ABSTRACT

In Rwanda, the decentralization policy was developed after widespread consultation on the causes of disunity among Rwandans. On 26th May 2000, the Government of Rwanda adopted decentralization as a policy and a strategy for implementation. In the countrywide consultations, the citizens’ participation in the implementation of decentralization process in Rwanda with special reference to Nyakabanda sector. The purpose of the study was to determine how people have perceived the decentralization policy, to assess the level of citizens’ participation in the decentralization process in Nyakabanda sector and to find out the roles that citizens are playing in decentralization. The study found that Rwanda has successfully managed to establish an efficient and effective decentralization model that enables citizens to access the government services at the grassroots level. In order to meet the citizens’ participation, local authorities make use of different opportunities. At the end of the study, some recommendations were made such as sensitizing citizens about decentralization policy and its advantages in different fields such as education and health because most of them do not understand this policy; sensitization of the opinion leaders and intellectuals to participate in different activities of decentralization policy, because their participation will motivate other citizens and leaders should come nearer to the people, especially local communities in order to sensitize them to participate in those activities because to local communities are the ones who benefit from this policy.