EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNITY LEADERS ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION AMONG PASTORALIST COMMUNITIES IN SAMBURU COUNTY, KENYA

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated how effective community leadership had on conflict resolution among pastoralists in Samburu County, Kenya. Over the last decade, Samburu County has continued to manifest unabated intercommunity conflicts. This is attributed to many factors, including the availability and misuse of small arms, inaccessible terrain, ungoverned spaces, struggle for scarce natural resources, intercommoned raiding, revenge and retaliatory attacks, harsh climatic conditions, and political incitements, among others. The purpose of this study was examined how effective community leadership had on conflict resolution. The objective of the study was to establish the early warning indicators of conflict. The study adopted descriptive survey design to achieve the research objective from a population of 93240 community leaders through purposeful sampling with a sample size of 168. The study utilized both primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected through questionnaire while secondary will involve document analysis. The research data collected was analysed using descriptive statistics for quantitative data and content analysis for qualitative data using statistical package for social scientist (SPSS). To collect data introductory letter was obtained from Mount Kenya university post graduate school. Research permit from National Council of science and technology (NACOSTI) was also obtained and clearance of ethical review committee. This study concluded that there was a positive significant (r=.217, p=.002) relationship between early warning signs and conflict resolution. This study recommends that more studies should be done on sustainable conflict resolution in Samburu County in Kenya and among other conflict affected a region in Kenya.

INTRODUCTION

Background to the Study

Conflict exists in all countries and in every level of society. Racial and ethnic violence takes manyforms. Genocides, ethnic cleansing, civil wars, and violent separatist movements are the most obvious and extreme expressions, but less organized violence such as rioting, and hate crimes byindividuals or small groups are products of racial and ethnic conflict as well. Also, the distributionof criminal violence within societies, which may or may not be aimed at members of another group, is in some places a by-product of ongoing conflicts between superior and subordinated racial or ethnic groups. Although estimates of the number of deaths attributable to ethnic violencevary widely, range of eleven to twenty million given for the period between 1945 and the early 1990s show the gravity of this type of conflict (Adams, 2019).

Global perspective conflict resolution

Conflicts are common phenomena in many regions of the world, especially in dry lands, that are endowed with scarce natural resources. Global environmental change coupled with population increases has led to unprecedented demand for resources. The consequences have been competition over control of and access to the meager resources which in turn trigger conflicts. Climate related environmental changes have been observed to be among the major causes of the conflicts (Gulliver, 2016). Climate change in the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) has been evidenced by increasing frequency of droughts from one in every six years to one in every three years.

Regional perspective Conflict Resolution

Conflict has grown rapidly in Africa in recent times and pastoral areas are most vulnerable. Particularly, conflict over water and grazing resources have become widespread in Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) and often overlaps with communal and inter-clan conflicts. Some scholars see resource scarcity (produced by climatic changes) as a major underlying determinant of pastoralists' violent human conflict (Inyengar &McGuire 2022).

Local perspective Conflict Resolution

In Kenya, the ASALs constitutes 439,000 km of the land mass, covers 23 counties, and is equivalent to 80 percent of Kenya's total land area (Government of Kenya, Government Press: Nairobi, 2013). Even though this area supports only 25 percent of the country's population, half of its livestock in Kenya is found in ASALs. All these pastoral groups use different animals including camels, cattle, goats and sheep, but their lifestyles and identities are defined largely by whether cattle or camels constitute their primary livestock holdings.

Statement of the Problem

There is little doubt that the recent approaches to conflict resolution in semi-Arid areas are in many ways contributing to conflict resolution, particularly in terms of the effectiveness with which they have prevented large scale protracted conflict like those witnessed in Somalia and Sierra Leone. However, sporadic conflicts in form of cattle rustling and ethnic intolerance have persisted. Northern Kenya is described in scholarship as 'ungoverned spaces' owing to the minimal presence of state security apparatus and widespread marginalization in such regions. Samburu County is no different; it encompasses inaccessible valleys with rough terrain and thick bushes that act as hiding places and armouries for many bandits and cattle raiders. There are numerous conflict resolution and peace building initiatives going on in Samburu County. These initiatives and abstract ideals about pastoralist communities however provide little practical help in dealing with the more immediate contradictions and difficulties that these resource scare communities face in their everyday lives. Samburu county has recently experienced an increased spate of attacks on police stations. Many police officers have been killed, with firearms and ammunition being stolen from police armouries.(Hendrickson et.al , 2016)

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the research was to establish the effectiveness of community leaders on conflict resolution among pastoralist communities in Samburu county, Kenya.

Objectives of the study

To assess the early warning indicators by the community leaders on conflict resolution among pastoralist communities in Samburu county, Kenya

Research Questions

The following research question was addressed in the study:

i. Which are the early warning indicators of conflict by the Community leaders amongpastoralist communities in Samburu county, Kenya?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

This chapter introduces the review of empirical literature and theories relating to project risk management and project success. It also gives the conceptual framework and recap of literature review and research gap. This chapter deals with community leaders on conflicts resolution, highlighting early warning signs or indicators of conflict.

Early Warning Indicators of Conflict

Conflict is a natural disagreement and a clash of interests, ideas, goals, and values of individuals and groups, once any form of dispute or difference arises, conflict is bound to occur. Indicators are useful in this respect, as they help reduce a complex reality to a few concrete dimensions and represent valuable pointers to monitor change. The conflict analysis will look at the relationship between specific actors, causes and profile, in order to gain an understanding of the conflict dynamics. Indicators will then be developed in order to reflect these relationships and how they evolve over time. It is important to have a mix of perception-based and objective indicators, eachof which should reflect qualitative and quantitative elements. (Almagor, 2017).

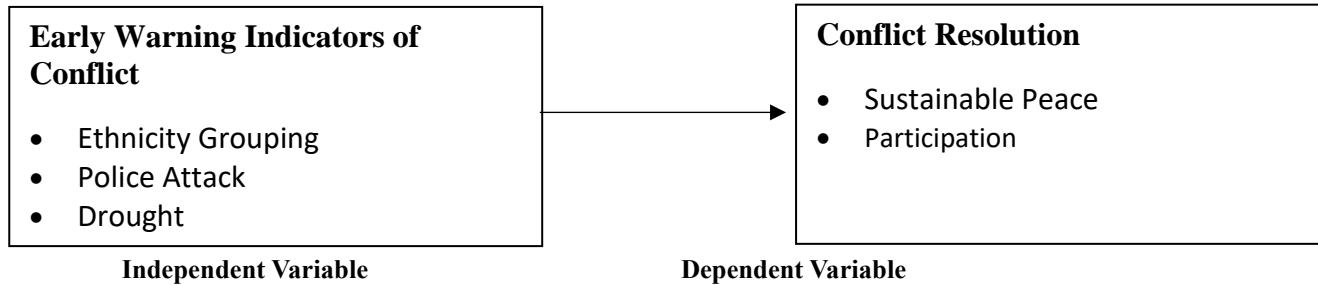### Theoretical Framework: A Review of Theories of Conflict

Conflict theory

Conflict theory was propounded by Karl Marx which states that society functions so that each individual participant and its groups struggle to maximize their benefits, which inevitably contributes to social change such as political changes and revolutions. Conflict theory successfully describes instances where conflict occurs between groups of people for variety of reasons. It is questionable whether this represents the ideal human society. Karl Marx claimed that growth anddevelopment occur through the conflict between opposing parties, cooperation is also a source ofhealthy growth. It needs to be determined under which situations, if any, conflict is necessary to produce change, as compared to those under which cooperation and harmony lead to the greatest advances. In understanding conflict theory, competition between social classes plays a key part. (Baumeister, &Vohs ,2019).

Conceptual framework for the study forms the basis for the research package and provides conceptual tools to critically analyze and promote more fruitful approaches to the given variables.In this research the independent and dependent variable are interrelated approach. Independent variables are the Knowledge of early warning indicator of conflict, Knowledge and skills of conflict resolution, knowledge of strategic leadership and level

of acceptance by the community while dependent is conflict resolution. The role of community leaders has been viewed as an effective a tool to resolve the current conflict in Samburu County. If the leaders play critical role of conflict resolution it will help them to avert possible causes of conflict that adversely affects thesocio-economic activities of the warring communities.

Conceptual Framework

Early Warning Indicators of Conflict	Conflict Resolution
• Ethnicity Grouping • Police Attack • Drought	• Sustainable Peace • Participation

      Independent Variable   **Dependent Variable**

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Introduction

This chapter outlined the methodology which was used in carrying out the study. Aspects covered in the study were included research design, target population, sampling design, and samplesize. Data collection methods, data collection instruments, and procedure, Validity and reliabilitytests, data analysis and ethical review consideration.

Research Design

The study adopted both qualitative and quantitative approach. The study employed descriptivesurvey research design which according to Best &Kahn (2016) is appropriate where the study looked at the effectiveness of community leaders in conflict resolution. Qualitative and quantitativedata was collected from the community leaders on their role in resolving conflicts Samburu County, Kenya by estimating the proportion of people who had certain characteristics and makepredictions.

Data Collection Instruments

The researcher used both primary and secondary dat. For the purpose of collecting primarydata, the researcher used a questionnaire. The questionnaire contained open ended and closed questions.

Pilot Testing

Prior to the main investigation, a pilot test was carried out in Turkana County. Its aimed toprovide guideline for examining specific issues of the survey (Uma & Bougie, 2019). It helped in testing of understandability and clarity of the questions on the questionnaire. Cohen & Morrison, 2017) suggest that 1–10% of the respondents from the target demographic was used for the pilot study. Therefore, in the current study, 10% of the target group comprisedof 16 respondents, who were chosen to participate in the pilot study.

Proposed Data Analysis and Presentation

Gay & Airsian (2019) posits that data analysis is the use of reasoning aimed at comprehending data that has been collected so as to predict patterns that are consistent while summarizing details that are relevant. The gathered information was coded into SPSS version24 where means and standard deviations as well as

percentages. The data was presented in tables and frequencies to describe the variables. The study adopted a multiple regression analysis model to test the relationship and strength of the variables. The regression model is as shown below.

$CR = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \varepsilon$

Where;CR = Conflict Resolution

X1 = Early warning indicators by community leaders

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Introduction

This chapter provides a detailed descriptive analysis of the research data obtained the interpretation and discussion of the findings of the study. The chapter first presents the response rate, presents the respondents' profile and the findings of the study variables. The said findings are presented in tables and discussed in this chapter in respect of the specific study objectives.

Response Rate

According to Schwarz (2018), a response rate refers to the number of units in the net sample used in the study expressed as a percentage of the units in the gross sample. In this study, a total of 164 questionnaires were administered out of which 132 questionnaires were duly returned and found to be properly filled and thus used in the study representing a response rate of 80.48%.

Linearity Tests

Linearity test was conducted though the ANOVA test before carrying out regression analysis. It was to visually show whether there is a curvilinear relationship between two continuous variables. According to Osborne and Waters (2019), the relationship must be linear for regression models to accurately estimate the relationship between dependent and independent. Results presented in table 2 shows that the F statistic is significant at $\alpha = 0.05$ significance level and therefore the study concluded that there exists a significant linear relationship between the dependent and the independent variables, and thus the data on the variables of this study were appropriate for regression analysis. The test results are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 : ANOVA Table

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	6.151	4	2.044	28.829	.000^b
	Residual	4.534	132	.071		
	Total	10.685	130			

a. Dependent Variable: conflict resolution

b. Predictors: (Constant), warning indicators.

Early warning indicators on conflict resolution

The research findings on   community leaders smelling a brewing conflict long before it occurs in Samburu County, Kenya were presented in form of percentages, means and standard deviation as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Early warning signs among pastoralist in Samburu county

	Mean	Std. Dev
Ethnicity groupings	2.33	1.113
Police attacks	2.15	1.241
Drought	2.69	1.218
Bandits	3.50	1.138
Political Incentives	3.64	1.214
Valid N (listwise) 132		

(Source, field data 2024)

Results on ethnicity groupings indicated that is an early indicator brewing conflict long before it occurs in Samburu county with a mean of 2.33 and a standard deviation of 1.113. The research findings showed that police attacks are an early indicator brewing conflict long before it occurs in Samburu county with a mean of 2.15 and a standard deviation of 1.241.

Correlation Analysis

The study sought to establish the relationships that existed between the independent variables and the dependent variable in the study. Pearson product moment correlation coefficient was used to indicate the relationships. The findings for the analysis were as presented hereafter.

The Relationship between early warning indicators on conflict resolution

The composite score for early warning by community leaders were computed and correlated with composite score for conflict resolution. The findings from the analysis were as shown in Table 18.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

This chapter presents a summary of the research findings from the data analysis. The chapter further presents the conclusions and the recommendations of the study.

Early warning indicators of conflict among pastoralist in Samburu County, Kenya

Table18 : Correlations between between early warning indicators on conflict resolution

		Early warning signs
	Pearson Correlation	.217
Conflict resolution	Sig. (2-tailed)	.002
	N	132

The research findings on early warning indicators revealed that ethnicity groupings showed a mean of 2.33 and a standard deviation of 1.113, police attacks showed mean of 2.15 and a standard deviation of 1.241.

Conclusions of the Study

This study concludes that there was a positive significant (r=.217, p=.002) relationship between early warning signs and conflict resolution. Thus, early warning signs had a direct relationship with conflict resolution among pastoralist in Samburu County therefore they should be taken in to consideration on how to mitigate them.

Recommendations of the Study

The study recommends that community leaders should ensure that the inhabitants of particular area enjoy benefit of peace through conflict resolution. This can be done by addressing long-term peace building initiative and the necessary structural improvement needed to ensure sustainable peace and accelerate conflict resolution mechanism.The community leaders should have an alternative dispute resolution through participation, supportive and consultative conflict resolution that will determine the control and the allocation of scarce resources without influencing its direction to minimize conflicts among pastoralist communities in Samburu County, Kenya. The government should sensitive community leaders though seminars, barazas and workshops to enhance more skills and knowledge on conflict resolution among pastoralist communities.

Recommendations for Further Studies

The study looked at early warning signs, on conflict resolution among pastoralist communities in Samburu County. This study recommends that more studies should be done on sustainable conflict resolution in Samburu County in Kenya and among other conflict affected aregion in Kenya.

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