

INFLUENCE OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION STRATEGIES ON SOCIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AMONG PASTORALIST COMMUNITIES IN KENYA: A CASE OF ISIOLO COUNTY

Patrick Karume Lesengei
University of Nairobi, Kenya

Amos Gitonga
University of Nairobi, Kenya

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ABSTRACT

Conflicts have many implications being political, economic, social, and cultural. Conflict lead to lowering of economic productivity, weakening of political institutions of governance, incapacity to provide essential services, destruction and depletion of existing resources, loss of food production, and capital flight. There exist different methods of managing conflicts. The most prevalent among the pastoral communities being the traditional justice system. Under this system the methods are negotiation, mediation (or compromise), reconciliation, arbitration, and litigation This study sought to achieve the following objectives; To assess the extent to which negotiations influence social economic development among pastoralist communities in Kenya, To evaluate how reconciliation influence social economic development among pastoralist communities in Kenya, to establish extent to which mediation influence social economic development among pastoralist communities in Kenya. Finally to find out how adjudication/arbitration influence social economic development among pastoralist communities in Kenya. The purpose of the study was to determine the influence of conflict resolution strategies on social economic development among pastoralist communities in Kenya with special reference to Isiolo County. The study used descriptive design while the target population for this study comprised the various stakeholders in Isiolo County. A sample population of 193 respondents was used in this study selected using stratified

and random sampling technique. Primary data was obtained using self-administered questionnaires. Data was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS Version 22.0). Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, mean score and standard deviation were used for all the quantitative variables and information presented inform of tables while multiple regression analysis was used to establish the relations between the independent and dependent variables. The study found that adjudication/arbitration strategy had the greatest effect on the social economic development among pastoralist communities, followed by reconciliation strategy, then negotiation strategy while level of mediation strategy had the least effect to the social economic development among pastoralist communities. The study concludes that negotiation strategies reconciliation strategies had positively affected social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County. The study recommends promotion of meetings and discussion between communities, increased inter-community and that diminishing natural resource base does not automatically lead to violent conflict if there are functional local institutions, enforceable, respected land use plans and mechanisms and actualizing access to justice for negotiating cross-territorial grazing access in periods of scarcity.

Key Words: *conflict resolution strategies, social economic development, pastoralist communities, Kenya, Isiolo County*

INTRODUCTION

Conflicts have political, economic, social, and cultural implications and contribute to the lowering of economic productivity, weakening of political institutions of governance, incapacity to provide essential services, destruction and depletion of existing resources, loss of food production, and capital flight (Olaoba, 2011). The causes of the conflicts are many and complex, including poor governance, poverty, drought, famine, competition for scarce resources, and identity-based rivalries (Barrett, Brandon, Gibson & Gjertsen, 2010). These conflicts have caused extensive local crises, drawn heavily on military resources, and have had an adverse impact on economic development in the region. The impact of violent conflict has manifested itself psychologically, physically, and economically, going beyond the material and affecting the lives of thousands of women, children, and men.

There exist different methods of managing conflicts. The most prevalent among the pastoral communities being the traditional justice system. Under this system the methods are negotiation, mediation (or compromise), reconciliation, arbitration, and litigation (Olaoba, 2011). According to Theresa and Oluwafemi (2014), mediation is an old method of conflict management surrounded by secrecy and involves on-coercive intervention of third party (mediators).

Muigua (2014) opines that negotiation is the process involving conflicting parties meeting to identify and discuss the issues at hand so as to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution without the help of a third party. The parties themselves attempt to settle their differences using a range of techniques like concession or compromise, and coercion or confrontation. Similarly, conciliation is perhaps the most significant aspect of conflict management. This process is similar to mediation except for the fact that in conciliation, the third party can propose a solution (Theresa & Oluwafemi, 2014). Its advantages are similar to those of negotiation. It has all the advantages and disadvantages of negotiation except that the conciliator can propose solutions, thus making parties lose some control over the process. Although best applied in trade disputes, conciliations are recognized by a number of international legal instruments as a means to the management of several types of conflicts. It is considered the most significant aspect of conflict resolution, owing that it is the end product of negotiation, mediation, or adjudication.

Pimentel (2010), in their research programs on alternative justice systems as practiced across the globe, found that only about 15 percent of disputes in the United States, England and Wales enter the legal system, while in Australia, only 6 percent of commercial disputes make it to court. In the developing world, Wojkowska and Cunningham(2010) contends that traditional justice system has been popularly employed in conflict management in many states. Hong (2011) conducted a study to compare conflict management strategies (CMS) between Koreans and Americans. Six hundred (600) respondents took part in the study involving 300 Koreans and 300 Americans, the study showed that Koreans prefer an avoidance conflict management and a cooperative orientation, whereas the American prefers a competition strategy and an assertive orientation.

There exist different types of conflict involving members of the same community or between communities. This is more prevalent among the nomadic and pastoral communities who don't have permanent homes. A study conducted by Ikdahl, Hellum, Kaarhus, Benjamin Sen, and Kameri (2011) in five countries (Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya) found that land conflicts, domestic conflicts, cattle rustling, burglary, and other delinquencies are common issues that make relationships to be poor within communities. Sandefur and Siddiqi (2011) conducted a survey of 2,500 households in rural Liberia, cataloging over 4,500 disputes taken to a variety of customary and formal forums. The underlying hypothesis is that rural Liberians make constrained but rational choices in navigating the dual legal system, and that these choices embody a trade-off between the broader legal rights provided by the formal system, and the more efficient restorative remedies offered by the customary system. The overwhelming tendency to take disputes to customary rather than formal forums provides important lessons about the design of justice sector reforms targeted at the rural poor (Ribot, 2012).

In Malawi between 80% and 90% of all disputes are processed through customary justice forums, while in Bangladesh an estimated 60% -70% of local disputes are solved through the a traditional court set up for conflict resolution(Theresa &Oluwafemi, 2014). Similarly, in Sierra Leone, approximately 85% of the population falls underthe jurisdiction of customary law, defined under the Constitution as the rules of law, which, by custom, are applicable to particular communities in Sierra Leone: customary tenure covers 75% of land in most African countries, affecting 90% of land transactions in countries like Mozambique and Ghana.

The border areas of Kenya and its neighboring countries have, over a long time, been a major arena for a variety of low-intensity conflicts, some of which are linked to wider cross-border and regional conflicts. The roots of these conflicts are ecological(Adan&Pkalya, 2011). A history of economic and social marginalization looms large in all border conflicts within the Horn ofAfrica. Increased competition over resources, reduced access to land, water, and other natural resources due to increasing demographic and environmental pressure from within and without, and reduced access to credit, markets, and extension services that culminate in poverty, all play a role.In a study of non-formal dispute resolution processes in a slum area in Nairobi, Kamau(2007) observed that non-formal conflict resolution operate in a wider socio-economic context and are integrated into the social and economic fabric of life, solving conflicts which cut across various contexts.

However, the participatory and problem-solving approach of non-formal forums has potential for democratizing dispute resolution. Kamau(2007) also found that there is a high level of interaction between non-formal and formal dispute resolution processes, which to a large extent blurs the boundary between the official and unofficial. Similarly, inter-ethnic approaches effectively resolve large-scale disputes. Menkhaus (2000) showed that traditional justice systems (TJS) are dynamic. They keep changing and adjusting to incorporate new realities in the social milieu. The root cause of conflict in Isiolo County is border disputes natural resource scarcity.

Pastoralist's communities result into conflict over use and ownership rights of these scarce resources. Pastoralist 's violence has been transformed in recent years by a number of factors including; economic and political marginalization, active resistance by pastoralist communities to assimilation, resource depletion and demographic changes, climatic conditions, cattle stealing(raiding/rustling) the growing availability of small arms and light weapons and poorly designed policies (Adan & Pkalya, 2011).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Conflict has grown rapidly in the Horn of Africa (HOA) in the last three decades, and among the most vulnerable areas in Kenya is the North-Eastern Region and the Rift Valley. Conflict is now widespread in the arid and semi-arid zones, and often overlaps with extreme food insecurity (Kinyanjui, 2011). Many local civil society organizations have programs to manage conflict, and international NGOs, intergovernmental organizations and donors are increasingly preoccupied with understanding conflict and experimenting with solutions. In addition, conflicts are widely recognized as an important source of poverty and risk to pastoral communities in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALS) areas. Most of these conflicts are resource based in nature and often between pastoralists and farmers. Pastoralist communities in Kenya are concerned with raising of livestock such as camels, goats, cattle and sheep, moving the herds in search of fresh pasture and water which are scarce (Adan&Pkalya, 2011).

Several studies have been carried out on conflict and conflict management. Abuya, (2009) carried out an evaluation of causes of stakeholder's conflicts and conflict resolution approaches in Kenya. The study concluded that resources are the major causes of conflict among the pastoral communities. Baya (2009) evaluated the relationship between Communication and conflict: a case study of indigenous mechanisms of conflict resolution among the Mijikenda. Mutula (2011) evaluated conflict management in educational institutions in Kenya. The art of avoiding destructive conflict resolution strategies in secondary schools. The study found that there are several strategies used in schools to reduce conflict among them reconciliation and arbitration. In addition, Ochieng (2007) studied the role of traditional conflict management mechanisms in conflict prevention and resolution in Africa and found that traditional conflict management mechanisms are prevalent in all communities and households. Omwenga (2011) conducted a study on conflict modelling and resolution in a dynamic state. Ondiege (2012) evaluated the effectiveness of peace-building and conflict resolution mechanisms in Wajir County.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study was to determine the influence of conflict resolution strategies on social economic development among pastoralist communities in Kenya with special reference to Isiolo County.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the extent to which negotiations influence social economic development among pastoralist communities in Kenya
2. To evaluate how reconciliation, influence social economic development among pastoralist communities in Kenya
3. To establish extent to which mediation influence social economic development among pastoralist communities in Kenya.
4. To find out how adjudication/arbitration influence social economic development among pastoralist communities in Kenya.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

A theory is an organized system of accepted knowledge that applies in a variety of circumstances to explain a specific set of phenomenon (Sandefur & Siddiqi, 2011). There are a number of theories that are related to conflict management. This study reviews the conflict resolution theory, the game theory and the theory of cooperation and competition.

Conflict Resolution Theory

According to Deutsch (2012), this theory suggests that the constructive process of conflict resolution is through effective cooperative problem-solving process. It also equates the process of conflict resolution with a competitive process in which the competing parties are involved in a competition to determine the person who wins and the one who loses. Usually, the outcome of the struggle is a loss for both parties. The norms of supportive behaviour are similar to those of respect, responsibility, honesty, empowerment and caring behaviour towards friends or fellow group members (Kinyanjui, 2011). This theory notes that good cooperative relations facilitate constructive management of inevitable conflicts. The norms in this theory are: placing the disagreements in perspective by identifying common ground and common interests, addressing only the issues when there are disagreements and refrain from making personal attacks.

Finally, remain a moral person throughout the conflict by showing concern, care and love as the other party is a member of one moral community. Schellenberg (2006) studies reveal that sometimes conflict resolution may end in victory of one party who is superior to the other while in other cases, conflict resolution may end in compromise. Schellenbergs theory of conflict resolution also suggests that there are many forms of conflict resolution among them coercion, negotiation, arbitration and conciliation. Sandole (2013) notes that conflict resolution requires a problem solving approach, direct participation by the parties in the conflict in jointly shaping the solution and facilitation by a third party trained in the process of conflict resolution. Schellenberg (2006) further notes that there is cultural and structural conflict. In cultural conflict, parties bring to their relationship important differences in values while structural conflict deals with power deficiencies of one or both parties within an organization, community,

state or region that hinders them from satisfying their needs. Burton (2013) is concerned with transforming structurally violent structures which impact people's lives to the extent that they are quite prepared to explode their way into their consciousness if not their lives. In modern era, human conflict has been biologized most famously by Lorenz (1966) as aggression. His view supports that conflict is deeply internalized, instinctual and part of the animal nature of homo sapiens.

Restorative Justice (RJ) Theory

This theory was espoused by Charles Burton (Barton, 2000). According to Barton (2000), traditional wisdom is gradually considering adapting restorative justice interventions, which views the just and fair (or the most appropriate) response to a criminal act cannot best be addressed by formal justice professionals. Accordingly, the critical decisions of a formal justice response (concerning justice, prevention, and welfare) are best made by the principal parties (victim and offender) themselves, preferably in dialogue with one another in the presence of their respective communities (typically family and friends). Generally, this is often the case wherever there is an identifiable victim and responsibility for the offence is not in dispute, and both parties are willing to meet in an attempt to settle the matter through a process of discussion and negotiation in ways that are meaningful and right for them. However, their agreements must fall within the law and are not obviously harmful to the public interest (Kamau, 2007).

Key principles of Restorative Justice (RJ) include a view of crime as a conflict between individuals rather than between offender and the State. Closely related to this is a belief that the responsibility for governance of security, crime and disorder is to be shared among all members of the community. Restorative justice is viewed as a humanitarian approach that brings to the foreground ambitions of forgiveness, healing, reparation and reintegration (Zehr and Mika, 1998). Therefore, RJ programs bring together the offender, victim, their respective families, friends and community representatives, and attempt to engage them in a process of reconciliation and reparation. The aim is to allow offenders and victims to meet in a face-to-face context (although indirect contact is often employed), to voice their experiences and understandings, and to achieve a mutually agreeable resolution. There are several different modes of practice in RJ. Victim-offender reconciliation, family-group conferencing, and sentencing circles are three popular models – and these vary in terms of the facilitator's role and the number and type of participants included (Sharpe, 1998).

As noted by McCorry (2010), when a crime is committed, the formal justice system has been primarily concerned with three questions: Who did it? What laws were broken? What should be done to punish or treat the offender? In contrast, restorative justice advocates emphasize three very different questions: what is the nature of the harm resulting from the crime? What needs to be done to make it right or repair the harm? Who is responsible for this repair? (McCorry, 2010). Hence, rather than defining crime and delinquency simply as lawbreaking against the state, advocates of restorative justice make the point that offenders harm victims and communities as

well. In addition, one of the primary aims of restorative justice programs is to make amends for offending, rather than seeking retribution and inflicting pain upon the offender (Wamukonya, 2011).

Restorative Justice has encountered several criticisms. Legesse (2000) argued that victims are often enticed into restorative justice before they are ready. Pressure to achieve “speedy trial” objectives for offenders can be quite contrary to the interests of victims. Indeed, even in terms of the interests of offenders, rushing into a restorative justice meeting can be counterproductive with a victim who with a bit more time would be ready to forgive rather than to hate. Furthermore, Watson (2011) observed that restorative justice can be a shaming machine that worsens the stigmatization of offenders. The foregoing criticisms notwithstanding, RJ remains the only avenue for integrating and healing communities, more so those that have faced turmoil and high level of animosity. Restorative Justice(RJ) was considered suitable for this study because conflict resolution considers cultural and community values in managing conflicts, without losers or winners at the end of the process.

Cooperation and Competition Theory

This theory was initially developed by Deutsch (2010) and elaborated by Johnson (1989). This theory has two basic ideas. The first is the interdependence among goals of the people involved in a conflict. The other is the type of action taken by the two people involved. He identifies two types of goal independence. The first is positive and the other negative. The positive is where the probability of a person’s goal attainment is positively correlated with the amount of another attaining his goal. The negative is where the goal is linked in such a way that the amount of the goal attainment is negatively correlated with the amount of the others goal attainment. This means, if you are positively linked with another person, then you sink or swim together (Deutsch, 2010). Therefore, if the other sinks, you swim and if the other swims, you sink. In this theory, there are two basic types of action by a person. These are effective actions, which improve a person’s chances of attaining a goal and bungling actions, which worsens a person’s chances of obtaining a goal.

The findings in this theory are similar to those by Morton and Marcus (2010) who concluded that either the cooperative or the competitive nature of the participants in a conflict determines the course of the outcome. They further noted that people have an inborn tendency to act positively to the beneficial and negatively to the harmful and these act as the foundation for human potentials for cooperation and love as well as competition and hate. According to Johnson (1989) studies indicate that cooperation process leads to greater group productivity, more favourable interpersonal relationships, better psychological health and higher self-esteem. His research has further proven that more constructive resolution of conflict results from cooperation as opposed to competitive processes.

The studies further suggest that constructive processes of conflict resolution are similar to cooperative processes of problem solving and destructive processes of conflict resolution are

similar to competitive processes. Therefore, cooperative-constructive processes of conflict resolution leads to outcomes like mutual benefit and satisfaction, strengthening relationships, positive psychological effects while competitive destructive process leads to material losses and dissatisfaction, worsening relationships and negative psychological effects in at least one party (Johnson, 1989). According to Alper, Tjosvold and Law (2010), cooperative instead of a competitive approach to conflict resolution leads to conflict efficacy that in turn results in effective performance. This conclusion was reached after a research was conducted in a team of four hundred and eighty-nine employees recruited for a production department in a leading electronic manufacturing firm.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

According to Creswell (2012), research design is the arrangement of the conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure. In a nutshell, it is the blue print for the collection, measurement and analysis of data. The study used descriptive design. According to Babbie (2010), descriptive research was used to obtain information concerning current status of the phenomena to describe what exists with respect to variables in a situation.

Target Population

According to Saunders, Lewis and Thornhill (2009), a population is the total collection of elements about which we wish to make inferences. The target population for this study comprised the various stakeholders in Isiolo County such as County representatives, Chiefs, Religious Leaders, Youth Leaders, Women Leaders, Community Elders, Traders Association and Jua Kali Artisans Associations.

Sampling Size

Sampling is a deliberate choice of a number of people who are to provide the data from which a study would draw conclusions about some larger group whom these people represent. The sample size is a subset of the population that is taken to be representatives of the entire population (Kumar, 2011). A sample population of 193 was arrived at by calculating the target population of 391 with a 95% confidence level and an error of 0.05 using the below formula taken from Kothari (2004).

$$n = \frac{z^2 \cdot N \cdot \partial_p^2}{(N - 1)e^2 + z^2 \partial_p^2}$$

Where: n = Size of the sample,

N = Size of the population and given as 391,

e = Acceptable error and given as 0.05,

$\hat{\sigma}_p$ = The standard deviation of the population and given as 0.5 where not known,

Z = Standard variate at a confidence level given as 1.96 at 95% confidence level.

The study selected the respondents using stratified and random sampling technique. The goal of stratified random sampling is to achieve the desired representation from various sub-groups in the population. In stratified random sampling subjects are selected in such a way that the existing sub-groups in the population are more or less represented in the sample (Kothari, 2004). The method involved dividing the population into a series of relevant strata, which implies that the sample is likely to be more representatives (Saunders et al., 2009).

Research Instruments

Primary data was obtained using self-administered questionnaires. The questionnaire was made up of both open ended and closed ended questions. The open-ended questions was used so as to encourage the respondent to give an in-depth and felt response without feeling held back in illuminating of any information and the closed ended questions allow respondent to respond from limited options that had been stated. According to Saunders et al (2009), the open ended or unstructured questions allowed profound response from the respondents while the closed or structured questions are generally easier to evaluate.

The purpose of the pilot testing is to establish the validity and reliability of the research instrumentation and to enhance face validity. The pilot testing was conducted using the questionnaire to 15 representatives of the interest groups who were not included in the final sample. All aspects of the questionnaire were pre-tested including question content, wording, sequence, form and layout, question difficulty and instructions. The feedback obtained were used to revise the questionnaire before administering it to the study respondents.

Validity is the accuracy and meaningfulness of inferences, based on the research results. One of the main reasons for conducting the pilot study is to ascertain the validity of the questionnaire. The study used content validity to ascertain the validity of the questionnaires (Bryman & Bell, 2011). Content validity draws an inference from test scores to a large domain of items similar to those on the test. Content validity is concerned with sample-population representativeness. Sekaran and Bougie (2010) stated that the knowledge and skills covered by the test items should be representative to the larger domain of knowledge and skills.

Data Collection Procedures

The researcher obtained an introduction letter from the university, which was presented to each relevant authority so as to be allowed to collect the necessary data from the respondents. The researcher personally administered the research instruments to the respondents using drop and pick method. This enabled the researcher to establish rapport, explain the purpose of the study and the meaning of items that were clear as observed by (Bryman, & Bell, 2011).

Data Analysis Techniques

Data was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS Version 22.0) which is the most recent version. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, mean score and standard deviation were used for all the quantitative variables and information presented in tables. Based on Zibran (2012) recommendation on the analysis of qualitative data, collected data was organized, sorted out, coded and thematically analyzed, searching for meaning, interpreting and drawing of conclusions based on concepts. Inferential data analysis was done using multiple regression analysis. Multiple regression analysis was used to establish the relations between the independent and dependent variables. Multiple regression attempts to determine whether a group of variables together predict a given dependent variable (Babbie, 2010). Since there were four independent variables in this study the multiple regression model generally assumed the following equation;

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \beta_4X_4 + \epsilon$$

Where:

Y= Social Economic Development

β_0 =constant

X₁= Negotiations, X₂= Reconciliation, X₃= Mediation, X₄= Adjudication/Arbitration,

ϵ =Error Term

RESEARCH RESULTS

Reliability Analysis

A pilot study was carried out to determine reliability of the questionnaires. The pilot study involved 15 respondents. Reliability analysis was subsequently done using Cronbach's Alpha which measures the internal consistency by establishing if certain items within a scale measure the same construct. This illustrates that all the five scales were reliable as their reliability values exceeded the prescribed threshold of 0.7. This, therefore, depicts that the research instrument was reliable and therefore required no amendments.

Table 1: Reliability Analysis

| | Cronbach's Alpha |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Negotiations | .706 |
| Reconciliation | .814 |
| Mediation | .791 |
| Adjudication/Arbitration | .731 |

Regression Analysis

In this study, a multiple regression analysis was conducted to test the influence among predictor variables. The research used statistical package for social sciences (SPSS V 22.0) to code, enter and compute the measurements of the multiple regressions

Table 2: Model Summary

| Model | R | R Square | Adjusted R Square | Std. Error of the Estimate |
|-------|--------|----------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 0.8662 | 0.7503 | 0.6902 | 0.7325 |

R-Squared is a commonly used statistic to evaluate model fit. R-square is 1 minus the ratio of residual variability. 69.02% of the changes in the social economic development among pastoralist communities could be attributed to the combined effect of the predictor variables.

Table 3: Summary of One-Way ANOVA results

| Model | | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|-------|------------|----------------|-----|-------------|-------|-------|
| 1 | Regression | 9.223 | 4 | 2.306 | 3.334 | 0.015 |
| | Residual | 42.876 | 118 | 0.692 | | |
| | Total | 52.099 | 122 | | | |

The probability value of 0.015 indicates that the regression relationship was highly significant in predicting how negotiation strategy, reconciliation strategy, mediation strategy and adjudication/arbitration strategy influenced social economic development among pastoralist communities. The F calculated at 5% level of significance was 3.334 since F calculated is greater than the F critical (value = 2.5252), this shows that the overall model was significant.

Table 4: Regression Coefficients

| Model | | Unstandardized Coefficients | | Standardized Coefficients | | Sig. |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------|----------|
| | | B | Std. Error | Beta | t | |
| 1 | (Constant) | 1.053 | 0.217 | | 2.889 | 5.31E-03 |
| | Negotiation strategy | 0.682 | 0.149 | 0.613 | 5.309 | 1.58E-06 |
| | Reconciliation strategy | 0.701 | 0.181 | 0.149 | 3.210 | 2.10E-03 |
| | Mediation strategy | 0.599 | 0.196 | 0.234 | 4.255 | 7.19E-05 |
| | Adjudication/arbitration strategy | 0.763 | 0.091 | 0.138 | 3.989 | 1.78E-04 |

As per the SPSS generated table above, the equation ($Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \beta_4X_4 + \epsilon$) becomes:

$$Y = 1.053 + 0.682X_1 + 0.701X_2 + 0.599X_3 + 0.763X_4$$

The regression equation above has established that taking all factors into account (negotiation strategy, reconciliation strategy, mediation strategy and adjudication/arbitration strategy) constant at zero social economic development among pastoralist communities will be 1.053. The

findings presented also show that taking all other independent variables at zero, a unit increase in the negotiation strategy would lead to a 0.682 increase in the scores of social economic development among pastoralist communities and a unit increase in the scores of reconciliation strategy would lead to a 0.701 increase in the scores of social economic development among pastoralist communities. Further, the findings shows that a unit increases in the scores of mediation strategy would lead to a 0.599 increase in the scores of co social economic development among pastoralist communities. The study also found that a unit increase in the scores of adjudication/arbitration strategy would lead to a 0.763 increase in the scores of social economic development among pastoralist communities.

Discussions of Findings

Negotiations

The study established that negotiations affected social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County. This agrees with William (2000) who opined that the underlying secret in negotiation is to harmonize the interests of the parties concerned. Thus, even when the conflict involves a member against his or her society, there is an emphasis on recuperation and reinsertion of errant member back into its place in society. The study also indicated that the effect was evidenced by harmonization of interests which affect social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County in a great. Again the study established that social cohesion in a great extent affected social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County. In line with this, Muigua (2010) opined that negotiation as an informal system has been hailed as one of the most fundamental methods of conflict resolution, offering parties maximum control over the process. Further the effect was evidenced by the fact that meetings and discussion in a large extent affected social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County. Again concession and compromise was found to have affected social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County in a moderate extent. Finally, the study found that recuperation and reinsertion affected social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County in a moderate extent. This correlates with Nancy and Welsh (2010) who indicated that where community members feel aggrieved by the actions of their opponents, they can seek to engage them through negotiation before exploring any other means, in case of a deadlock.

Reconciliation

Regarding the reconciliation strategies, the study found that reconciliation strategies influences social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County in a greater extent. This corresponds with Theresa and Oluwafemi (2014) that reconciliation is perhaps the most significant aspect of conflict management. The influence was evidenced by consensual outcomes which were found to have affected social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County in a very great extent. In line with this, Olaoba (2011) considered reconciliation the most significant aspect of conflict resolution, owing that it is the end product

of negotiation, mediation, or adjudication. This concurs with Lee and Rogan (2014) that the method is flexible, cost effective, and expeditious, fosters relationships, is non-coercive and result in mutual satisfying outcomes. It enhances accessibility of justice and moves it closer to the pastoralists since the area is remote and the neglect from government has made the access to modern justice not easy. The study also established that the effect was as a result of the aspects of reconciliation strategies such as mutual satisfying outcomes, Social contracts and compliance which were found to have affected social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County. However, values, norms and culture were found to have a moderate effect. Theresa and Oluwafemi (2014) agrees with this by indicating that The reconciliation mechanisms are home-grown and rooted in the values, norms, culture and institutions of the people, the people have owned it and identify with it. This makes it sustainable.

Mediation Strategy

In relation mediation strategies, the study established that the aspects of mediation strategies had a great influence on social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County. This corresponds with Olaoba (2011) who opined that mediation can be classified into two forms namely: Mediation in the political process and mediation in the legal process. Mediation in the political process is informed by resolution as against settlement. It allows parties to have autonomy over the choice of the mediator, the process and the outcome. The effect was evidenced by the fact that non-coercive intervention and Non-binding dispute resolution were being adopted in Isiolo County. Oluwafemi (2014) also added that mediation makes it more of a settlement mechanism that is attached to the court as opposed to a resolution process and defeats the advantages that are associated with mediation in the political process. This is also usually couched with the dictum of no victor no vanquished as buttressed by the maxim (Isurmona, 2011). Again capacity to reorient the parties and new and shared perception had a great influence on social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County. However, equality of opportunity was found to have a little influence on social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County. This correlates with Isurmona (2011) that mediation is often preferred because of its capacity to reorient the parties towards each other, not by imposing rules on them but by helping them to achieve a new and shared perception of their relationship. Olaoba (2011) indicated that inter-tribal conflicts were mediated and negotiated in informal settings, where they were presided over by Council of Elders who acted as ‘mediators’ or ‘arbitrators’. It was customary and an everyday affair where people sat down informally and agreeing on certain issues, such as allocation of resources

Adjudication/Arbitration

The study found that the aspects of adjudication/arbitration Strategies that influence social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County to a very great extent. This agrees with Muigua (2014) who observed that adjudication is thus effective in simple construction disputes that need to be settled within some very strict time schedules. The influence was as a result of strict time schedules, final and binding award and statutory controls

strategies being adopted in Isiolo County. This concurs with Kaye and Beland (2009) that due to the limited time frames, adjudication can be an effective tool of actualizing access to justice for disputants who are in need of addressing the dispute in the shortest time possible and resuming business to mitigate any economic or business losses. They study also found that actualizing access to justice had a great influence on social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County. In line with this, Kaye and Beland (2009) indicated that parties can agree on an arbitrator to determine the matter; the arbitrator has expertise in the area of dispute; any person can represent a party in the dispute; flexibility; cost-effective; confidential; speedy and the result is binding. The findings also agree with Ray (2009) who indicated that in disputes involving parties with equal bargaining power and with the need for faster settlement of disputes, especially business related, arbitration offers the best vehicle among the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms to facilitate access to justice. Arbitration can be useful in helping parties take control of their disputes and help in saving costs, time and emotional stress that may come with courts.

CONCLUSIONS

The study concludes that negotiation strategies had positively affected social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County. The study deduced that the effect was as a result of harmonization of interests which affect social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County in a great extent being adopted in Isiolo County. Again the study concludes that social cohesion in a great extent affected social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County. Further the effect was deduced that the fact that meetings and discussion in a large extent had affected social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County. Again concession and compromise was found to have affected social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County in a moderate extent. Finally, the study found that recuperation and reinsertion affected social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County in a moderate extent.

Regarding the reconciliation strategies, the study concluded that reconciliation strategies had a positive influence on social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County. The influence was deduced by the fact that consensual outcomes were found to have affected social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County. The study also concludes that the effect was as a result of the aspects of reconciliation strategies such as mutual satisfying outcomes, Social contracts and compliance which were found to have affected social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County. However, the study deduced that values, norms and culture were found to have moderate positive effect on social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County.

In relation mediation strategies, the study concludes that the aspects of mediation strategies had a positive influence on social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County. The effect was deduced by the fact that non-coercive intervention and Non-binding dispute resolution were being adopted in Isiolo County. Again capacity to reorient the parties and

new and shared perception had a great influence on social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County. However, the study concludes that equality of opportunity was found to have a little positive influence on social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County.

Further, the study concluded that the aspects of adjudication/arbitration Strategies had a positive influence social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo. The influence was deduced to be as a result of strict time schedules, final and binding award and statutory controls strategies being adopted in Isiolo County. They study also concludes that actualizing access to justice had a great positive influence on social economic development among pastoralist communities in Isiolo County.

RECOMMENDATIONS

On negotiation, the study recommends promotion of meetings and discussion between communities, increased inter-community recuperation and reinsertion, strong intercommunity social cohesion. The researcher recommends that concession and compromise should be done in first instance or immediately when a particular offence takes place. This would allow for immediate response from the responsible administrators, thus minimizing chances of escalation.

There is also need for strengthening of existing values, norms and culture and conflict resolution mechanisms. This will have consensual outcomes. Enhanced Mutual satisfying outcomes and compliance with the agreement plans and inter-community mutual satisfying outcomes on social economic development.

The study also recommends development of non-coercive intervention agreements between pastoral communities enhanced equal opportunity access to grazing resources and peaceful sharing of resources across territorial boundaries. Therefore, development of non-coercive intervention and non-binding dispute resolution on managing natural resources and equality of opportunity is central to finding lasting solutions for recurrent unrest in the study area.

The study further recommends that diminishing natural resource base does not automatically lead to violent conflict if there are functional local institutions, enforceable, respected land use plans and mechanisms and actualizing access to justice for negotiating cross-territorial grazing access in periods of scarcity. Participatory land use planning complemented with reciprocal grazing arrangements, therefore, provides the basis for achieving sustainable peaceful resource sharing among pastoral communities not only in northwestern Kenya but also in other areas which bear similarities with the region.

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