

An Analysis of Citizen Engagement and Participation in Local Government Processes

Abdulahakeem Adejumo^{a*} Zulfah Jumoke Abdulkareem^b

^aDepartment of Political Science,
Federal University Dutse, Nigeria
hakeemadejumo@yahoo.com

^bDepartment of Business and Entrepreneurship
Kwara State University, Malete, Kwara State, Nigeria.
xhulpha@gmail.com

Corresponding Author: hakeemadejumo@yahoo.com

Abstract

Citizen engagement in local government processes is vital for promoting participatory democracy and improving governance outcomes. This study investigates the mechanisms that enhance citizen engagement and participation in local government processes. The research utilizes a questionnaire administered among residents in selected Wards in Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara State, Nigeria, with a final sample size of 437 respondents. PLS-SEM was employed for data analysis. The findings reveal that community development, information, and communication technology (ICT), participatory budgeting, and public consultation have positive and significant relationships with citizen engagement in local government processes. However, the relationship between capacity building and citizen engagement is weak and non-significant. The study contributes to the existing literature by providing empirical evidence on the mechanisms that facilitate citizen engagement in local government administration. The findings have implications for theory and practice, highlighting the importance of community mobilization, ICT utilization, participatory budgeting, and public consultation in fostering citizen participation and improving local governance outcomes.

Keywords: Citizen engagement, local government, participatory budgeting, community development, public consultation, information, and communication technology (ICT), capacity building.

Introduction

Citizen engagement in local government processes has become increasingly recognized as a crucial component of democratic governance and effective public administration. Local governments, being the closest level of government to citizens, play a vital role in addressing community needs, delivering public services, and ensuring local development (Nabatchi et al., 2012). Engaging citizens in decision-making processes and encouraging their active participation fosters a sense of ownership, accountability, and legitimacy in local governance (Ganuza & Cabannes, 2019). The concept of citizen engagement encompasses various mechanisms through which citizens can participate in local government processes (Nabatchi & Amsler, 2014). These mechanisms include participatory budgeting, community development initiatives, public consultations, and information

and communication technology (ICT) platforms (Freeman & Bartle, 2016). These approaches aim to facilitate dialogue, collaboration, and shared decision-making between local governments and citizens.

In recent years, a growing body of literature has examined the relationship between citizen engagement and local government administration (Wamsler et al., 2020). Scholars have emphasized the potential benefits of citizen engagement, such as improved service delivery, enhanced trust, and increased transparency (Ganuza & Cabannes, 2019; Nabatchi et al., 2012). Additionally, the use of ICT platforms has emerged as a powerful tool to facilitate citizen engagement, bridging the gap between governments and citizens, and enabling two-way communication (Bertot et al., 2017). Community mobilization efforts have also been recognized as essential in fostering citizen participation, as they empower communities to voice their concerns, contribute to local development, and hold local governments accountable (Freeman & Bartle, 2016). Moreover, capacity building initiatives have been highlighted as a means to equip citizens with the necessary knowledge and skills to engage effectively in local government processes (Mærøe et al., 2021).

While the importance of citizen engagement in local government administration is widely acknowledged, there is still a need for further exploration and understanding of the underlying mechanisms, dynamics, and outcomes of these practices. This research aims to contribute to the existing literature by investigating the mechanisms that enhance citizen engagement and participation in local government processes, with a focus on participatory budgeting, community development, and public consultation. By examining the relationships between these mechanisms and citizen engagement, this study seeks to provide insights into effective strategies for fostering citizen participation in local government decision-making.

Therefore, this study seeks to address the gaps in the literature by examining the relationships between citizen engagement and various mechanisms employed by local governments. The findings will contribute to a better understanding of the factors that facilitate citizen engagement and inform policymakers and practitioners on strategies to enhance citizen participation in local government processes.

Literature Review

Citizen Engagement and Local Government Administration

Citizen engagement in local government administration is essential for fostering inclusive and accountable governance (Dywili & Draai, 2019). It involves the active involvement of citizens in decision-making processes, policy formulation, and the provision of public services. The concept recognizes citizens as key stakeholders who have the right to participate in shaping the policies and services that directly affect their lives (Freeman & Bartle, 2016). Research has shown that citizen engagement in local government processes can have various positive impacts. Firstly, it enhances trust and legitimacy in the government. When citizens are actively involved in decision-making, they develop a sense of ownership and empowerment, leading to increased trust in local government institutions (Ganuza & Cabannes, 2019). Citizen engagement helps bridge the gap between the

government and the community, fostering a sense of transparency and accountability (Nabatchi et al., 2012).

Furthermore, citizen engagement contributes to the quality of local governance. By involving citizens in decision-making, local governments can tap into the collective intelligence and diverse perspectives of the community (Freeman & Bartle, 2016). This inclusivity leads to more informed and well-rounded decisions that are better aligned with the needs and aspirations of the community. Engaging citizens also enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of public services by incorporating their feedback and ensuring service delivery meets the expectations of the community (Osborne et al., 2016; Torfing et al., 2019).

Citizen engagement in local government processes can take various forms, such as participatory budgeting, community development projects, and public consultation. Participatory budgeting allows citizens to have a direct say in allocating public funds, ensuring that resources are allocated to areas that reflect community priorities (Seyfried et al., 2018). Community development projects involve collaboration between local government and citizens to address local needs and improve the quality of life in the community (Ganuza & Cabannes, 2019). Public consultation provides opportunities for citizens to express their opinions and provide input on policy decisions, fostering a sense of ownership and democratic participation (Freeman & Bartle, 2016).

However, challenges and barriers to effective citizen engagement in local government administration exist. These can include limited awareness and understanding of citizen engagement processes among citizens, lack of resources and capacity within local governments to facilitate meaningful engagement, and power imbalances that hinder inclusive participation (Nabatchi et al., 2012). Overcoming these challenges requires a commitment from local governments to create an enabling environment for citizen engagement, provide necessary resources and training, and establish transparent and accountable mechanisms for citizen participation.

ICT and Citizen Engagement in the Local Government

Information and communication technology (ICT) has revolutionized the way citizens engage with local governments, offering new avenues for participation, collaboration, and transparency. With the rapid advancement of ICT, various platforms and tools have emerged, providing opportunities for citizens to access information, voice their opinions, and interact with local government officials (Bertot et al., 2017).

ICT platforms, such as websites, mobile applications, and social media, have transformed the traditional methods of citizen engagement by providing instant and widespread access to information and services. These platforms enable local governments to disseminate information about policies, programs, and initiatives to a broader audience, ensuring transparency and accountability (Gascó-Hernández et al., 2020). Citizens can easily access relevant data, reports, and updates, empowering them to make informed decisions and actively engage in local government processes.

One of the key benefits of ICT in citizen engagement is the promotion of two-way communication. Through online platforms, citizens can provide feedback, raise concerns, and participate in discussions related to local issues (Seyfried et al., 2018). Local governments can collect and analyze this feedback, allowing them to understand community needs and preferences better. This interactive process fosters a sense of inclusivity and ownership among citizens, leading to increased trust and legitimacy in local government decision-making processes (Bertot et al., 2017).

Moreover, ICT platforms enable real-time collaboration and co-creation between citizens and local governments. Online forums, crowdsourcing platforms, and digital town halls provide spaces for citizens to contribute their ideas, suggestions, and expertise in policy formulation and service delivery (Gascó-Hernández et al., 2020). This participatory approach leverages the collective intelligence of the community, ensuring that policies and services are responsive to citizens' needs and preferences.

Community Mobilization and Local Government

Community mobilization is a key factor in promoting citizen engagement and participation in local government processes. It involves the active involvement of community members, grassroots organizations, and local stakeholders in decision-making, problem-solving, and development initiatives (Ganuza & Cabannes, 2019). Through community mobilization, citizens become agents of change, working collaboratively with local governments to address local challenges and improve the overall well-being of their communities.

Engaging communities in local government processes has several positive outcomes. First, it fosters a sense of ownership and empowerment among citizens, as they are directly involved in shaping the decisions that affect their lives and communities (Ganuza & Cabannes, 2019). This sense of ownership increases civic pride and active citizenship, leading to increased community cohesion and a stronger social fabric.

Community mobilization also enhances trust and legitimacy in local government. When citizens are actively engaged and have a voice in decision-making, they develop a stronger sense of trust in local government institutions and their representatives (Freeman & Bartle, 2016). This trust is essential for effective governance and collaboration between citizens and local authorities.

Furthermore, community mobilization promotes inclusive governance practices by ensuring the participation of marginalized and underrepresented groups (Ganuza & Cabannes, 2019). It provides opportunities for diverse voices and perspectives to be heard, contributing to more inclusive and equitable decision-making processes. This inclusivity strengthens social cohesion, reduces social inequalities, and fosters a sense of belonging and social justice within the community.

To effectively mobilize communities, local governments need to employ participatory approaches that value and respect the knowledge, experiences, and contributions of community members. Building strong partnerships with grassroots organizations, community leaders, and civil society groups is crucial in fostering sustainable community mobilization efforts (Freeman & Bartle, 2016).

Collaboration and co-creation between local governments and communities ensure that policies, programs, and services are aligned with the actual needs and aspirations of the community.

Capacity Building and Local Government Administration

Capacity building plays a critical role in strengthening citizen engagement in local government processes. It involves the provision of knowledge, skills, and resources to individuals and communities, enabling them to actively participate in decision-making and governance activities (Mulgan & Albury, 2003). Capacity building initiatives undertaken by local governments aim to enhance citizens' understanding of governance processes, promote civic education, and cultivate a culture of active citizenship.

Investing in capacity building programs has several positive outcomes. First and foremost, it empowers citizens by equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to engage effectively in local government processes (Ganuza & Cabannes, 2019). Through capacity building, citizens gain a deeper understanding of their rights, responsibilities, and the mechanisms through which they can participate in decision-making. This knowledge enables citizens to make informed contributions, voice their concerns, and hold local government officials accountable.

Capacity building efforts also contribute to the development of an informed and engaged citizenry. By increasing citizens' awareness of local governance processes and their rights, capacity building initiatives foster a sense of ownership and responsibility among community members (Sintomer et al., 2018). This active participation strengthens the overall effectiveness and legitimacy of local government administration, as decisions are made with broader input and reflect the needs and aspirations of the community.

Moreover, capacity building enhances the capacity of civil society organizations and community groups to engage with local governments (Ganuza & Cabannes, 2019). By providing training and support to these organizations, local governments facilitate their involvement in local decision-making processes. This collaboration between local governments and civil society strengthens partnerships, promotes collaboration, and encourages a collective approach to addressing community challenges.

To effectively implement capacity building initiatives, local governments need to adopt participatory approaches that involve citizens in the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs (Sintomer et al., 2018). Tailoring capacity building activities to the specific needs and contexts of the community ensures relevance and maximizes the impact of these initiatives. Collaboration with community leaders, civil society organizations, and educational institutions is crucial in identifying the capacity gaps and developing targeted interventions.

Conceptual Framework

Citizen engagement and participation are vital components of effective local government administration. This conceptual model focuses on the mechanisms that can enhance citizen engagement and participation in local government processes, with a specific attention on

participatory budgeting, community development, and public consultation. By exploring these mechanisms, the model seeks to provide insights into strategies that can foster inclusive decision-making, strengthen accountability, and improve service delivery at the local level. The model emphasizes the importance of creating an enabling environment that encourages active citizen involvement and incorporates mechanisms for collaboration between citizens and local government officials.

Participatory Budgeting

Participatory budgeting is a process that enables citizens to have a direct say in allocating public funds. It involves a series of deliberative meetings where community members prioritize and allocate resources to address local needs and priorities. The model suggests that engaging citizens in participatory budgeting can enhance their sense of ownership, build trust, and promote transparency in local government decision-making (Fung & Wright, 2003).

Community Development

Community development initiatives empower citizens to take an active role in shaping the development of their neighborhoods or communities. The model highlights the significance of inclusive community development processes that involve residents, community-based organizations, and local government agencies. It posits that fostering partnerships and creating platforms for collaboration can enhance citizen engagement, encourage grassroots leadership, and facilitate sustainable development (Wandersman et al., 2008).

Public Consultation

Public consultation entails seeking input from citizens on policy matters, service delivery, and development plans. The model emphasizes the need for structured and meaningful public consultation processes that ensure diverse perspectives are considered. It suggests that effective consultation can lead to informed decision-making, increased public trust, and improved responsiveness to community needs (Arnstein, 1969; Rowe & Frewer, 2000).

Enabling Factors

The proposed conceptual model recognizes several key enabling factors that contribute to enhancing citizen engagement and participation. These factors include:

Information and Communication

Accessible and timely information, as well as effective communication channels, are crucial for engaging citizens in local government processes (Gaventa & Barrett, 2010).

Capacity Building

Providing citizens and local government officials with the necessary skills and knowledge to engage meaningfully in participatory processes can enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of engagement initiatives (Hickey & Mohan, 2004).

Hypothesis Formation

H1: There is a positive relationship between participatory budgeting and citizen engagement in local government processes.

H2: Community development positively influences citizen engagement in local government processes.

H3: Public consultation has a positive impact on citizen engagement in local government processes.

H4: Information and communication significantly contribute to citizen engagement in local government processes.

H5: Capacity building positively affects citizen engagement in local government processes.

Methodology

This study employed a quantitative research approach to investigate citizen engagement and participation in local government processes. The research methodology involved the administration of a questionnaire among resident of four wards (Oko Erin, Ubandawaki, Magaji Ngeri and Alanamu wards) of Ilorin West Local Government in Kwara State Nigeria. The aim was to gather data on various aspects related to citizen engagement, including participatory budgeting, community development, information technology and public consultation. The minimum sample size for this study was determined using G*Power software, which estimated a required sample size of 138 participants. However, a larger sample size of 700 questionnaires was distributed among local government employees to ensure a robust dataset. Out of the distributed questionnaires, 437 responses were used for the final analysis. The questionnaire consisted of items designed to measure different constructs related to citizen engagement and participation. These constructs included participatory budgeting, community development, public consultation, information and communication, and capacity building. The items were developed based on established scales and validated measures from previous studies in the field.

Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) was employed as the analytical technique in this study. PLS-SEM is a robust statistical method suitable for complex models with formative and reflective constructs. It allows for the examination of relationships among latent variables and provides insights into the strength and significance of these relationships. To mitigate the potential influence of common method bias, a marker variable approach was adopted. A marker variable, unrelated to the constructs under investigation, was included in the questionnaire. This marker variable served as a control to identify and control for any systematic response bias that might arise due to common method variance. The collected data were subjected to rigorous data cleaning and preprocessing to ensure accuracy and completeness. Descriptive statistics were calculated to summarize the demographic characteristics of the participants. PLS-SEM analysis was then conducted using SmartPLS 4 to test the relationships among the measured constructs and examine the proposed hypotheses. Ethical guidelines were strictly followed throughout the research

process. Informed consent was obtained from all participants, ensuring their voluntary participation and confidentiality of their responses.

Analysis

Demographic Profile

The study collected demographic information from the participants. The results indicate that 66% of the respondents were male, while 34% were female. In terms of employment status, 14% reported being unemployed, 32% were self-employed, 16% were government employees, 26% were employed in the private sector, and 12% were students. Regarding age distribution, 14% were below 18 years old, 48% were between 18 and 30, 21% were between 31 and 50, and 17% were above 50. In terms of educational background, 8% had primary education, 16% had secondary education, 56% had post-secondary education, and 20% had other forms of education.

Measurement Model

The measurement model was assessed based on several criteria, including factor loadings, composite reliability (CR), Cronbach's Alpha, Average Variance Extracted (AVE), and heterotrait-monotrait (HTMT) ratios. The factor loadings of all indicators were found to be greater than 0.705, indicating a strong relationship between the measured variables and their respective constructs. The CR values exceeded 0.7 for all constructs, indicating good internal consistency. Similarly, Cronbach's alpha values were above 0.7, indicating high reliability. The AVE values exceeded 0.5 for all constructs, indicating convergent validity. Lastly, the HTMT ratios were below the threshold of 0.900, suggesting discriminant validity among the constructs.

Structural Model

The structural model analysis reveals the relationships between the latent constructs in the proposed model. Based on the results from the original sample, the following relationships and their statistical significance were observed. The relationship between capacity building and citizen engagement in local government processes was found to be weak and non-significant ($\beta = -0.086$, $t = 1.511$, $p = 0.066$). The relationship between community development and citizen engagement in local government processes was found to be positive and highly significant ($\beta = 0.382$, $t = 10.354$, $p < 0.001$). The relationship between information and communication technology and citizen engagement in local government processes was found to be positive and statistically significant ($\beta = 0.183$, $t = 6.319$, $p < 0.001$). The relationship between participatory budgeting and citizen engagement in local government processes was found to be positive and highly significant ($\beta = 0.294$, $t = 7.426$, $p < 0.001$). The relationship between public consultation and citizen engagement in local government processes was found to be positive and highly significant ($\beta = 0.177$, $t = 5.396$, $p < 0.001$).

The R^2 value, which represents the proportion of variance explained by the model, was calculated to be 0.623. This indicates that the proposed model and the factors explains approximately 62.3% of the variance in citizen engagement in local government processes.

Table 1: Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis	β	T value	P values	Decision
CB -> CELGP	-0.086	1.511	0.066	Not Supported
CD -> CELGP	0.382	10.354	0.000	Supported
ICT -> CELGP	0.183	6.319	0.000	Supported
PB -> CELGP	0.294	7.426	0.000	Supported
PC -> CELGP	0.177	5.396	0.000	Supported

Discussion

The findings of this study shed light on the mechanisms to enhance citizen engagement and participation in local government processes, specifically focusing on participatory budgeting, community development, and public consultation. The results revealed several significant relationships between the latent constructs, providing valuable insights for policymakers and local government officials.

The analysis of the structural model reveals several significant relationships between the latent constructs in the proposed model, shedding light on the factors influencing citizen engagement in local government processes. The findings provide important insights into the dynamics of citizen engagement and have practical implications for enhancing participatory practices in local governance. Starting with public consultation, the results indicate a positive and highly significant relationship with citizen engagement in local government processes. This finding underscores the importance of actively involving citizens in decision-making processes through public consultations. When local governments seek and consider public input, citizens feel valued and empowered, leading to increased engagement in local governance. The positive relationship observed aligns with the existing literature emphasizing the benefits of public consultation in promoting citizen participation and satisfaction (Ganuza & Cabannes, 2019; Seyfried et al., 2018). Therefore, local governments should prioritize and institutionalize effective mechanisms for meaningful public consultations to foster citizen engagement and ensure inclusive decision-making.

Additionally, the relationship between community development and citizen engagement in local government processes is found to be positive and highly significant. This result emphasizes the importance of community-led initiatives and grassroots organizations in fostering citizen engagement. When local governments invest in community development, citizens feel a sense of ownership and are more likely to actively participate in local governance processes. This finding is consistent with prior research highlighting the positive impact of community development on citizen participation and involvement (Freeman & Bartle, 2016; Sintomer et al., 2018). Hence, local governments should prioritize community development projects and initiatives to create an enabling environment for citizen engagement.

Moreover, the positive and statistically significant relationship between information and communication technology (ICT) and citizen engagement in local government processes suggests that the use of ICT tools can facilitate citizen engagement. ICT platforms, such as websites, mobile

applications, and social media, offer avenues for citizens to access information, express their opinions, and interact with local government officials. This finding is in line with prior research highlighting the potential of ICT in promoting citizen engagement (Bertot et al., 2017). Local governments should harness the power of ICT to enhance communication and participation channels with citizens, ensuring accessibility and usability of these technologies.

Furthermore, the relationship between participatory budgeting and citizen engagement in local government processes is found to be positive and highly significant. This result highlights the significance of involving citizens in budgetary decisions as a means to enhance their engagement. Participatory budgeting empowers citizens to have a direct say in resource allocation and decision-making, fostering a sense of ownership and accountability. This finding is consistent with previous studies emphasizing the positive impact of participatory budgeting on citizen participation and satisfaction (Ganuza & Cabannes, 2019; Nabatchi et al., 2012). Therefore, local governments should implement participatory budgeting processes to actively involve citizens in budgetary decision-making, thereby promoting their engagement and fostering trust in local governance.

However, for capacity building, the results indicate a weak and non-significant relationship with citizen engagement in local government processes. This finding suggests that the provision of training and resources to citizens may not have a direct impact on their level of engagement. It is possible that other factors not considered in this study, such as motivational factors or contextual variables, could influence the effectiveness of capacity building initiatives in fostering citizen engagement. Further research is needed to explore these factors and identify strategies to enhance the effectiveness of capacity building efforts in promoting citizen engagement.

Theoretical and Practical Implications

The findings of this study have important implications for both theory and practice in the field of citizen engagement and local government processes. By examining the relationships between various factors and citizen engagement, this study contributes to the existing theoretical knowledge and provides practical insights for enhancing participatory practices in local governance.

Theoretically, the study adds to the growing body of literature on citizen engagement by exploring the specific mechanisms that influence citizen participation in local government processes. The positive and significant relationships observed between community development, information and communication technology (ICT), participatory budgeting, public consultation, and citizen engagement validate the theoretical frameworks emphasizing the importance of these factors in promoting citizen participation (Ganuza & Cabannes, 2019; Sintomer et al., 2018). The findings provide empirical evidence that supports and strengthens these theoretical perspectives, contributing to a deeper understanding of the dynamics of citizen engagement in the context of local government.

From a practical standpoint, the findings offer valuable insights for policymakers and local government officials seeking to improve citizen engagement and enhance participatory practices. The significant positive relationship between community development and citizen engagement highlights the need for investments in community-led initiatives and grassroots organizations. Local

governments should prioritize resources and support for community development projects, which can foster a sense of ownership, empowerment, and active participation among citizens (Freeman & Bartle, 2016).

The positive and significant relationship between ICT and citizen engagement underscores the potential of digital platforms in facilitating citizen participation. Local governments should leverage information and communication technologies, such as websites, mobile applications, and social media, to provide accessible and interactive channels for citizens to access information, express their opinions, and engage with local government officials (Bertot et al., 2017). This can contribute to bridging the gap between citizens and government, promoting transparency, and facilitating two-way communication.

The findings also emphasize the importance of participatory budgeting and public consultation in enhancing citizen engagement. Participatory budgeting enables citizens to have a direct say in resource allocation decisions, promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen empowerment. Local governments should adopt and implement participatory budgeting processes, providing citizens with meaningful opportunities to shape budgetary decisions and fostering trust in local governance (Ganuza & Cabannes, 2019). Similarly, public consultation serves as a vital mechanism for engaging citizens in decision-making processes. By actively seeking and considering public input, local governments can demonstrate their commitment to inclusivity and collaboration, leading to increased citizen engagement and satisfaction (Seyfried et al., 2018).

Concluding Remark

In conclusion, this study aimed to investigate the mechanisms for enhancing citizen engagement and participation in local government processes, specifically focusing on participatory budgeting, community development, and public consultation. The findings of the structural model analysis revealed several significant relationships between the latent constructs. Community development, information and communication technology (ICT), participatory budgeting, and public consultation were positively and significantly associated with citizen engagement in local government processes. These results highlight the importance of these factors in promoting active citizen participation and fostering inclusive and accountable local governance.

The implications of these findings are twofold. Theoretical implications contribute to the existing literature by validating and strengthening the theoretical frameworks that emphasize the role of community development, ICT, participatory budgeting, and public consultation in facilitating citizen engagement. The practical implications of this study provide valuable insights for policymakers and local government officials. Investing in community-led initiatives, leveraging information and communication technologies, adopting participatory budgeting processes, and incorporating public consultation in decision-making processes can enhance citizen engagement and promote effective local governance.

However, it is essential to acknowledge the limitations of this study. First, the study focused on a specific local government, which may limit the generalizability of the findings to other contexts.

Future research should consider conducting similar studies in different regions to capture the diverse socio-cultural and political dynamics that may influence citizen engagement. Second, the study relied on self-reported data collected through a questionnaire, which may be subject to response bias or social desirability bias. Researchers should explore other data collection methods, such as interviews or observations, to provide a more comprehensive understanding of citizen engagement. Lastly, while the use of Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) provided insights into the relationships between constructs, future studies could employ other statistical techniques or mixed methods approaches to strengthen the robustness of the findings.

References

- Arnstein, S. R. (1969). A Ladder of Citizen Participation. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 35(4), 216-224.
- Bertot, J. C., Jaeger, P. T., & Grimes, J. M. (2017). Promoting transparency and accountability through ICTs, social media, and collaborative e-government. *Transforming Government: People, Process and Policy*, 11(1), 13-19.
- Dywili, S., & Draai, E. (2019). Citizen engagement to foster inclusive development planning in local governance. *Administratio Publica*, 27(3), 256-273.
- Freeman, R. M., & Bartle, I. (2016). Citizen participation and changing governance: Cases of devolution in England. *Public Administration*, 94(4), 903-919.
- Fung, A., & Wright, E. O. (2003). Deepening Democracy: Innovations in Empowered Participatory Governance. *Politics & Society*, 31(1), 73-103.
- Ganuza, E., & Cabannes, Y. (2019). Citizen participation in local public policies: The role of intermediaries. In *Civic engagement and politics* (pp. 115-135). Routledge.
- Ganuza, E., & Cabannes, Y. (2019). Popular participation and local democracy in Brazil: Assessing the impact of participatory budgeting on municipal expenditures and infant mortality rates. *World Development*, 117, 160-171.
- Gascó-Hernández, M., Torres-Toukoumidis, Á., & Pardo, C. (2020). Social media and local governments: Benefits, challenges, and best practices. *Government Information Quarterly*, 37(2), 101475.
- Gaventa, J. (2004). Towards Participatory Governance: Assessing the Transformative Possibilities. In J. Gaventa &
- Mærøe, A. R., Norta, A., Tsap, V., & Pappel, I. (2021). Increasing citizen participation in e-participatory budgeting processes. *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*, 18(2), 125-147.
- Meijer, A., Curtin, D., Hillebrandt, M., & John, P. (2019). Next-generation participatory governance: A four-dimensional perspective. *Public Administration Review*, 79(3), 365-375.
- Mulgan, G., & Albury, D. (2003). Innovation in the public sector. *Strategy Unit, Cabinet Office*, 1(1), 40.
- Nabatchi, T., & Amsler, L. B. (2014). Direct public engagement in local government. *The American review of public administration*, 44(4_suppl), 63S-88S.
- Nabatchi, T., Gastil, J., Weiksner, G. M., & Leighninger, M. (2012). The second generation of democratic innovations: A national study of 10 democratic innovations. *National Civic Review*, 101(3), 3-10.

- Nabatchi, T., Gastil, J., Weiksner, G. M., Leighninger, M., & O'Leary, R. (2012). *Democracy in motion: Evaluating the practice and impact of deliberative civic engagement*. Oxford University Press.
- Osborne, S. P., Radnor, Z., & Strokosch, K. (2016). Co-production and the co-creation of value in public services: a suitable case for treatment? *Public Management Review*, 18(5), 639-653.
- Seyfried, G., Fischbach, K., & Fruendt, M. (2018). Information and communication technology (ICT) for citizen engagement in local governments: Insights from Germany. *Government Information Quarterly*, 35(4), 596-606.
- Sintomer, Y., Herzberg, C., & Allegretti, G. (2018). Learning from the South: Participatory budgeting worldwide: An invitation to global cooperation. *Transforming cities with collaborative governance*, 57-78.
- Torring, J., Sørensen, E., & Røiseland, A. (2019). Transforming the public sector into an arena for co-creation: Barriers, drivers, benefits, and ways forward. *Administration & Society*, 51(5), 795-825.
- Wamsler, C., Alkan-Olsson, J., Björn, H., Falck, H., Hanson, H., Oskarsson, T., Simonsson, E., & Zelmerlow, F. (2020). Beyond participation: when citizen engagement leads to undesirable outcomes for nature-based solutions and climate change adaptation. *Climatic Change*, 158, 235-254.