

Stakeholder Empowerment Strategies and Community Development Project Performance

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ABSTRACT

Stakeholder empowerment strategies are globally recognized as a critical factor in enhancing the success of young people in their development. Despite this in Rwanda, some strategies are not well implemented due to inadequate findings. The general objective of this study was to assess the influence of Stakeholders Empowerment Strategies on Performance of Community Development Projects in Rubavu District, Rwanda, including, Capacity Building, Seed Capital and Social Network. The study used stakeholders' theory, descriptive and correlation design. Questionnaires and interview guide were used to collect both quantitative and qualitative data from 310 respondents. The respondents were selected randomly and purposively from a total population of 1610. The pilot study was conducted with a pre-test of 20 respondents from sample size, which is above the minimum recommended 10% of the sample size. The validity was confirmed to 0.78 while Reliability was measured with Cronbach's alpha result of 0.84, indicating that the research instruments are accurate to be used. The study used descriptive statistics of percentage, frequency, mean and standard deviation, and the inferential statistics of Correlation and Regression were done at a significance level of 0.05 using SPSS. The findings for four hypotheses were tested at $\alpha=0.05$ level of significance and the results were: There is no significant influence between Entrepreneurial Capacity Building ($p=0.000<0.05$), Seed Capital ($p=0.000<0.05$), and Social Network ($p=0.000<0.05$) and Performance of Community Development Projects were all rejected since ($p=0.000<0.05$). The study showed that the performance of community development projects is perceived as highly satisfactory, with participants reporting strong agreement on aspects such as timely implementation, adherence to budgets, and stakeholder satisfaction. The highest-rated item was the increase in beneficiaries due to improved service quality. It is recommended that community development project implementers should strengthen the engagement and communication with stakeholders, and organizations should prioritize long-term investments in entrepreneurial training programs, as well as establish partnerships with financial institutions. Future researchers should explore the long-term sustainability of community development projects, focusing on the enduring impact of entrepreneurial capacity-building initiatives, seed capital utilization, and social network development.

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Introduction

The state of being without any work yet looking for work is called unemployment. Economists distinguish between various overlapping types of and theories of unemployment, including cyclical or Keynesian unemployment, frictional unemployment, structural unemployment and classical unemployment definition (Hayek, 2023). Some additional types of unemployment that are occasionally mentioned are seasonal unemployment, hardcore unemployment, and hidden unemployment (Hayek, 2023). Young people surrounded by opportunities for positive encounters engage in less risky behaviors and show evidence of higher rates of transition into adulthood. Positive Youth Development Programs are venue to ensure that young people have access to adequate opportunities. In 2017, the Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) was launched in Gambia to contribute to the economic development

by improving the employability of the youth population of the country. The project enhances employability and self-employment opportunities for youth (International Trade Centre, 2023).

According to German Development Cooperation report (2024), numerous training workshops on digital skills are conducted to equip young people with essential skills in coding, digital marketing, and data analysis, enabling them to secure employment in the digital economy and start tech-based businesses. Citrus Community College District report (2024) articulated that the Youth Empowerment Strategies for success program provides individualized support through connection to campus and community resources and opportunities; and life skills training, with an emphasis on education, financial literacy, employment/career options and daily living skills. Equally, Verkhovna (2025) from Ukraine argued that the stakeholders' empowerment strategies are used to consolidate the efforts to create conditions for the intellectual and physical development of youth to ensure their participation in the formation and implementation of state youth policy and increase the competitiveness of young people in the labor market. Records from Government Offices of Sweden (2015) showed that, since 2006 Sweden has a strategic policy for promoting youth employment, in establishing a Youth Guarantee to establish a Job guarantee for youth about a priority system which assured that the measures were geared towards the individuals most likely to get stuck in long-term unemployment to help youth to get a job.

Madichie, Benie, Claudette, Iriza & Nnamdi (2024) said that youth development projects shape the economic growth and technological advancements as the empowerment strategies focus on innovation, as well as the development of skills of youth for their development and cultivation of entrepreneurial in the countries of China and Malaysia. According to UNESCO Brasilia (2025) youth development strategy aims at youth programmes, to focus on youth participation in training as well as to establishing forums for formulating, implementing and monitoring programmes focused on youth development and to empower them to work through innovation. According to Masha (2025) mentorship plays a crucial role in South Africa in the success of entrepreneurship because when youth entrepreneurs receive adequate mentoring, they boost their knowledge and skills leading to economic development and employment creation through empowerment. as the stakeholder's empowerment strategies enable the young people to achieve their potential as it provides them with opportunities to acquire competitiveness towards becoming successful. Tanzanian Ministry of Labour (2007) uses the youth empowerment strategies empower, facilitate and guide youth in their development as a cross-cutting issue with a mechanism to access opportunities through formulated strategic plans.

The Rwandan Youth policy clearly establishes a comprehensive and targeted youth programming through economic empowerment with strong emphasis on mainstreaming job-based budgeting in all sectors. It put the decentralization of youth structures and a strong mobilization mechanism down to the village level (Economic Policy Research Rwanda, 2023). In Rwanda, Youth Empowerment for Global Opportunities (YEGO) aims to mobilize, build capacity and advocate for youth initiatives that lead to economic development through employment, soft skills, and entrepreneurial skills (Association des Guides du Rwanda, 2018). Nsengimana (2013) observed that the youth empowerment strategies enable the youth of Rwanda to realize the potential they have through an integrated approach to address the challenges they face related to economic poverty and unemployment. The strategy will focus on new job creation and improving the work relevance and emphasize implementation. Similarly, Danny (2024) viewed that youth empowerment strategies foster leadership, creativity and problem-solving skills to ensure a better future of youth so as to contribute positively in their communities and bring solutions to the challenges faced such as unemployment, leading to the reduction of poverty. Equally, Foundation Imbuto (2025) observed that youth empowerment programmes aim at improving the lives of women and youth through agriculture, promoting entrepreneurship and innovation among youth, and providing support to youth of different socio-economic background a platform to participate in leadership.

Despite the governments and non-governmental organizations initiations of community projects to create employment to the ever-bulging youthful population through Youth empowerment strategies, most projects have been collapsing immediately after support withdrawal and these collapsing projects are so important for the development of youth. The study purpose was to assess the influence of Stakeholder Empowerment Strategies on Performance of Community Development Projects in Rubavu District, Rwanda while the specifics included, to determine the influence of Entrepreneurial Capacity Building, Seed Capital and Social Network on Performance of Community Development Projects. Further the study hypothesized that Entrepreneurial Capacity Building, seed capital and social networks does not have a significant influence the performance of community development projects. The research would help the organization as it gives a clear image of how important its activities are to the youth, to know where to put more effort and where to improve regarding the development of the youth. The study was organized into introduction, literature review, findings and discussion, and conclusion.

Literature Review

Theoretical review

Stakeholder theory

Stakeholder theory founded in 1984 by Freeman emphasizes that organizations need the support of not only their shareholders but also their stakeholders to exist and thrive. Therefore, a clear imperative was drawn between maximizing dividends for shareholders and satisfying the needs of stakeholders. According to Stakeholder theory, organizations aim to generate multiple benefits for different stakeholders (i.e., groups and individuals who can affect or be affected by the organization, civil societies, communities, customers, employees, governments, shareholders, suppliers). Hence, Stakeholder theory can be defined as a theory that (i) encourages organizations to acknowledge and consider their stakeholders, which exist internally or externally to the organization, (ii) promotes understanding and managing stakeholder needs, wants, and demands, and thus (iii) represents a holistic and responsible framework that goes beyond the focus of shareholders in decision-making processes, which, in turn, (iv) enables organizations to be

strategic, maximize their value creation, and safeguard their long-term success and sustainability. The theory emphasizes the importance of stakeholders in performance of projects. The management should impress different strategies to empower stakeholders as one of the important elements of projects.

Empirical review

Stakeholders Empowerment Strategies and Performance of Community Development Projects

Youth empowerment is important for the success and sustainability of community development projects. This involves involving young people in decision making for the sake of their development. Youth empowerment focuses on enhancing their professional capacities and supporting the economic growth and innovation of youth. According Rawan and Ayham (2015) youth development projects in European prioritize inclusivity, social welfare, and cultural enrichment. They say that projects involve collaboration with educational institutions and cultural organizations, providing a comprehensive approach to youth development. They say that financial support is provided through government grants and subsidies, reinforcing commitment to cultural identity and social cohesion among the youth.

Sima (2020) said that in Asian countries youth development projects are shaped by rapid economic growth and technological advancements. He said that project management strategies prioritize government support, innovation, and the development of skills relevant to emerging industries. Financial access is facilitated through public-private partnerships, and there is a concerted effort to cultivate entrepreneurial skills to align with the evolving economic landscapes in these dynamic Asian societies.

Olander and Landin (2015) said that youth development projects are tailored to address a wide range of cultural contexts and socio-economic challenges. They said that the management strategies are aimed at addressing issues such as unemployment and poverty through skills development and entrepreneurship programs. Financial access plays a pivotal role, with concerted efforts to provide funding for small businesses and vocational training. These strategies reflect the distinctive challenges and opportunities that exist across the African continent.

It is believed that stakeholder empowerment strategies through capacity-building and training contribute to self-reliance and successful implementation of projects (Jerald, Odhiambo and Harriet, 2020) by supporting vulnerable groups in gaining power and authority over those controlling access to key resources.

Entrepreneurial Capacity Building and Performance of Community Development Projects

Capacity building is the development of human resources to enable them to increase their knowledge and skills in a specific task. Capacity building and performance in community development projects are crucial aspects that contribute to the success and sustainability of these initiatives. Capacity-building focuses on the training of human resources for a better understanding of work in institutions. Jagero and Komba (2012) said that training is a factor in job performance as the combination of working environment, employee skills and knowledge, motivation and rewards, communication flow and organizational culture to significantly improve employees' performance.

According to Koutra and Edwards (2012) the improvement of human capital is a key element in achieving empowerment for economic progress and success. They said that improvement of human capital plays as a critical link in the theory of change and between conservation and development. As such, the concept is very much related to rural development and sustainability of rural development projects. Capacity can be enforced with development projects through capacity building in order to have a more robust structure and to be adaptive to changes.

Capacity building is therefore understood not only as human resource development but also as organizational and institutional development (Merino & Carmenado, 2012). According to Omondi (2016) capacity Building is about pushing boundaries developing and strengthening an organization and its people so it's better able to serve not only its target population but to consider the impact of all stakeholders. Omondi (2016), argues that there is a significant relationship between capacity building and performance of the projects. Inadequate capacity building contributes to low participation of stakeholders in community projects (Ondieki, 2016).

Seed Capital and Performance of Community Development Projects

Provision of seed capital enables young innovators to create businesses, and it also plays a role in the development of small businesses. Petridis and Rinaldi (2022) said that promoting new businesses is becoming a top priority globally, and startup businesses are emerging as key drivers of growth and development, and small businesses are facing financial challenges at the point of innovating and launching their products. Mugambi (2020) said that small businesses are unable to secure the funding they need to advance to the next growth stage; negatively affecting their performance. Seed capital is crucial for the success of community development projects. It provides the initial funding needed to get a project off the ground, covering costs such as planning, staffing, and initial operations. Seed capital provides the necessary financial resources to start a project, and it is vital for launching and successfully executing community development projects as it provides the necessary resources to start the project's overall performance and impact.

According to Achibane (2018) entrepreneurship was regarded as a totally separate field of corporate finance, and this has been said based on the assumption that the issues encountered in entrepreneurial finance are sufficiently different from those encountered in companies. He said that little work has been spent on the funding of the very beginnings of the entrepreneurial venture indicating the contributions of entrepreneurs and the differences depending on their training and their professional experience, as the entrepreneurial perspective covers a whole range of issues that cross the financial risk with the entrepreneurial risk, when it comes to financing projects.

According to Omukunda (2018) examine the impact of community-based organization (CBO) loans on youth economic empowerment in Nairobi's Makadara Sub-County. Their findings indicate that CBO loans significantly empower youth economically, highlighting the effectiveness of community-level financial interventions. This approach demonstrates how localized, youth-friendly financial services can support young entrepreneurs, fostering economic independence and growth (Omukunda & Sakwa, 2018).

Social Network and Performance of Community Development Projects

According to Eric and Robert (2021) social network analysis helps to improve program design, program implementation, and program evaluation and learning is quite limited. They said that social network analysis will be useful only to the extent it helps users understand the relationship between networks and development outcomes that matter. Wilson (2005) said that the social network analysis has provided a measure of the relationships in the network prior to, and after, the project. Social connections are not always positive, they can serve to oppress and reproduce dominant and unjust ideologies and systems. Youth are considered a crucial and fundamental element in shaping the future of societies. The major benefit of applying social network is that it enables organizations to quantitatively measure different collaborative, organizational, and dynamic behavioral patterns, which can later correlate with organizational outcomes.

According to Nangoli et al., (2013) social network elements are significant predictors of project stakeholder commitment. Stakeholder commitment has been widely studied in relation to project performance. Performance and innovation are strongly dependent on the ability of how organizations can work in networks of collaboration. Indeed, some authors argue that in today's business landscape, although individual competency and training are important factors, it is almost always the network factor that is the big key predictor of high performance in organizations and are usually characterized by having broader and diverse problem-solving networks fueled with positive energy (Nunes & Abreu, 2020). By applying social network analysis to organizations, significant advances could be made in organizational theory and research, because this approach would facilitate the comparative analysis of organizations as well as the comparison of subunits within an organization. In the context of network behavior, social network analysis was used extensively to analyze a firm's collaborative behaviors. Network density was used to determine the connectivity level of firms (Lu et al., 2015).

Methodology

The study adopted descriptive and correlational research design. The study targeted the population of 1, 610 project beneficiaries comprising 1, 600 youths and 10 key informants out of which a sample size of 310 participants were selected through random and purposive sampling techniques. To collect data in study, the researcher used questionnaires, documentation and interviews. The researcher conducted a pilot study with 50 respondents in order to assess the reliability of the questionnaire to test the data collection instrument for real and accurate results needed by the researcher. Validity was measured by the supervisor and with the help of the research expert while reliability tests yielded a coefficient of 0.83. Data analysis was composed of both descriptive and inferential analysis. Descriptive analysis involves descriptive statics, which is composed of frequency, mean, standard deviation and percentages while inferential statistics involved correlation and regression analysis.

This study involved simple and multiple regression analysis.

The simple regression equation: $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \varepsilon$

While for the combined regression: $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \varepsilon$

Findings and Discussion

Out of the sampled 310 participants, 310 returned dully filled and complete questionnaires which represents 100% return rate.

Entrepreneurial Capacity Building and Performance of Community Development Projects

The study sought to determine the influence of Entrepreneurial Capacity Building on the Performance of Community Development Projects in Rubavu District, Rwanda through correlation and regression.

Relationship between Entrepreneurial Capacity Building and Performance of Community Development Projects

A correlation analysis sought to establish the relationship between Entrepreneurial Capacity Building and the Performance of Community Development Projects in Rwanda.

Table 1: Relationship between Entrepreneurial Capacity Building and Performance of Community Development Projects

		Entrepreneurial Capacity Building	Performance of Community Development Projects
Entrepreneurial Capacity Building	Pearson Correlation	1	.712**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	310	310
Performance of Community Development Projects	Pearson Correlation	.712**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	310	310

**, Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The correlation results show that there is a strong positive correlation ($R = 0.712$) between Entrepreneurial Capacity Building and the Performance of Community Development Projects, which is statistically significant ($p=0.000<0.05$). This shows that Entrepreneurial Capacity Building and Performance of Community Development Projects are statistically strongly and positively correlated such that as Entrepreneurial Capacity Building efforts increase, the Performance of Community Development Projects also improves significantly. According to Omondi (2016), Capacity Building is about pushing boundaries developing and strengthening an organization and its people so it's better able to serve not only its target population but to consider the impact of all stakeholders. Omondi continue by stating that there is a significant relationship between capacity building and performance of the projects.

Influence of Entrepreneurial Capacity Building on Performance of Community Development Projects

A regression analysis sought to determine the linear effect of Entrepreneurial Capacity Building on the Performance of Community Development Projects.

Table 2: Influence of Entrepreneurial Capacity Building on Performance of Community Development Projects

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
Summary	.712a	.507	.504	.432		
Model	Sum of Squares		Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
ANOVA	Regression	28.304	1	28.304	151.57	.000 ^b
	Residual	27.505	308	.089		
	Total	55.809	309			
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients			Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
Coefficients	(Constant)	1.942	.134		14.48	.000
	Capacity Building	.718	.058	.712	12.41	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Performance of Community Development Projects

b. Predictors: (Constant), Entrepreneurial Capacity Building

An R^2 value= 0.507 with $p=0.000<0.05$; shows that Entrepreneurial Capacity Building explains 50.7% of the variation in the performance of community development projects. The model is a good fit for analysis with $F(1,308)=151.57$, ($p=0.000<0.05$). The coefficients of the intercept ($\beta=1.942$, $p=0.000<0.05$) and Entrepreneurial Capacity Building ($\beta = 0.718$ $p=0.000<0.05$) were statistically significant. This implies that for every unit increase in Entrepreneurial Capacity Building, the performance of community development projects increases by 0.718 units.

Linearly, $Y = 1.942 + 0.718X_1$

Test of hypothesis one

H_{01} : There is no significant influence between Entrepreneurial Capacity Building and Performance of Community Development Projects; was rejected ($p=0.000<0.05$). Thus, there is a significant influence between entrepreneurial capacity building on performance of community development projects.

Seed Capital and Performance of Community Development Projects

The study sought to establish the influence of Seed Capital on the Performance of Community Development Projects in Rubavu District, Rwanda through correlation and regression.

Relationship between Seed Capital and Performance of Community Development Projects

A correlation analysis sought to establish the relationship between Seed Capital and the Performance of Community Development Projects in Rubavu District, Rwanda.

Table 3: Relationship between Seed Capital and Performance of Community Development Projects

		Seed Capital	Performance of Community Development Projects
Seed Capital	Pearson Correlation	1	.693**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	310	310
Performance of Community Development Projects	Pearson Correlation	.693**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	310	310

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The correlation results indicate a moderate positive correlation ($R = 0.693$) between Seed Capital and the Performance of Community Development Projects, which is statistically significant ($p = 0.000$, $p < 0.05$). This shows that Seed Capital and Performance of Community Development Projects are statistically moderately and positively correlated such that as Seed Capital increases, Performance of Community Development Projects also improves to a moderate extent. Herber (2017) said that seed capital covers costs until the business starts to make money and attract more investors. This capital can be used for buying inventory, hiring staff, or funding product development, startup capital supports the business in its critical early stages, allowing it to grow and succeed.

Influence of Seed Capital on Performance of Community Development Projects

A regression analysis sought to determine the linear effect of Seed Capital on the Performance of Community Development Projects.

Table 4: Influence of Seed Capital on Performance of Community Development Projects

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
Summary	.693a	.480	.477	.446		
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
ANOVA	Regression	26.721	1	26.721	134.41	.000 ^b
	Residual	28.296	308	.092		
	Total	55.017	309			
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
Coefficients	(Constant)	2.048	.146		14.02	.000
	Seed Capital	.704	.061	.693	11.54	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Performance of Community Development Projects

b. Predictors: (Constant), Seed Capital

An R^2 value=0.480 with $p=0.000<0.05$; shows that Seed Capital accounts for 48.0% of the variation in the performance of community development projects. The model is a good fit for the data and variable with $F(1,308) = 134.41$, ($p = 0.000<0.05$). The coefficients of the constant term ($\beta = 2.048$, $p=0.000<0.05$) and the coefficient for Seed Capital ($\beta = 0.704$ $p=0.000<0.05$) were both found to be statistically significant. This implies that for every unit increase in Seed Capital, the performance of community development projects increases by 0.704 units.

Linearly, $Y = 2.04 + 0.704X_2$

Test of hypothesis two

H_0 : There is no significant influence between Seed Capital and Performance of Community Development Projects; was rejected ($p=0.000<0.05$). Thus, there is a significant influence between Seed Capital on Performance of Community Development Projects.

Social Network and Performance of Community Development Projects

The study sought to ascertain the influence of Social Network on the Performance of Community Development Projects in Rubavu District, Rwanda through correlation and regression.

Relationship between Social Network and Performance of Community Development Projects

A correlation analysis sought to establish the relationship between Social Network and the Performance of Community Development Projects in Rubavu District, Rwanda.

Table 5: Relationship between Social Network and Performance of Community Development Projects

		Social Network	Performance of Community Development Projects
Social Network	Pearson Correlation	1	.736**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	310	310
Performance of Community Development Projects	Pearson Correlation	.736**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	310	310

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The correlation results reveal a strong positive correlation ($R = 0.736$) between Social Network and the Performance of Community Development Projects, which are statistically strongly and positively correlated ($p=0.000 < 0.05$). This shows that Social Network and Performance of Community Development Projects are statistically strongly and positively correlated such that as the strength and quality of social networks improve, the Performance of Community Development Projects also increases significantly. Nangoli et.al (2013), social network elements are significant predictors of project stakeholder commitment. Stakeholder commitment has been widely studied in relation to project performance. Performance and innovation are strongly dependent on the ability of organizations can work in networks of collaboration.

Influence of Social Network on Performance of Community Development Projects

A regression analysis sought to determine the linear effect of Social Network on the Performance of Community Development Projects.

Table 6: Influence of Seed Capital on Performance of Community Development Projects

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
Summary	.736a	.542	.539	.412		
Model	Sum of Squares		Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
ANOVA	Regression	30.894	1	30.894	181.73	.000 ^b
	Residual	26.065	308	.085		
	Total	56.959	309			
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients			Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error		Beta		
Coefficients	(Constant)	1.821	.128		14.23	.000
	Social Network	.754	.056	.736	13.46	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Performance of Community Development Projects

b. Predictors: (Constant), Social Network

An R^2 value=.542 with $p=0.000 < 0.05$; shows that Social Network accounts for 54.2% of the variation in the performance of community development projects. The model is a good fit for analysis with $F(1,308) = 181.73$, ($p = 0.000 < 0.05$). The coefficients of the intercept ($\beta = 1.821$, $p=0.000 < 0.05$) and Social Network ($\beta = 0.754$; $p=0.000 < 0.05$) were statistically significant. This implies that for every unit increase in Seed Capital, the performance of community development projects increases by 0.754 units. Linearly, $Y = 1.821 + 0.754X_3$

Test of hypothesis three

H_{03} : There is no significant influence between Social Network and Performance of Community Development Projects; was rejected ($p=0.000 < 0.05$). Thus, there is a significant influence between Social Network on Performance of Community Development Projects.

Influence of combined Stakeholder Empowerment Strategies on Performance of Community Development Projects

A multiple regression analysis was done the joint influence of stakeholder empowerment strategies specifically Capacity Building, Seed Capital, and Social Network, on the performance of community development projects.

Table 7: Influence of combined Stakeholder Empowerment Strategies on Performance of Community Development Projects

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
Summary	.912a	.832	.829	.461		
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
ANOVA	Regression	72.457	3	24.152	162.45	.000 ^b
	Residual	14.548	306	0.048		
	Total	87.005	309			
Coefficients		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
Model	(Constant)	1.875	.125		15.04	.000
	Capacity Building	.310	.055	.274	5.62	.000
	Seed Capital	.225	.049	.228	4.59	.000
	Social Network	.328	.042	.366	7.84	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Performance of Community Development Projects

b. Predictors: (Constant), Capacity Building, Seed Capital, and Social Network

An R^2 value = 0.832 with $p = 0.000 < 0.05$; suggests that the combined Stakeholder Empowerment Strategies; Capacity Building, Seed Capital, and Social Network explain 83.2% of the variance in the Performance of Community Development Projects. This implies a strong predictive power of these factors in influencing project outcomes. The model is considered a good fit for the data, as evidenced by the $F(3, 306) = 162.45$ ($p = 0.000 < 0.05$). The coefficients analysis reveals that the constant term has a coefficient of $\beta_0 = 1.875$ ($p = 0.000 < 0.05$), indicating the expected performance level when all predictors are excluded. The Capacity Building variable has a coefficient of $\beta_1 = 0.310$ ($p = 0.000 < 0.05$), which implies that a unit increase in capacity building leads to a 0.310-unit improvement in performance. Similarly, Seed Capital shows a coefficient of $\beta_2 = 0.225$ ($p = 0.000 < 0.05$), meaning that each unit increase in seed capital results in a 0.225-unit increase in project performance. Social Network has a coefficient of $\beta_3 = 0.328$ ($p = 0.000 < 0.05$), suggesting that an increase in social network strength leads to a 0.328-unit improvement in performance. Linearly, $Y = 1.875 + 0.310X_1 + 0.225X_2 + 0.328X_3$

The analysis reveals that all three variables Capacity Building, Seed Capital, and Social Network have statistically significant and positive effects on the performance of community development projects. The high R^2 value (0.832) underscores the collective importance of these strategies in predicting the outcome of community development projects. The findings suggest that the simultaneous application of these strategies results in better project performance than if they were implemented separately. This shows the critical role that combined stakeholder empowerment strategies play in enhancing the success of community development projects.

Conclusions

The study concludes that community development projects achieved a high level of performance. Key factors contributing to this success include timely execution, adherence to budgets, and high-quality outputs, which have resulted in significant stakeholder satisfaction. Training initiatives, fostering innovative business development, and promoting creative problem-solving have significantly strengthened stakeholders' capacities. These findings underscore the importance of sustained investments in capacity-building programs to drive innovation and strategic implementation in community projects. Access to startup capital, collaborations with financial institutions, and training stakeholders to save for their ventures have been critical to project success. Social networking has facilitated partnerships, market access, and resource sharing among stakeholders, contributing to project success. The study finds a strong positive relationship between social networks and project performance. This emphasizes the importance of fostering and leveraging social connections to enhance collaboration, idea exchange, and stakeholder commitment.

In general, the study concludes that the performance of community development projects is significantly driven by the combined influence of Entrepreneurial Capacity Building, Seed Capital, and Social Networking. Each of these factors contributes uniquely to project success by fostering innovation, resource mobilization, and stakeholder engagement. Strategic investments in these areas, alongside continuous evaluation and adaptation, are critical to sustaining and enhancing the impact of community development projects.

Based on the results of the study, the following recommends that, Community development project implementers should strengthen engagement and communication with stakeholders to address any variability in perceptions, particularly regarding outcomes like beneficiary satisfaction and participation. Regular feedback mechanisms, such as community forums and surveys, should be integrated to ensure continuous improvement and alignment with stakeholder needs. Development organizations should prioritize long-term investments in entrepreneurial training programs. These should focus on fostering innovation, strategic planning, and problem-solving skills among stakeholders. Tailored workshops and mentorship programs can further enhance entrepreneurial competencies and sustain project success. Organizations should establish partnerships with financial institutions and donors to provide consistent access to startup capital. Stakeholders should be encouraged to explore diverse funding sources, including loans, sponsorships, and savings schemes. Training on financial literacy and resource mobilization should be enhanced to ensure the effective utilization of seed capital. Efforts should be made to strengthen and expand social networks among stakeholders. This includes creating platforms for collaboration, promoting knowledge-sharing initiatives, and organizing networking events. Such

measures will facilitate market access, resource sharing, and the establishment of strategic partnerships, ultimately improving project outcomes. Future researchers should explore the long-term sustainability of community development projects, focusing on the enduring impact of entrepreneurial capacity-building initiatives, seed capital utilization, and social network development. Investigating the influence of local government policies, governance structures, and regulatory frameworks on community development project performance would provide valuable insights into creating enabling environments for success.

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Institutional Review Board Statement: Ethical review and approval were waived for this study, due to that the research does not deal with vulnerable groups or sensitive issues.

Data Availability Statement: The data presented in this study are available on request from the corresponding author. The data are not publicly available due to privacy.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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