7	45.8	22.1	8.7	4.7	3.65
Strengthened citizens accountability	18.9	42.6	20.0	11.8	6.6	3.56
reinforced security due to activities participation of citizens	25.5	41.3	16.3	11.8	5.0	3.71



The study found that the respondents of the study that participated actively indicated that the average of 67.1% of respondents with the mean of 3.71 agreed that the primary contribution of the concept of human security in Nyamyumba sector shifted the emphasis from the security of states to the neighborhood security. However, Azzain (2014) revealed services to citizens can then be customized to match these groups' unique needs. Thus, in order to promote an inclusive development process where the most marginalized can benefit from economic progress, national and local targets are set (Azzain, 2014).

This implies that the human security improves the status of human security in the area of Nyamyumba sector, which also leads to the improvement of living standards in the region. The study also found that 66.8% with the mean of 3.72 agreed that there is a need in the current political and economic context to improve human security in the area.

This also implies that the political will with collaboration of citizens improves the economic status in the area. This implies that the human security improves the status of human security in the area of Nyamyumba sector, which also leads to the improvement of living standards in the region. The study also shows that 66.8% with the mean of 3.72 agreed that there is a need in the current political and economic context to improve human security in the area.

This also implies that the political will with collaboration of citizens improves the economic status in the area. In the same vein, the study also found that the mean of 3.87 and 72.9% of respondents agreed that issues related to human security were strengthened in the area of Nyamyumba sector. This implies that solving the issues related to human security and brings citizens at the center of development. However, the study also found that the mean of 3.89 and 75.8% of respondents agreed that human security in the area of Nyamyumba sector, has now evolved from traditional notion which placed the state at the center, to the concept whose very center is the human person.

This implies that putting a person at the center in all domains of development supports the aspect of human security as well as improving the economic development in the area as well as in the countrywide.

The executive secretary of cells also clarified that

*“Local citizens are doing their own businesses to raise their living standard. In terms of effective citizen’s participation, the executive cells also added that there is a system of doing Irondo professionally which is done per household whereas household which is not able to do so, provides 500 Rwanda Francs per month which is also done as per financial capacity”.*

In the same vein of presenting the findings related to citizens’ participation and human security in Nyamyumba sector, the study also found that the mean of 4.10 and 83.7% of respondents agreed that there is a requirement to empower women in various activities in Nyamyumba sector.

This implies that setting out the requirements to empower women helps the local leaders to be objective while empowering women in various activities. The study also found that the mean of 3.23 and only 46.1% agreed that the level of public participation and citizen’s engagement in human security decision making process tends to be low in Nyamyumba sector. According to Zenker and Seigis (2012), a leader who communicates with followers, solicits their recommendations, and seriously considers these recommendations before making a decision is critical to citizen involvement. Involvement would increase the clarity of the paths to various goals from a path-goal perspective

This implies that the local leaders in Nyamyumba sector have engage people in the area in case of decision making which helps them be at the center of development and participate actively. The Findings in the Table 1 also reveals that the mean of 3.65 and 64.5% agreed that local governance in Nyamyumba sector design and implement a variety of public policies that have to improve human security.

This means that making effective design and implementation of public policies changes the lives of people in community and also leads to the development of the country. The study also found that the mean of 3.56 and 61.5% of respondents agreed that accountability among citizens is much strengthened in the area of Nyamyumba sector. This implies that citizens to accountable in all performed activities improve the individual active participation which leads to development mentally and economically. Friedmann and Cannon (2017) revealed that national security should be benefited from incorporating community oriented policing principles into its localized initiatives.

In the same vein, the study also revealed that, the mean of 3.71 and 66.8% of respondents agreed that due to active participation of citizens, security among neighborhood is much reinforced. This implies that the reinforcement of active participation brings human security in the area and development.





**Table 2**  
*Status of Human Security in Nyamyumba Sector*

Statements Perception of responses policy compliance and human security	Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Mean
	%	%	%	%	%	
Effective prevention and intervention	23.4	53.2	14.2	7.6	1.6	3.89
Human security is a universal concern	32.1	49.5	7.9	6.3	4.2	3.99
Increase level of income	27.4	13.7	8.9	46.8	3.2	3.86
Human security enhanced employment	31.1	53.7	7.4	7.9	0.0	4.08
Access to basic needs has improved	31.8	13.7	7.1	45.0	2.4	3.97
Local leaders help and support to create income	21.3	43.7	17.9	11.6	5.5	3.64
Short distance to access basic services	26.3	42.1	5.8	17.9	6.8	3.63
Short distance to access schools	28.4	44.5	8.9	11.6	6.6	3.76
All children access schools	20.8	24.5	8.4	39.5	6.8	3.43
Citizens are supported to get jobs	33.7	38.4	8.4	16.8	2.6	3.84

The findings presented in Table 2 indicate the status of human security in Nyamyumba sector. The study found that the mean of 3.89 corresponding with 76.6% of respondents agreed that there is effective prevention and intervention which could lead to human security. This implies that provision of intervention targeting the development of human security enhance the living standard of citizens in the area. On the other hand, the study found that the mean of 3.99 and 81.6% of respondents agreed that human security is a universal concern. This indicates that majority of respondent understand the value of human security which involves to be a universe in community.

In the same vein, the study found that the mean of 3.86 and only 41.1% agreed that the level of income has increase due to enhance human security. This means that there is a still a need to find out strategies that help in sustaining human security to improve the living standard of people. On the other hand, the study found that the mean of 4.08 and 84.8% of respondents agreed that employment has been created due to enhanced human security. This implies that sustainability of human security participates in creation of employment.

Similarly, the study also found that the mean of 3.97 and 45.5% of the respondents agreed that access to basic needs like health care, education and social services has improved due to enhance human security. This implies that in Nyamyumba sector, there is a still a gap in distribution of basic needs to members of community which significantly affect the life standard.

On the other hand, the study found that the mean of 3.64 corresponding with 65% of respondents agreed that the local leadership helps and supports citizens to create some of the income generating activities. This implies that there is a gap among local leaders of Nyamyumba security help citizens to create the income generating activities which sometimes affect the financial development of community. This was supported by the group discussion done by citizens of Nyamyumba sectors said that there is still a challenge related to having health service where they explained that people are still moving long distance to research the health centers. They also added that when reach to health center, it is hard to get service due to shortage number of nurses and specialist which causes most of the time to be transferred to other hospitals which is also hard to manage.

In the same vein, the study found that the mean of 3.63 and 3.76 corresponding with 68.4% and 72.9% respectively agreed that there is a short distance to access the basic needs like health facilities and their children to access the respective schools. This implies that moving a long distance to get various facilities like health related facilities and schools impact negatively the individual life leading to the lack of some development opportunities.

On the other hand, the study found that the mean of 3.84 corresponding with 72.1% of respondents agreed that citizens with low financial capacity are supported to get job like participating in Vision Umurenge Program (VUP). This implies that supporting citizens or local community to participate in financial activities improves the human security in the area.

**Table 3**  
*Model Summary of Citizens' Participation and Human Security*

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.699 <sup>a</sup>	.539	.534	.99946	.539	7.704	2	375	.001

a. Predictors: (Constant), Framework and accountability, Participation in neighborhoods security



The variables like framework and accountability and participation in neighborhoods security 53.9% influence on human security in Nyamyumba sector, Rubavu District. This implies that are ready to influence human security and the remaining 46.1% can be affected by additional factors. Ololube et al. (2015) added that fostering collective identification such as family, place of employment and informal social group, and a self-sacrifice leader may thus shift the emphasis from the pursuit of solely the owner interest to the pursuit of group interests.

The correlation coefficient, or R, illustrates the link between the research variables. As indicated by 0.699, the results demonstrate a substantial positive correlation between the research variables. This implies that the participation of citizens in various activities leading to human security makes a strong positive change in the region.

## V. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 Conclusions

The study concludes that the level of public participation and citizen's engagement in human security' decision making processes tend to be low in Nyamyumba sector. The study found that the level of public participation and citizen's engagement in human security decision making is low. This could lead to lowering the level of citizens' participation.

The study also concludes that setting out the requirements to empower women helps the local leaders to be objective while empowering women in various activities in Nyamyumba sector.

The study further concludes that there is a strong positive relationship between citizens' participation and human security, indicating that increased citizen participation leads to substantial positive changes in the area.

### 5.2 Recommendations

The study recommends that the local government should implement strategies to enhance the wealth and livelihoods of the youth, as this would contribute to sustainable families and improved human security. The study also recommends that the local leaders should continue empowering women in various activities in Nyamyumba sector to ensure objectivity and inclusivity.

Additionally, the local government should strengthen the framework and accountability as well as enhance citizen participation in neighborhood security in order to further improve human security in Nyamyumba sector. Finally, the local leaders should increase the level of public participation and citizens' engagement in human security decision making processes in Nyamyumba sector.

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