Open Data Initiatives and Governance Transparency in Kenya: A Scholarly Inquiry

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Abstract

Open data initiatives have become a critical component of modern governance in many countries, including Kenya. In recent years, Kenya has implemented several open data projects aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability in government operations. This study employed a mixed-methods approach combining quantitative surveys with qualitative interviews to gather insights from government officials, civil society organizations, and the general public. A survey conducted among 500 Kenyan citizens revealed that approximately 72% reported feeling more informed about government activities due to open data initiatives. Additionally, a thematic analysis of interviews identified themes such as improved service delivery and reduced corruption suspicions. The findings suggest that open data initiatives in Kenya are effective in fostering greater transparency and public trust among citizens. Based on the results, it is recommended that further investment be made into these open data platforms to enhance their reach and impact across various sectors of governance. Model estimation used $\hat{\theta} = argmin_{\theta} \sum_i \ell(y_i, f_\theta(\xi)) + \lambda \lVert \theta \rVert_2^2$, with performance evaluated using out-of-sample error.

Keywords: *Kenyan, Open Data, Governance, Transparency, Accountability, Participatory Budgeting, WebGIS*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

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