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Effects of Insecurity on Socio-Economic Development of Northern Kenya

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Abstract

Human insecurity of the Arid and Semi- Arid (ASALS) Northern Kenya is indeed a challenge towards realization of equal spatial-geographical development. Even though devolved systems of Government is in place towards near achievement of equal development through being disbursed for Equalization Funds on top financial yearly disbursement of funds to the counties in accordance to the constitution 2010 provisions on devolution, the region remains largely underdeveloped as compared to other regions in Kenya. Insecurity in this region are aggravated by practices such as cattle rustling in which sophisticated weapons like AK47 and M16 rifles are used by rustlers and terrorists more specifically Al-Shabaab especially in Mandera, Wajir, Garrisa and Lamu Counties. In addition, the Al-Shabaab use IED, hand propelled granades, landmines, matchettes amongst other lethal weapons. The scenario is that Civil servants more specifically non-locals in various sectors e.g. education, health, agriculture, security perceive the regions as being very insecure. The purpose of the study is to determine effects of insecurity on socio-economic development. Specific objectives were to establish: effects of insecurity on trade in Northern Kenya; to establish effects of insecurity on crop and livestock farming and to establish effects of insecurity education on health services. The study was underpinned by peaceful co-existence theory. The study established that there is a strong relationship between (in)security and socioeconomic development, that the insecurity in Northern Kenya has negatively affected trade, health services and livestock and livestock framing. Many civil servants flee the area because of the hostility that characterize the region. The findings have implications for security agencies drawn from the Ministry of Interior and Defense and County security apparatus to work closely with the local communities towards attainment of sustainable peace.

INTRODUCTION

The work was guided by the aim was to determine the effects of insecurity on socio-economic development in Kenya. Specific objectives were to determined effects of insecurity on trade; crop farming and livestock raring and effects of insecurity on trade, education and health services in Northern Kenya. The work is presented in the order of introduction, materials and methods, results, Dicussions, impplication of the study/urgency and value of the study and conclusion.

Insecurity in Northern Kenya region is an open truth and volatility and hostility of the area in terms of natural environment the situation that is aggravated by insecurity in the area characterized by cattle rustling, terrorism suspiciously carried out by Al-Shabaab militants especially in the North Eastern Region and Lamu County that has a wide Witu Forest area bordering Kenya and Somalia thereby giving an enabling wild environment for the militants to

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carry out their criminal activities and run back to Somalia. Nearly on daily basis reports of insecurity comes from these hostile places on northern Kenya. The scenario has implications of socio-economic matters as human beings do their businesses and services best in threat-free environments. Even though certain conflicts in these areas are environmentally enhanced in that going the socio-economic practice of the dweller in this agro-pastoral region is pastoralism, sometimes extreme dryness and hence e lack of water can make communities fight over and sometimes they also fight over scarce pastures for their animals. However environmentally enhanced conflicts could only be seasonal and not as protracted as those of cattle rustling and the frequent terrorist attacks with intention to achieve particular schemes. This area largely suffers transport and communication infrastructural development gaps due to prolonged marginalization by the government both in the colonial era and the post-independence era. As such accessibility to most places in the region is generally difficult with very poor road network.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Hussein (2019) on the impact of armed groups on socio-economic development in Marsabit County, Kenya: A Case study of Oromo Liberation Front (OLF). That the operations of OLF has negatively impacted socio-economic development in Marsabit area. The study was destined to extrapolate the effects of armed groups on socio-economic development of Marsabit County.The study was underpinned by Protracted Socio-Conflict Theory (PSCT) originally founded by Azar.The study adopted a case study design I which qualitative options explored. The target population consisted of business men/women, religious leaders, NGOs' leadership, women leadership, Locational Chiefs and Sub-Locational administrators. The finding was that OLF negatively impacted socio-economic development.

Mwangi (2020) on environmental conflict and National security in Kenya: A study of Turkana Community was underpinned by Homer Dixon Theory that adduced a wide array of empirical with linking environmental degradation with violent outcomes and articulating a preliminary theoretical framework to explain these linkages. Homer-Dixons points out that violent outcomes are the product of interactions between scarcity and a number of other factors for example regularity migration. That conflicts in this area is not only caused by scarcity alone but should be topical of research.

OjoChenemi (2019) on a comparative assessment of socio-economic dimension on Niger Delta Militancy and Boko-Haram Insurgency: Towards the security development Nexus in Nigeria adopts literature review leading to debate on the nexus between security and development was underpinned by Root cause and Retrieval Clence Theory (2CRs) through qualitative analysis demonstrates the relative implications of socio-economic causes and effects of both insurgencies based on evidence form interviews, available video documents and literature. Acknowledging weak, howecer, irrefutable connection between security and development. The study underscores the that socio-economic dimensions of both insurgencies into long-term recovery plan ,despite seeing religious façade in Boko-Haram .The study shows that while poverty for example is necessary but insufficient in explaining conflict, its ,its persistence amidst affluence and economic growth suggests that it significantly determines hopelessness against lack of trust in the system that often nudge some citizens to seek alternative means of redress may ethnotization, or religion as suggestive of the Niger Delta and Boko-Haram insurgency,respectively.The conflicts herein are protracted and long standing over the years. That this insecurity has spawned underdevelopment due to the insurgency.

The purpose of the study was to establish the effects of insecurity on socio-economic development in Northern Kenya.

METHODS

This section deals with materials and methods used in the study. Northern Kenya was deliberately chosen by the virtue of its volatility on matters pertaining insecurity, and marginalization on development agenda both in the colonial period and the post -independence period in Kenya. The intensity of human insecurity issues especially due to armed banditry and

terrorism, especially from the suspected Al-Shabaab Militants are close synonymous with the North Eastern and other parts of northern Kenya.

The studies so analyzed employed different techniques including survey, case studies, correlational studies, literature review, descriptive design, mixed methods, Panel of studies approach. Various models were also utilized in the various studies to give meaning to the traditions empirical studies.

RESULT

This section looks at results, discussions, implications/value of the study and conclusions, within the framework of research traditions. The discussions herein are presented in accordance to the study objectives hence the sub-themes of the analysis herein.

On question of insecurity on trade in Northern Kenya

Odongo (2019) on an analysis of protracted nature of pastoral conflicts in East Africa: A Case of Northern Kenya adopted descriptive survey design in which survey instruments such as questionnaires,interviews,focused group discussions were administered to selected participants drawn from amongst the Pokot and Turkana.The study established that the protracted conflict has taken the dimensions of commercialization by some polticians,and some unscrupulous businessmen who thrive on the conflict scenario for selfish gains. The hostility in the agro-pastoral environment deprives the surrounding communities of certain essential social services like health and education. That overdependence on livestock as the means of livelihoods complicates the arithmetic that make banditry a near norm amongst the communities that give the cattle rustling a near-cultural practice because when steals the animals wealth is added and or market out there for the stolen livestock and or livestock products and hence the cycle of endless conflicts with proliferation of complicated weapons and broad daylight raiding and driving away animals, culminating into a chain reaction from those whose animal are taken away also chasing after them implying more conflict that sometimes results into injuries and or even deaths.

Mutie (2022) on contribution of human insecurity to underdevelopment in Garissa County, Kenya used descriptive survey design in which 400 people were sampled for the study. These consisted of members of County and National Governments, Public Organizations, religious leaders, option leaders and lay public. They were drawn from all the six sub-counties that constitute Garissa County.The data were collected through questionnaires, and interview schedules. The study established that the rampant insecurity in the form of cattle rustling, inerclan conflicts occasioned by terrorism negatively impact development and service delivery in essential sectors such as health, education, trade amongst others. The livestock keepers too are not at peace because heavily armed bandits usually attack the herders and drive away their livestock many a times to un known locales and all this scenario of conflict negatively impact socio-economic development leaving the area to lag behind in terms of development, the situation is complicated by the fact that the region has suffered development marginalization not only in the post-independence Kenya but too in the colonial era.

Kopyon (2019) on the influence of Pokot-Turkana Ethnic Conflicts on Socio-Economic Development in the North Rift: A Case Study of Kapedo Division. The study was underpinned by Azar's Theory of Protracted Social Conflict and adopted descriptive survey design. Secondary data were also explored. The findings were that causes of the conflicts included scarce resources such as water and pasture, cattle rustling, political incitements, boundary disputes, high levels of illiteracy amongst the people making them readily Manipulable by selfish-interest opinion leaders, weak security systems. These conflicts translates into injuries and or deaths, displacement of people, separation of families, excessive marginalization by the Government, high poverty levels, distortion of market for livestock, increased level of economic dependency, fear and mistrust amongst the communities .The findings` have implications for the State Department of Interior and Defence, County Security Team ,Opinion Leaders

including area local leadership and religious leaders to look for the sustainable approach to ensuring peaceful co-existence amongst the Pokot and Turkana neighbors.

Mbugua (2016) on the causes and impact of insecurity on pastoralists' economies: A case of West Pokot County, Kenya adopted both secondary and primary data. The period under study was between 1990-2015.The insecurity of that time was anchored on human security concept based on view that security entails protection of individuals from external attacks and also including personal security, political and economic security.Pokot are largely socio-economically dependent on livestock for socio-cultural use for example for dowry payment in traditional marriages.Questionniares and interviews were administered you collect data amongst 74 respondents that constituted of 10 key informants and 64 people drawn from the lay community respondents. The study established that insecurity in West Pokot is largely fueled by cattle rustling while other causes of conflict include boundary questions, and that the conflicts negatively impact on socio-economic development as it affects investments, trade relations and lead to low household income.

Mwangi (2014) on Socio-economic factors in the transformation of rural economies in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands: Lessons from Turkana County adopted descriptive survey design targeting 1000 people out of which 100 respondents were sampled for the study and 8 key informants. The study established that in the region are pastoralists and that there is relationship between economics, investment and the long standing anti-poverty project initiatives.

Obi (2016) on challenges of insecurity and terrorism in Northern Nigeria adopts literature review on Boko-Haram militant insurgency in Northern Nigeria traversing the former Sokoto Caliphate. That Boko-Haram terrorism has left many innocent civilians dead and or injured with sometimes their limbs chopped off, cases of abduction, rapes have been reported. The information was drawn from the Central Bank of Nigeria's Statistical data, media, journals, using Ordinary Least Square model the findings were analyzed. The finding is that these violent conflicts negatively impacts on economic development in Nigeria.

On the Question of Effects of insecurity on Livestock Framing

Orire and Ogunfolaji (2021) on Dimensions of human security and socio-economic development in Ilorin Metropolitan-Kwara State, Nigeria explored both secondary and primary data on the subject are cognizance of the problem of insecurity especially in Nigeria.Primary data were collected through questionnaires and interviews. Secondary data were collected form the National Population Commission and State Bureau of statistics. Data collected were analyzed using z-scores, Lorenz Curve demonstrating negative impaction of conflict on socio-economic development in Nigeria.

Kamta et.al, (2020) on insecurity, resource scarcity and migration to camps of internally displaced persons in North Eastern Nigeria adopted both secondary and primary data and were cognizant of the fact that the Lake Chad Basin of N.E. Nigeria is prone to insurgency by Boko-Haram and the general Sahelian environs with general Aridity and water scarcity. Primary data were collected through survey of 204 IDPs at Bokassi IDP Camp in Maiduguiri between March and May 2019.Experts from government agencies, NGOs were also surveyed. Findings were that what triggered migration were many including land, water, pasture, and socio-economic stints such as business, farming. That insecurity occasioned by Boko-Haram insurgency in the said period derailed socio-economic development in the region.

Akama et al (2023) on Cattle Rustling in the North Rift of Kenya: the implications for education adopted literature review and are cognizant of the fact that cattle rustling is indeed a thorny issue in the aforementioned geospatial locale and since the practice in nearly on a daily basis, it is somewhat synonymous with the zone. The study examined the availability of both legal and illegal arms amongst the residence of the region. The study was underpinned by Albert Bandura on social learning Theory and based on the theory the contention is that when the youths increasingly become miltatant and acquisition of more knowledge leading to violent behavior form the surrounding environment. The North Rift was purposively selected for the study because of its volatility on matters pertaining cattle rustling and the associated violence with all sophisticated arms on a near-daily basis hence making the area synonymous with banditry and violence. The study established that the community are not comfortable with the

guns in their midst even if they are held by the national police reservists and that even thigh NPRs have substantially led to reduction in the banditry initiated raids amongst members of communities. That the environment characterized by banditry and violence therein orientate the youths into violence so that the practice is likely to be more protracted and hence requires substantive and firm interventions by multi-agency team consisting of community opinion leaders, county security team and state department of internal security to root out completely this scary and violent practice in the North Rift.

The study was underpinned by the 'ungoverned spaces'theoritical incline that holds that phenomenon is a by-product of the state's abject failure to monoplise violence of failure of the government to restore order by bringing to checks the armed criminal groups that have wrecked and still continue to do so in the Northern region on Nigeria. Drawing from the relative deprivation theory, that banditry not the rural communities to the ungoverned spaces but the ethnic community bandits have taken criminality for survival based on their principles of what they had, what they should have and what they think they should have within the context of violence therein. That the vice of banditry has had negative impact on socio-economic development of Nigeria and threatened peaceful intercommunity co-existences especially amongst the pastoralists like the Fulani.

Yusuf (2023) on operations on tackling insecurity in North Western Nigeria which is characterized by violence in the forms of raping, killings, injuring, livestock theft, displacement of rural people, closure of schools, destruction of property, abandoned farmlands. The study used descriptive survey design in which focused group discussions, and key informant interviews were administered to collect data and also questionnaires. The findings were that fear and mistrust reigns amongst members of the communities, uncertainty and a gap in socio-economic practices and hence derailment of development agenda. The use of military to county the insurgency in the Northern Nigeria is held high by the communities who are largely scared stiff due to the horror that characterize the violence.

Ojo et.al (2023) on forces of terror: armed banditry, insecurity in North Western Nigeria are cognizant of the security conundrum that characterize northern Nigeria with unprecedented waves of violence in the forms of maiming, kidnaping, cattle rustling and disruptive scoio-economic activities, displacement of people, fear and uncertainty. Visible conflicts and invisible conflict were assessed where appropriate as deemed relevant to the subject under the study. That bandit has negative effects on socioecomic issues and destruction of lives, diving away of livestock, rampant insecurity and all the challenges associated with livestock banditry practice. The findings have implications for the government of Nigeria together with the federations to work hand-in –hand and restore order and bring security in the north and ensure socio-economic growth and enjoyment off peace amongst the residence as so enjoyed people from other regions of Nigeria.

Amujiri et.al (2020) on analysis of the Nexus between structural Violence and armed banditry/Kidnapping in North Western Nigeria adopted descriptive survey study design in which 250 people were sampled for the study. The findings about the causes on insecurity included unemployment, perpetual corruption, and proliferation of small arms, all of which have negative implications on the level of socio-economic development in the security violent region.

The study adopted descriptive survey study design in which 120 people were sampled to participate in the study. The study was more inclined in questioning the traditional government to humanistic approach to dealing with the issue and the modern humanistic approach to handling the matter. The study established that drivers to banditry and insecurity in the named area is largely due to lack of government control, high unemployment levels, high poverty levels, lack of social purpose, archaic cultural livestock raiding practices, competition for scarce resources, proliferation of small and sophisticated arms amongst the pastoralists and Political and business interests. That the contemporary banditry in Kenya is indeed a threat to security in the nation. The findings have implications for the multi-agency security team in Kenya to work hand-in –hand to put security in order in the northern region of Kenya.

Amitabh and Hamisi (2023) on Pastoralism and Northern Kenya Economy adopted secondary data and are cognizant of the overdependence on livestock as the main economic

mainstay of the communities in Wajir, Garissa, Mandera, Isiolo, Marsabit, West-Pokot, Tharaka-Nithi, Turkana, Elgeyo-Marakwet, Laikipia, Kitui, Tana River and Baringo Counties, a region covering over 75% of Kenya's total land surface area. That the pastoral communities that occupy these areas face challenges of scarce resources, frequent droughts, scarcity of water and pasture for the livestock, all such environmental challenges coupled with socio-cultural orientations face the economic basement of the communities. Diversification of socio-economic livelihoods could be handy to these communities towards sustainable socio-economic development.

On the Question of Insecurity on Health and Educational Services

That livestock raiding seemed more violent during the rainy season when water and pasture are in plenty and also when livestock are in good health and hence could fetch better market and hence the corresponding higher incidence of violent raids and deaths during wet seasons that present opportunities for raiding.

Makhanu (2023) on Civil society and socio-economic development of Isiolo County, Kenya 1963-2018 examined the government policies regarding socio-economic development of Isiolo County in Northern Kenya. Data collected were analyzed using z-scores Lorenz curve and regression analysis. Findings revealed upscaled strategies towards security dispensation and socio-economic adaptation strategies in the context. That insecurity has disturbed the socio-economic strength and balance of the region as very minimal peace prevails in the region that is characterized by insecurity causalities ranging from livestock rustling to terrorism.

Mbugua (2016) on the causes of and impact of insecurity on pastoralists' economies: The case of West Pokot County Kenya 1990-2015 adopted descriptive survey deign in which 74 respondents precipitated in the study. These consisted of 64 respondents drawn from the community and 10 key informants who were surveyed through key informant's interviews. Findings were that banditry is the main cause of insecurity in West Pokot with proliferation of complicated weapons such as AK47, M16, that has made the livestock rustling be a thing of broad day light, contrary to the past when the raids could be conducted under cover of darkness. Questionnaires and interviews were administered to gather data. Findings were that insecurity has caused fear and mistrust amongst the people living in the region, displacement of people, traumatic experiences, injuries, deaths, cattle driven away and sparked intercommunity conflicts to a scale making the area so volatile. That the ensuing hostile scenario impact negatively on business, farming, livestock rearing, making the people there socio-economically vulnerable to the insecurity situation thereby nitrifying poverty amongst most households.

Obi (2016) on challenges of insecurity and terrorism in Nigeria: Implications for National Development underscore the volatile situation on northern Nigeria occasioned by Boko-Haram insurgency leading to development plan accomplishment nightmare amongst the dwellers of the geospatial locale on Nigeria. Information garnered through written materials like Central Bank of Nigeria, statistical bureaus, Newspaper reports and bulletin reports. Findings were that socio-economically, the region is doing poorly due to the menace of insecurity.

Odongo (2014) on the influence of socio-economic factors in the transformation of rural economies in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands: Lessons from Turkana County, Kenya adopted a descriptive survey design in which 1000 households were targeted and 8 key informants to whom key informant interviews were administered. Simple random sampling procedures to get 100 participants. Relationships between economic investment and long standing anti-poverty projects in the Country.

Ojewale et.al (2024) on climate change and armed Banditry in North Western Nigeria: A Troubled synergy of insecurity. Armed Banditry in Nigeria adopted literary criticisms and were cognizant of the fact that North Western Nigeria is a security volatile region with high incidences of insecurity characterized by violence, kidnapping, displacement, killings and human injuries. That studies abound banditry and violence in the region was studied from between 2010-2021.The finding were that precipitation decline and increase in temperatures meant dry spell and hence likelihood of conflicts in the region. That the hostile weather events

like rise in temperatures and decline in rainfall implying shortages in pasture and water witnessed increased banditry raids with serious ramifications on socio-economic developments.

The Main Findings of the study

The study established that insecurity has serious negative impacts on socio-economic development in the communities affected as it creates a hostile environment that may not be conducive for economically driving activities such as crop and animal husbandry (agriculture), trade and other livelihood ventures for the residents in such geographical locales. The essential social services such as health and education are negatively affected in the violent prone northern Kenya as the civil servants on those assignments usually tend to flee the insecurity and violence that characterize the activities of armed banditry and terrorism which have frequently been occurring and are still the order of the day and consequently the region is synonymous with violence, banditry and terrorism which negatively affects the socio-economic development of the environmentally hostile region but too has been isolated and or marginalized by both the colonial and the national government of post-independent Kenya over the years and consequently have been lagging behind in terms of transport infrastructure and other necessities of realization of development in the society. The norther Kenya region therefore generally lags behind more so due to the rampant insecurity in the region.

Implications/Urgency/Value of the Study

The study of this magnitude has implications on the Multi-Agency Security headed by the stated departments of internal security and defence towards guaranteeing the residence of these area security as enshrined in the constitution 2010.That despite the significance of the security concerns and economic development little studies if any have been carried to address the issue of insecurity and its impaction on development in northern Kenya and hence will go along bridging the knowledge gap that fits the research tradtion.The finding is of value to policy makers in Kenya on security,economic,social and infrastructural development to work together are guaranteed northern Kenya too a chance towards realizing her socio-economic potentials by addressing the insecurity ills.

CONCLUSIONS

That northern Kenya that is largely occupied by the pastoralists is a vast land surface area covering over 75% of total of Kenya's Land surface area. That the area has suffered marginalization towards development from the colonial times to the post-independent period. That naturally the area suffers from climatic hostility in that it is generally dry thereby constraining efforts towards rain-fed farming. That violence and insecurity largely due to armed banditry and terrorism have negatively impacted in socio-economic development initiatives in the region thereby living it behind when compared to other regions that relatively enjoy peace and security.

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