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**Effects of Social and Community issues in Inter-Ethnic Conflicts on Economic Growth
in Muhoroni and Tinderet sub-counties in Kenya**

Dr. Jacob Asige Chavulimu, PhD and Prof. Godrick Bulitia Mathews, PhD.



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Abstract

Purpose: Inter-ethnic conflicts have had a negative impact on the global economic growth. In Africa, over \$ 120 billion has been spent on the vice thus affecting heragricultural sector consequently subjecting over 198,000,000 people to starvation and food insecurity. The Government efforts in mitigating the vice has bone no fruits as the number of deaths keeps on rising from an estimate of 7, 9 and 13 people in 2012, 2014 and 2016 respectively. The main objective was to assess the social and community effects of inter-ethnic conflicts on economic growth in Kenya.

Methodology: Karl Marx's Conflict theory was adopted. A correlational research design was adopted. A population of 220 was considered. A response rate of 80.7% was realized thus affirming the significance and relevance of the data. The findings revealed that social issues had a negative effect with significant contribution to the economic growth ($\beta = -.666, p < .05$) while community issues had a slightly weaker significant effect ($\beta = .198, p < .05$). Social and community issues of Inter-ethnic Conflicts had an effect on economic growth and accounted for 58.1% significant variance in economic growth ($R^2 = .581, F(2, 217) = 261.296, p = .000$).

Findings: The study concluded that the inter-ethnic conflicts in Nyando, Muhoroni and Tinderet sub-counties were the root causes of the stagnated economy.

Unique Contribution to Theory, Practice and Policy:

The study recommended various approaches namely enactment of legislation that can enforce punitive actions against the perpetrators; adopting multiagency approach in curbing the vice; stakeholder involvement and engagement in finding a lasting solution to inter-ethnic conflicts; the national government, lands commission and the members of the community explores ways to deal with matters land. There are efforts by the national government to foster peace through the administrative units and the county governments so as to avoid ethnicity. Significant progress has also been observed over the government's commitment to narrow down to perpetrators of violence and hate speech causing fights. Plans that are put in place to oversee execution of justice should be enhanced and effective to ensure persons that become victims receive justice. The findings may aide the economic and peace integration commission stakeholders in advising potential investors as well as the government on promoting peace in the area. Scholars could also benefit by coming up with a model and more information in the area for guiding new researchers.

Keywords: *Inter-ethnic, Conflicts, Economic and Growth*

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INTRODUCTION

According to Montalvo (2005), statistics has revealed that ethnic conflicts have a negative impact on investments and thus a hindrance to economic growth. He suggests that reducing the impact from 1% to 0%, the average growth rate of GDP per capita will be 1.20%. Another scholar Reksulak (2000) tests this using an economic growth model identified as the Standard regression model and confirms that ethnic conflicts reduces with a bigger margin the capita growth rates of a country. Conflicts bring about sluggish and don't care attitude that leads to less production.

Collier, Hoeffler, and Soderbom (2001); Elbadawi and Sambanis (2001) found out that civil war can have a profound negative influence on the economic fortunes of a country or its neighbours, owing to a loss of human capital, a destruction of infrastructure, and reductions in investment, trade, and daily market activities. Murdoch and Sandler (2002) discovered in their study that civil wars have a negative influence on economic growth and the economic damage of a civil war may extend beyond immediate neighbours. According to Montalvo (2004), ethnic polarization has a large and negative effect on economic development because it leads to reduction of investment and the increase of government consumption and the probability of a civil conflict

In many situations, ethnic polarization generates conflicts that could eventually lead to political instability and civil wars with long-lasting economic effects. In other cases, the potential conflict represented by an ethnically polarized society can affect negatively the rate of investment and induce rent-seeking behaviour that increases public consumption. These situations—armed conflicts, reduced investment, or higher government consumption—have been shown to have a negative effect on economic development (Nirola and Sohini, 2019). PelleAhlerup and Ola Olsson (2012) shows that a high level of ethno linguistic diversity implies a lower level of investment. Alberto Alesina and Eliana La Ferrara (2005) show that ethnic diversity has a direct negative effect on economic growth while Tom Kirk, Danelle Stein and Annette Fisher (2018) suggest that ethnic diversity is one of the factors explaining the quality of government.

Civil wars kill people directly and immediately. They also destroy property, disrupt economic activity, and divert resources from health care. Huge refugee flows put people into crowded conditions without access to clean water and food; refugees become trans-border vectors of infection. Crime and homicide rates rise in wars and may remain high afterwards in a culture accustomed to violence. Many of these effects last for years after the fighting. Some articles reviewed the public health literature on both immediate and long-term effects (Pedersen, 2002; also see Krug, Dahlberg, Mercy, Zwi, & Lozano, 2002). HazemGhobarah Adam, Paul Huth and Bruce Russett (2005) say that the health effects during specific civil wars are relatively well known but the general and longer-term impact is not. Gustafson et al. (2001) document that there were war-related deaths from tuberculosis during the war in Guinea-Bissau and Roberts et al. (2001) report war-derived disease deaths in Congo during the war as 6 times greater than those from direct violence. In regards to Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (1992), effects beyond the war period are less clear, though the longer term risk from tuberculosis, respiratory infections, and malaria is well-recognized.

Overall, WHO (2000) estimates that 269,000 people died and 8.44 million years of healthy life were lost to death and disabilities in 1999 as direct and immediate effects of all wars—civil

and international. In cases of peace, a larger pool of available financial resources will enable greater investments in developing human resources for medical care by training more doctors and health care specialists. However, political unrest and irregular transfers of power reduce growth rates (Przeworski, Alvarez, Cheibub, & Limongi, 2000), and hence the pool of financial resources for health services. It is obvious that political leaders wish to retain power and to achieve this; they must form a winning coalition among those who are politically active. To do so they distribute private goods to their supporters, and provide collective goods widely for the population. All leaders provide both private and collective goods in some degree. By doing this, conflicts erupt which lead to significantly lower levels of growth than other areas in conflict affected countries. This inequality can exacerbate existing tensions between different societal groups (De Vries and Specker, 2009).

According to Collier and Hoeffler (2007), each year of conflict slows down per capita GDP growth by 2.2 per cent, with an additional 18 per cent of GDP on military spending during and after a war. Gates et al. (2012) in their study discovered that conflict depresses GDP per capita. Furthermore, Polachek and Sevastianova (2010) find that the effect of conflict on economic growth is greater for high-intensity conflicts as well as for non-democracies, low-income countries and countries in Africa. The findings of Polachek and Sevastianova (2010) further suggest that conflict depresses growth more significantly in the short term, as economies recover from the adverse effects in the long run. It is also clear that wide-spread civil wars cost five times more than narrowly fought internal conflicts. Francesco Amodio and Michele Di Maio (2018) also show that various sectors of the economy are differentially impacted by conflict. He argues that capital-intensive sectors like manufacturing, construction etc. tend to contract at a faster rate than GDP as whole, whereas labour-intensive sectors like subsistence agriculture tend to expand.

With regards to a study by Buchanan-Smith and Fadul (2008), the conflict in Darfur had a negative impact on traders including disrupted supplies, damaged market infrastructure and trader networks, and inflated transaction and transport costs. In addition, because of increased government taxation in response to the contracting economy, incentives were created to trade illegally and businesses additionally faced 'informal taxes' to militias. As a result, an estimated 20-30 per cent of urban traders went out of business, livestock and cash crop trade contracted and the ethnic concentration of traders intensified.

Collier and Duponchel (2010) argue that civil war violence impact firms and employment such that there is disruption of production because of the flight of employees; the unreliability of transport; and the fear of looting. Other challenges for business start-up and survival include infrastructural damage, though this may be limited if infrastructure is initially underdeveloped (Collier and Duponchel 2010); market contraction; a lack of formal state protection; and extortion, illicit taxation and theft (Mallett and Slater 2012). For example in Nigeria, the oil sector accounts for approximately 95 per cent of export earnings and over 80 per cent of federal government revenue, but for nearly two decades the Niger Delta oil fields have faced insurgency and conflict (Frances et al. 2011) with unemployment and underemployment rates higher than in any other part of Nigeria. Mallett and Slater (2012) provide a detailed summary of the literature surrounding the processes by which conflict affects the economic lives of individuals, among them being the harmful depletion of physical capital, through infrastructural depletion and asset loss, as well as human capital.

In a study carried out by Annan et al. (2006) from northern Uganda suggested that conflict directly caused losses of cattle, homes and assets and indirectly led to reductions in per capita expenditure due to increased perceptions of risk (Rockmore 2011). Research from the DRC also finds a reduction in household asset ownership and worsening living conditions for conflict-affected households (Pellillo, 2012). As violence adversely impacts the kinds of assets a household can draw on (Lautze and Raven-Roberts 2006), it also affects the types of strategies they can employ to manage risk. There is increased mortality and disability rates after conflicts which results in a diminished labour stock (Blattman 2010; Mallett and Slater 2012), while also depressing the rate of human capital formation. The worst effects include those on child health outcomes, such as height-for-age, which are correlated with productivity, wages and long-run growth (Deloach and Lamanna 2011), as well as its strong negative association with educational outcomes (Justino, 2011). There are evidences of even minor shocks to educational access leading to long-lasting detrimental effects on human capital formation, with girls and secondary education affected disproportionately (Justino, 2011).

The negative impacts of conflicts are thought to adversely affect women more (Human Security Centre 2005; Byrne 1996; Goldstein 2001). They are affected directly, as fatalities and casualties and indirectly through the breakdown of family and community structures –one case being as a result of men rejecting their wives if they have been raped, or being cast out of communities, sometimes even killed to restore honour (Byrne 1996;Krug et al. 2002). In particular women and girls are far more vulnerable to sexual assault and predation than men (HSR 2005) and Bastick et al. (2007) observe that beyond the immediate effects of sexual violence, armed conflict can also have more indirect and long-term consequences, which persist once the conflict is over. The prolonged existence of sexual abuse against women and girls is potentially followed by unemployment, poverty and social exclusion as well as child witnesses to violence becoming more susceptible to the use of violence in their own relationships as adults (Abrahams and Jewkes 2005; Kishor and Johnson 2005).

El-Bushra (2003) noticed that there were also evidences of increased female-headed households in post-war settings which were found to comprise 30 percent or more of all households. Research by UN Women (2012) confirms these findings, providing evidence that the percentage of female-headed households often increases during conflict. More precisely, Galvin, (2003) avowed that expenditures in war activities have a high opportunity cost as they crowd-out investment in other areas such as education, health and infrastructure. Further, on-going war activities not only crowd out investment in other areas but also hamper foreign direct investment by which many developing countries, can find an easy path to improve economic performance. Some studies found positive significant effects of a war on growth (Stewart, 1991; Yildirim et al., (2005), however others found significant and negative effects of conflicts on growth (Collier, 1999; Gyimah-Brempong and Corley, 2005) and according to Murdoch and Sandler, (2002), in some cases the effects are found to be short term.

It is estimated that in West Africa particularly in Nigeria when there were conflicts, the production in the agricultural growth dropped to an average of 12.3% (Kimenyi et al.,2014). In the same way, studies have also looked at how conflicts in Kenya affected the production and exportation of flowers negatively or rather the flower industry (Ksoll, Macchiavello and Morjaria 2010). Inter-ethnic conflicts lead to a total waste of resources and material that could enhance economical milestone. According to the 2005 – 2006 unemployment statistics, young people aged 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 years fall in the category of 25% and 24% rate respectively

of unemployment. People in this bracket are the most vulnerable, energetic and easily influenced to take part in inter-ethnic conflicts (Munga and Eldah, 2014). It is a fact that a big number of people, both young and old, have lost lives in various inter-ethnic conflicts in Africa. In that respect, (Shirley, 2015) confirmed that the unprecedented loss of lives in areas of inter-ethnic conflicts is in turn taking away the skills, talents, and potentials that have to steer economic growth.

Statement of the Problem

Conflict arises from the presence of inequality, competition, in this instance a tributary to economy. In other words, the end results or the aftermath of conflicts has an effect to economy for there is no conflict that does not leave behind an impact. Inter-ethnic polarization is a recipe to violence that in most cases ends up in a total full blown civil war as it has been witnessed in many countries in Africa. The consequences of such wars on economy are disastrous.

Objective of the Study

To assess the effects of Social and Community issues in inter-ethnic conflicts on economic growth in Nyando, Muhoroni and Tinderet Sub-Counties

Research Question

What are the implications of inter-ethnic conflicts to economic growth?

Significance and Justification of the study

Inter-ethnic conflicts have caused a myriad of negative effects in political, social and economic realms of human development and existence. Despite the fact that there is much literature in existence in regard to inter-ethnic conflicts in Nyando, Muhoroni and Tinderet sub-counties, the economic effect of the conflicts has escaped the scholarly attention. The existing literature that has been reviewed passively mentions the economic impact of the inter-ethnic conflicts to the inhabitants of the three sub-counties. The literature in review has focused its attention to political implications other than the fundamental consequences on economic growth of the sub-counties which cannot be ignored altogether. Yet, the conflicts are perennial and more serious when general elections are approaching and that it is automatically that after five years they emerge.

It is therefore paramount that interrogation on how the conflicts affect economic growth is done. So far, there has been limited study that has looked at the postcolonial theories in regard to understanding the effects of inter-ethnic conflicts to the area of study. The study then illustrates how important it is to do this and represent an opportunity to the policy makers in the government and all other stakeholders to tackle the issues that have been raised in the study and look for ways of coming up with mechanisms for peace management and building in Nyando, Muhoroni and Tinderet sub-counties. Undoubtedly, inter-ethnic feuds have left many people suffering, distorted national cohesion, and interfered with civil freedom of people in Kenya. It is a fact that economic effects caused by inter-ethnic conflicts are not only felt in Nyando, Muhoroni and Tinderet sub-counties, but in the entire nation. This study is therefore urgent and on time because apart from adding light to the policy makers and government stakeholders on how to tackle the inter-ethnic conflicts and bring about peace, scholars can also use the study findings for reference as they do similar research in other parts of the country and the world as a whole.

Scope and Limitation of the study

The Scope of the Study

The researcher carried out the study in Nyando, Muhoroni and Tinderet sub-counties in Kisumu and Nandi Counties, looking into the effects of inter-ethnic conflicts along the border-lines of Kisumu and Nandi counties through the study in the specific sub-counties of Kisumu and Nandi counties, further the study looked on how inter-ethnic conflicts interfere with economic growth and stakeholders' participation. Stakeholders in this case were the businessmen, the religious leaders, the politicians, the local national/county leaders, the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's), and the media. The study was confined to the affected households which are basically those that have directly experienced clashes in the wake of the inter-ethnic conflicts and violence.

Limitation to the Study

The study had quite a number of limitations: Limited time was one of them in the sense that some respondents with strict time schedules were reluctant to respond to the questionnaires due to lack of time. This was the key concern which prolonged the study period. Fear of disclosure was experienced in that a few community leaders, administrators and managers were sceptical of the objectives of the research and expressed fear upon disclosing information they considered confidential. Ignorance was another limitation whereby some community members lacked facts and ended up giving irrelevant answers to the questionnaires. The infrastructure had a lot of impact on the study considering that some areas of the sub-counties in study are remote and almost inaccessible by use of motor vehicles. The only means to these areas is by use of motor bikes and within a particular time of the day. This attributed to delay in data collection process.

Assumptions of the Study

This study was anchored on the assumptions that first, respondents had sufficient information on inter-ethnic conflicts in the three sub-counties thus, the results obtained in the study was a representative of other regions experiencing inter-ethnic conflicts and the research instruments and tools consistently measured what they were intended to measure. Secondly, the study assumed that peace would prevail during the data collection process and no any other incidences were to be experienced that would hinder the process.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Empirical studies reveal that the frequent raids are fuelled by historical rivalry between the communities, deep-seated cultural values, land issues, political incitements, increasing levels of poverty and idleness amongst the youth, proliferation of illicit arms, inadequate policing and state security arrangements and diminishing role of traditional governance systems (Huho, 2012; Odhiambo, 2012; Opiyoet.al., 2012; Rutoet.al., 2003). During the raids massive deaths occur involving both the civilians as well as government security agents (Schilling *et.al.*, 2012; African Development Bank, 2009). There is also loss and destruction of property usually involving burning of homes and subsequent displacement of people as they seek to be in more secure places (Schilling *et.al.*, 2012). Sometimes the young men of affected communities engage in retaliatory raids fuelling further destruction and loss of lives. The country has also

experienced episodes of ethnic conflicts associated with electioneering periods. The major ones are those experienced in 1992 in the Rift Valley province in the wake up to multiparty politics, in 1997 in the Coast province, and the post-election violence of 2007 /2008 which was more widespread than in the other years. The motive of such conflicts are perceived to be the need to influence voting outcomes and /or to discipline communities that vote contrary to the preference of major communities in given regions (Ong'ayo, 2008). The conflicts arise mainly because individuals seeking political positions in the country often build their support along tribal lines. This makes voters / communities to associate a given politician's ideology to the community where he or she comes from.

The fact that the top contenders for the position of president always have most of their votes from the community they come from show that most of the voters believe that only someone from their community should hold the highest positions in government. Alternatively it could be perceived that the only guarantee for maximization of the community's interest in government is when one of its own is in power. In this framework, any disputes in election results become an ethnic issue leading to violence against each other as was the case in 2007/2008 post-election violence. Just as in the case of the raids among the pastoralists, the election related conflicts also leave many dead, property destroyed, grabbed or lost to looters, displacements of people from their homes and gross violation of human rights (Human Rights Watch, 2016; Department for International Development (2001).

In the northern Kenya, conflicts have led to degradation of the rangelands as mobility is constrained and the institutions that traditionally ensure their sustainable use are rendered ineffective (Odhiambo, 2012). Due to insecurity, grazing of livestock, even in times perceived to be peaceful, is restricted to a radius of 15 kilometres for fear of raids and the concentration of livestock in limited places results in overgrazing and general degradation of the environment. The concentration of people and livestock lead to overuse of resources with exposure to soil erosion and increased scarcity of pasture and water which poses a potential source of new conflict. While this happens, other areas with pastures and water remain unutilized. For instance, in the year 2009, the rangelands south of Loya, located between the Turkana plains and the highlands of Pokot, which are rich in pasture were not being accessed by either of the communities because of insecurity (Schilling *et.al.* 2012). The under-utilization of pasture bares the risk of encroachment of certain species which deplete the pasture or make it inaccessible and the unused water sources present opportunities for livestock poisoning (Huhoe *et al.* 2009).

There are cases where violent conflicts even lead to closure of trading (market) centres, schools and dispensaries. Apart from the fact that costs of essential commodities soar up as a result of high costs of business (transport, security etc.) as well as exploitation by individuals who know the people have limited alternatives (Odhiambo, 2012).He further posits that the communities also experience reduced prospects of higher human development due to closure of schools and dispensaries which impede equality in quality educational achievements as well as access to health services. As children in the conflict affected areas remain out of school, their counterparts in other areas continue with their learning. The women are also forced to assume additional responsibilities beyond the traditional ones of providing for the family. The coping mechanisms are undermined thereby engendering general economic decline (*ibid*, 2012).

In the study by (Odhiambo, 2012), he said that due to the frequent violent raids among the pastoralist communities, many of the young men continually get involved in surveillance as a means of securing their communities. This means that if these young men do not die in conflict, it is still important to understand that surveillance in itself is a non-productive engagement which can easily lead them to die. In this case, the productive age will be wiped out affecting the economic development of the affected communities. The observation by African Development Bank (2009) and Ayittey (1999) in most of the African countries, conflicts cause economic decline such that by the end of a conflict the economy is significantly smaller than it would have been had peace been maintained. Brown hill and Tuner (2012) as notes that, the 2008 post-election violence (PEV) conflict was the most catastrophic the country has experienced. The violence which lasted between 28th December 2007 and the end of February 2008 had about 1500 people were killed and more than half a million evicted from their homes resulting from a disputed presidential election. Amos Kimunya estimated that the loss incurred during the PEV was Kshs. 60 billion. The railway line in Kibera was also destroyed leading to multiplier effect that would take time to recover. Losses included in areas of horticulture, tea farming and international businesses in the country.

The other impact that ethnic polarization has on the economy is the effect on the real GDP and the per capita because of the opportunity cost of the rebellion aspect of the violence. This means that as the masses go to the street to protest and fight, the same people ought to be involved actively in economic activities which contribute to the GDP of a nation. Therefore failure to work means reduced per capita income. This is more so when there are two major ethnic groups fighting each other and the government is intervening. According to Elain K. Denny and Barbara F. Walter (2014), the opportunity cost and the cost to the economy is far much less if the conflict is between an ethnic group (the rebels) and the government- in which case the government is the other ethnic group. On their part, Kefeer and Knack (2002) agrees with Easterly and Levine that polarization of an ethnic cause always destabilizes all social, political and economic institutions which may hence reduce economic growth. The mistrust generated by from the ethnic divisions and clashes does not allow the building of cohesive institutions. Without these cohesive institutions, then economic growth and development is barred.

Montalvo and Reynal (2017) establish that ethnic diversity leads to bad policy, which, in turn, decelerates growth, both effects being quite powerful. Indeed, much of Africa's slow growth is attributable to its ethnic diversity. Ethnic diversity has also been shown to contribute to government dysfunction in several areas of economic policies, both in developed and in developing countries alike. For example, local or central governments in ethnically diverse societies tend to under-spend on public goods and education, produce low quality of services, generate greater political instability (Alexander, 2017); or misuse foreign aid and divert it into corruption (Svensson, 2000). Africa specific literature based on survey data, also finds evidence of dysfunction in government and civil society organizations. For example, United Nations Discussion Paper (2014) found that employment in the public sector in ethnically diverse Ghana was determined by patronage, not merit.

Blomberg and Hess (2006) identify two channels through which conflict affects economies: the domestic channel and the trade channel. The domestic channel concerns the allocation of factors; if the government spends a larger amount for military purposes, this will likely crowd

out investment and/or consumption. Naturally, a decline in investment now will lead to lower economic growth in the future. Any type of conflict, be it external or internal, affects the economy via the trade channel by imposing a distorting tariff on trade, inhibiting free trade and thus leading to a fall in economic activity (Blomberg & Hess, 2006). It is essential to recognise that the endogeneity problem continues to be a possibility, for imports can come at times of shortages and exports can function as a means to do away with domestic surpluses in production (Csaki&Lerman, 2001).

Blomberg and Hess (2006) pursue the trade channel in their investigation to quantify the effect of all types of conflict on trade. Similar results were found by Eckstein and Tsiddon (2004), who examined the short-run effects of terrorism on the macro economy in Israel using the VAR method; the impact on exports was much more volatile than the impact on the non-durable consumption. However, Eckstein and Tsiddon disregard the effects of conflict on import demand.

In a study by Masaka et.al (2017) on Effects of Interethnic Conflicts on Rural Peoples' Livelihoods in Kenya -Case of Kenyenyia and Rongo Sub-Counties in the Lake Victoria Basin, the findings established that inter-ethnic conflict along the borders affected the smooth running economic activities of the people. The inter-ethnic conflict caused loss of income to the victims of violence and the disruption of trade.

According to Kiliku Report, (1992), the clashes in Kenya resulted in the loss of thousands of families' personal possessions in form of structures, granaries, land, and enterprises. Lives were lost as a result, livestock, and looting took centre stage because some people took advantage of the less prepared, weak, and physically challenged, the sick, and the alien (JRS, March 2001). In early 1994, As a result of the clashes, some 10,000 members of the Kikuyu tribe left their farms in Naivasha in the then Rift Valley Province, a move that is believed to have been pushed by the Maasai backed by armed off-duty rangers. A number of houses in Kengesha, Karima, Nyikinywa and Lari were set ablaze and property of unknown value destroyed (Daily Nation, January 23, 2005: 3). In Mandera, 30 people were killed, 30,000 displaced in battles between Garre and Morole clans over pasture and water (Daily Nation, December 18, 2004: 12). During the skirmishes, a pupil of Rhamu District Education Board School, aged 8, was shot in the leg which led to amputation. His mother and a younger brother were said to have been killed during the fighting that involved a group of clans in the area in the month of December 2004. In another incident, one person was killed, five injured and 30 houses burnt down in a fight between Samburu and Turkana over pasture and water points. In renewed clashes in Loiyangalani Division, Marsabit Sub-county, armed bandits shot dead a 6-year-old boy and stole 800 goats (Daily Nation, August 8, 2007: 1).

The 2007/2008 post-election violence, a clear outcome of ethnic discomfort, had effect on businesses both within the country and outside; businesses remained closed while other business premises and goods were destroyed by looters and the youths that were engaged in the warfare. It was further noted in the report that workers in the war torn areas could not access their places of work or could not report to work due to cases of tension leading to their workplaces to remain closed. In terms of the infrastructure, roads were closed leading to a big loss to the Economy because it affected local enterprises and the neighbouring countries who rely on our ports; Rwanda, Burundi, Congo and South Sudan and Uganda suffered a shortage

of fuel and other essential goods because the Mombasa highway and the Kampala road were closed, (Kenya in Crisis; Africa Report No 137, 21st February 2008.)

Conflict Threatens Kenya Tourism”, it was noticed that the post-election violence affected the tourism sector which is a major income for Kenya. This conflict time was the peak season for the service industry and evidently, hotels and parks remained empty whereby the booking and occupancy mainly by the foreigners went down by over 60%. According to Capital News on 28th January 2008, over 1 billion shillings was lost in the flower industry in the two months of post-election violence. Ochieng’ and Maxon (2012) avowed that the post-election violence of 2007-2008 together with the global financial crisis reduced the economic growth of Kenya to a GDP growth of 1.7%. In 2012, Gaye (2013) mentions that the economy was still at 5% even with the same weak global economy.

Ethnic polarization brings about violence that in so many cases could generate into a big civil war which in most cases will have serious economic consequences Gaye (2013). In the wake of inter-ethnic conflicts, people of the same tongue that is in offices employ and promote the less qualified tribes mates who serve them. Because of this tribalism, the level of economic growth slumps because the employment is not of qualified people. Collier et al. (2013) asserts that conflicts results to development in reverse while in the report by the Daily Nation (January 24, 2005: 1), the infrastructure in general has also been the target hence being destroyed by the conflict and not forgetting that many projects stall due to conflict.

Erkan Goren (2012) says that ethnic conflicts can affect the rate of investment negatively and bring in the so called rent-seeking behaviour which in turn will lead to increased public consumption. In view of Dollar and Svensson (2000), in times of tension and violence, most people will grab resources available and want to keep for themselves more so the wealthy and powerful people. They may therefore cripple an economy by wanting to get the wealth for themselves without generating more. There is also loss and destruction of property which involves burning of homes and subsequent displacement of people as they seek to be in more secure places (Schilling *et. al.*, 2012). In the report by the African Development Bank, (2008), the massive deaths of young men who engage in the violent raids reduces the productive capacity of communities. And according to Doyle and Sambanis (2000), civil wars or violence brought about by a clash of ethnic groups is really traumatic to the people and it always leads to some long lasting effects on growth. The two say that the destruction it brings plus the effect it leaves in the minds of the people causes fear and mistrust and hence there is in most cases a clear lack of a good environment for economic development.

When the Pokots and the Marakwets go into war many people from both sides of tribal divide have been forced to flee their homes to temporarily live in the caves and makeshift shelters without food and essential humanitarian gear for fear of attacks. Many of the fleeing populations end up exposed to calamities and diseases such as malaria, Rift valley fever, pneumonia, and typhoid (ICRC, 1998). According to ICRC report, people affected by clashes in the then Rift Valley province alone were in need of 7,200 tons in form of cereals and 1,080 of pulses besides other food items as aid of emergency for that year alone (Daily Nation, 14th and 23rd May 1993). As reported in the (Daily Nation, 19th June 1993), drop in milk production was also experienced, though, without proper statistics that we can refer to.

In the report by Kiliku (1992), ownership of land patterns has permanently been changed because of inter-ethnic conflicts affecting economic growth hence farm production decline as

a result when people leave their farms in fear of attacks. Insecurity has been a factor that is worthy consideration especially when economic activities are disrupted in such a way that sugarcane, tea, coffee, maize, and other crops' farmers have abandon their farms in times of conflict in Nyando, Muhoroni and Tinderet. Yanamo, (2005) posited that there was downfall experienced in the output of wheat and maize which was experienced as a result of insecurity caused by inter-ethnic conflicts in Nyando, Muhoroni and Tinderet Sub-Counties.

Many economic problems are generated by conflicts such as insecurity of food, disruption of manpower and labour on the farms/firms and loss of land. Besides that, breakdown in communication, diversion of resources, allocation, and miss-allocation (in terms of unexpected expenditure), destruction of the established infrastructure, unstable pricing of commodities, and environmental degradation becomes the norm of the time (Oucho, 2010). In view of this report by (Oucho, 2010), one of the far-reaching economic consequences in this area of research was food shortage. This was because production dropped as a result of failure to get an adequate supply of raw material meant for agro-based firms such like cereals, coffee, sugar, tea and other inputs. These subjected clash victims to starvation in the wake of famine that necessitated an appeal for food relief from international organizations. According to Oucho (2002), the effects of clashes include and not limited to fertility and mortality – whereby temporal marital dissolution is realized when the displacement of the people take place in the time of inter-conflict thus halting reproduction and family formation. Inter-ethnic conflicts also rock the foundation of nationhood, render the existing administrative structures respect less, and derail to a big extend the spirit of national cohesion and integration.

It is imperative to examine the above studies in detail. For instance, Montalvo (2005), statistics has revealed that ethnic conflicts have a negative impact on investments and thus a hindrance to economic growth but failed to establish the overall economic growth while Reksulak (2000) found a drop in per capita income due to ethnic conflicts. Reksurlak studies were however too general as they examined the overall per capita of a country. (Kimenyi et al., (2014) and Ksoll, Macchiavello and Morjaria (2010) also indicated a negative effect of ethnic conflicts on growth of flower industry. From these and other studies reviewed, it can be deduced that inter-ethnic conflicts can negatively affect economic growth of the clash prone areas. However, these studies fall short of the social and community issues as indicated in the current study. It was therefore important to establish the effect of inter-ethnic conflict and economic growth.

METHODOLOGY

This section covers the methods and procedures that were used to achieve the set study objectives. The section discusses the research design, study area, target population, sampling and sampling technique, data collection, and instrument for data collection, data analysis and presentation.

Research Design

Correlational research design is the most appropriate design for exploring relationships among variables. Onono, (2016) and others, affirm that in order to clearly establish whether there is relationship between two variables, Pearson Product moment correlation is more appropriate to answer this question. However, in the process of deciding the general correlation approach, researchers have identified paradigm that could be of much value in the implementation. For instance, Burrell and Morgan (1979) suggested four paradigms which included radical

humanism functionalism, radical structuralism, radical humanism, and interpretative. In regard to these paradigms, four dimensions were suggested to guide their analysis. These dimensions included epistemology, ontology, methodology, and human nature. Various scholars have affirmed that the framework used in the process is rather heuristic schema but not rigid. However, for inter-ethnic conflicts, the most common paradigms preferred over others are the Functionalist and Interpretative. Therefore there are two extreme points identified by Burrell and Morgan (1979), in literature for the research. These are quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. Positivist quantitative methodologies for social sciences are highly favoured due to a notion that there is a similarity between social and natural phenomena. Due to this orientation, they favor the positivist quantitative methodology in social science research.

Study Area

Nyando and Muhoroni sub-counties of Kisumu County and Tinderet Sub-county of Nandi County are conflict hotspots and therefore formed the study area. These three locations: Nyando, Muhoroni and Tinderet Sub-counties border each other. Besides forming a hot spot for conflicts, the area is potential for agricultural activities which form part of the economic strength of Kenya as a country. Therefore having been a white settler area with unclear demarcations on the historical boundaries, there has been deep rift between the ethnic communities which result to conflicts leading to slow economic growth (Wilkins, 2012).

Target Population

Households that are directly affected by the conflicts more often as per sub regions are: Nyando Sub County (391), Muhoroni Sub County (340), and Tinderet Sub County (320) totaling to 1051, (Local Capacities for Peace International, 2015). However, considering various variables such as education, age and availability, only 550 households were eligible for the study.

Sampling Size and Technique

The sample size of the households was done using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample size Table. According to this Table, a sample of 220 subjects was arrived at. Therefore simple random sampling was used to collect data from the eligible households. These entailed 82 respondents from Nyando, 71 from Muhoroni, and 67 from Tinderet.

Data Collection Methods

Data collection instruments entailed questionnaires, which were both closed ended and open as too for primary data collection. For secondary data, the study used existing literature review from the government publications as well as documents. Interview guides and focus group discussions were used to collect qualitative data from key informants. Therefore the study respondents included the national government local administrators, local politicians, religious leaders, and members of the police service.

Reliability and Validity Tests

According to DeVoset. *al.* (2002), there are various methods used to test reliability. These include test-retest, split half, Cronbach's alpha among other methods. However, Cronbach's alpha is considered most effective and efficiently low cost method. Therefore Cronbach's coefficient alpha method was employed at a threshold value equal to or above 0.7. From the reliability test, the results showed that Cronbach's alpha values ranged between 0.700

to 0.857 for unstandardized coefficients and 0.726 to 0.867 for standardized coefficients. Therefore all the constructs of the study instrument were reliable.

Validity methods on the other hand are numerous inclusive of face, content, construct among others. However, to avoid much complexity, instruments to be used in the study were tested through content validity. The method entailed formulating the instrument through a system of checks by the researcher's supervisors who are experts. Constant validation was done in steps through thorough checks and in conjunction to the theoretical basis and discipline. Therefore both face and content validity methods were utilized in the end. As a result, the final instrument of the study was found to reflect both the underlying variables that describe the study topic adequately.

Data Analysis

Quantitative data analysis entailed both descriptive and inferential methods. Qualitative data analysis entailed thematic, verbatim reports and general discussions of the observed findings. Means, standard deviations, frequency counts and percentages were used to carry out descriptive data analysis. For inferential analysis, standard multiple linear regression model was used to analyze the data and establish the effect of inter-ethnic conflicts on economic growth. The regression model used in the data analysis is presented as follows;

$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + \varepsilon$; where Y= Dependent Variable (Economic Growth), X= Independent Variable (Inter-ethnic conflicts), β_0 =Y intercept in the equation, β_1 =the model coefficient and ε = Residual in the equation

Source: Adapted from Cohen (2003).

Qualitative results were reported using themes, verbatim and discussed while quantitative data were presented using descriptive statistics and model parameters in table formats.

Regression Model Assumptions

Before carrying out data analysis which entailed a standard multiple regression model, various assumptions which are paramount for regression model were verified. According to Tabachnick and Fidell (2001), the assumptions of linear regression must be met for feasibility of the results. One of the assumptions is the sample size. The sample size should estimate the population measure as close as possible. In the study, a sample of 220 is very appropriate for the regression model since it limits the mean square error. The second assumption was linearity, pre-analysis indicated that the data was linearly related using a straight line. Collinearity statistics is also very important for checking data redundancy, therefore Tolerance and Variance inflation Factors indicated values that were within the required range. Normality was tested using normal probability plots and Gaussian distribution plot whereby the findings revealed that data was bell shaped thus normality distributed.

Ethical Issues

The study sought to establish respondent confidentiality by ensuring that ethical considerations were up to the requirements. Therefore no respondents were identified by name or personal details that could lead to tracking. There was also voluntary response by the respondents with high level confidentiality of the information after complete response. Respondents were assured of the academic purpose as the main reason for the data collection.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After data analysis, results are presented and discussed with reference to the study objective and triangulated using both qualitative findings and literature review.

Effects of Inter-Ethnic Conflicts on Economic Growth in Nyando, Muhoroni and Tinderet Sub-Counties

Inter ethnic conflict instrument items were combined through coding in order to obtain a single mean for each of the constructs. The constructs included social issues and community issues which were deemed to construct the predictor variable that is inter-ethnic conflicts. However, for the dependent variable, the items were coded and their means computed to obtain one single mean which reflected economic growth. Finally, standard multiple regression model was carried out whereby economic growth was regressed against inter-ethnic conflicts. The findings are presented as shown in Table 1 as follows.

Table 1: Model Coefficients on Effect of Inter-ethnic Conflicts on Economic Growth

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	.762 ^a	.581	.579	.907	.581	261.296	2	217	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), Social issues, Community issues

Model	Coefficients ^a					Correlations			
	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.	Zero-order	Partial	Part	
	B	Std. Error	Beta						
1	(Constant)	.987	.083		11.881	.000			
	Social issues	.992	.054	.666	18.509	.000	.740	.690	.617
	Community issues	.154	.028	.198	5.507	.000	.447	.273	.184

a. Dependent Variable: economic growth

Source: Survey Data (2016)

The results in Table 1 indicate that there is a high multiple correlation between inter-ethnic conflicts and economic growth ($R=.762$). This means that economic growth is associated to inter-ethnic conflicts. Besides, the findings further shows that inter-ethnic conflicts accounts for 58.1% variance in economic growth, $R^2=.581$, which is significant, $F(2, 217)=261.29$, $p<.05$. This implies that out of 100% causes of economic growth or decline, inter-ethnic conflicts accounts for a larger percentage in the area of study. Therefore economic growth of the area largely depends on the peace or reduced ethnic conflicts.

These studies are in line with other previous findings in the literature review. This includes studies such as El-Bushra (2003), World Bank, (2003), Stewart, 1991; Yildirim et al., (2005), among other who agreed with the current study findings which indicate that inter-ethnic violence have adverse effects on the economy. However, these studies may be limited in other

areas such as domestic but the hallmark is that they support the fact that ethnicity, inter-ethnic violence and conflicts leads to slow or drop in economic growth. This implies that inter-ethnic violence negatively affects economic growth.

Further findings using the model coefficients indicates that for inter-ethnic conflicts, social issues was the strongest contributor of economic growth, $\beta=.666$, $p=.000$ implying that for every one unit increase in social issues or , there are 0.666 unit decrease in economic growth. This means that social issues are strong predictor of economic performance and therefore have influence on economic performance. Another variable found to have significant effect on economic growth was community issues ($\beta=.196$, $p<.05$). This means that one unit change in community issues will lead to 0.196 unit changes in economic growth. Therefore community issues have a significant effect on economic growth such that the more the community issues the slower the economic growth.

It is imperative to examine the above studies in detail. For instance, Montalvo (2005), statistics has revealed that ethnic conflicts have a negative impact on investments and thus a hindrance to economic growth but failed to establish the overall economic growth while Reksulak (2000) found a drop in per capita income due to ethnic conflicts. Reksurlak studies were however too general as they examined the overall per capita of a country. (Kimenyi et al., (2014) and Ksoll, Macchiavello and Morjaria (2010) also indicated a negative effect of ethnic conflicts on growth of flower industry. Further studies by Global Coalition (2004) also indicated that inter-ethnic conflict negatively affected growth while Easley (2000) notes that ethnic conflicts are the main slowers of economic growth. From these and other studies reviewed, it can be concluded that inter-ethnic conflicts have a negative effect on economic growth of the clash prone areas. This studies coupled with the theoretical reviews clearly indicates that there is a serious negative effect of violence and ethnicity on economic growth in the areas of the study. Therefore these and other studies strongly support the current study that has revealed that ethnic conflicts negatively affect economic growth as purported in the study findings as well. This implies that such effect can be extended to the other areas if the problem if not solved early in advance. Therefore proper measures should be taken into consideration when such conflicts phenomena occur.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section presents the summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations of the study in line with the study objective.

Summary

The study sought to evaluate the effect of inter-ethnic conflicts on economic growth. Standard multiple regression model was used to regress economic growth on inter-ethnic conflicts. The findings using the standardized coefficient indicated that for inter-ethnic conflicts, both social issues and community issues had a unique significant contribution to the model, ($\beta=.666$, $p=.000$) and ($\beta=.198$, $p=.000$) respectively. This implies that inter-ethnic conflicts has an effect on the economic growth addition, the findings revealed that inter-ethnic conflicts accounts for 58.1% variance in economic growth.

Conclusion

The objective of the study sought to evaluate the effect of inter-ethnic conflicts on economic growth. The findings revealed that inter-ethnic conflicts, more rampantly, social issues in the

communities had a significant effect on economic growth. Thus it was concluded that inter-ethnic conflicts have a negative impact on economic growth of the study area, therefore whenever conflicts occur, it scares off investors and instils fear among the people who own businesses in the area thus slowing economic growth significantly.

Recommendations

Because inter-ethnic conflicts affect the economic growth of the affected area, the researcher recommends that policies be established to govern the conflict prone areas such as the study area in the form of protecting businesses. It is also recommended that the residents be put under constant programmes of fostering peace within the area so as to enhance economic growth. The study recommended various approaches namely enactment of legislation that can enforce punitive actions against the perpetrators; adopting multiagency approach in curbing the vice; stakeholder involvement and engagement in finding a lasting solution to inter-ethnic conflicts; the national government, lands commission and the members of the community explores ways to deal with land matters. There are efforts by the national government to foster peace through the administrative units and the county governments so as to avoid ethnicity. Significant progress has also been observed over the government's commitment to narrow down to perpetrators of violence and hate speech causing fights. Plans that are put in place to oversee execution of justice should be enhanced and effective to ensure persons that become victims receive justice. The findings may aide the economic and peace integration commission stakeholders in advising potential investors as well as the government on promoting peace in the area. Scholars could also benefit by coming up with a model and more information in the area for guiding new researchers.

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