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ROLE OF CHURCH JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION AND CONFLICTS MANAGEMENT IN PASTORAL COMMUNITIES

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Abstract

Purpose: The parabolic role of any church in society: to be a source of influence, in organic and pervasive ways as a free corporate decision- maker in the society. The general objective of the study was to evaluate role of church justice and peace commission and conflicts management in pastoral communities

Methodology: The paper used a desk study review methodology where relevant empirical literature was reviewed to identify main themes and to extract knowledge gaps.

Findings: The study concludes that different mechanisms influenced in the management of conflicts between communities. The initiatives made by religious organization in mediating, disarmament, peace mission and reintegration were helpful in quelling the conflicts between conflicting communities. Also, the introduction of county government reduced incidences of cattle rustling as leaders from both counties usually arranged for peace meeting through which issues surrounding them were discussed and mediated upon.

Recommendations: There is need for religious leaders from pastoral communities to be involved and avoid siding with any of their respectively conflicting communities. The place that religious leaders and organizations held in the society could be observed by ensuring that the members of clergy remained non-partisan for the sake of offering spiritual and moral support to the victims of the conflicts. The elders from pastoral Communities need to assert their authority in ensuring that the commands and decisions they make to young men against attacking or raiding the neighbouring communities, were strictly followed and those found to violate could be punished

Keywords: role, church justice, peace commission, conflicts management, pastoral communities

1.0 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Conflicts are common phenomena in many regions of Africa, especially in dry lands, areas with scarce natural resources. Global environmental change coupled with population increase has led to unprecedented demand for resources (Rizwan, 2018). The Turkana, Pokot and Malire communities are pastoralists inhabiting the extreme North Rift region. They have frequently engaged in conflicts and clashes over animals, pasture, water and protracted violent ethnic oriented conflicts. According to Guimarães, (2020) this area is characterized by high poverty levels and illiteracy, with low life expectancy. In addition, Goldsmith, (2017), Greiner, (2013) argue that cattle rustling bears a histo-cultural face among these communities, pointing out that since 1992, the activity became commercialized.

According to Mattiace (2019) traditional societies resolved conflicts through internal and external controls. Osei-Hwedie and Rankolopo (2012) opine that traditional conflict resolution processes are part of a well-structured, time proven social system geared towards reconciliation, maintenance and improvement of social relationships. Boege (2011) identifies three main features of traditional approaches to conflict transformation. Its aim, which is the restoration of order and relationships, its methods, which are holistic and consensus-based and the context in which they can be pursued, which is generally restricted to local communal conflicts, cultural approaches to resolution and managing disputes play a vital role in promoting peace and social order in communities (Mohanty,2019). Individual and faith- based organizations from a variety of religious traditions are increasingly active to end conflicts and to foster post-conflict reconciliation between warring parties in various parts of the world (Mohanty,2019). Religious, individual and faith- based organization as carries of religious ideas, can play important roles beside acting as tools for conflict resolution and peace building, priding early warnings of conflict, good offices once conflict has erupted and contributing to advocacy mediation and reconciliation. Tenaw,(2019) argues that religious peacemakers from Mozambique, Nigeria, and Cambodia demonstrate attempts, characteristically partially successful, to reconcile previously warring communities, thereby helping to achieve greater social cohesion and providing a crucial foundation for progress in enhancing human development.

Conflicts among pastoral communities are largely caused by competition over control of, and access to, natural resources particularly water and pasture. Other causes of conflicts include

historical rivalry, deep-seated cultural values, land issues, political incitements, lack of guidance amongst youths and, more recently, proliferation of illicit arms (Ota,2018). However, Mathew et al. (2019) observed that exploitation of natural resources and other related environmental stresses are crucial in all phases of the conflicts, from outbreak and perpetuation of violence to undermining prospects for peace. They note that at least 40% of the intra administrative agencies conflicts in the last sixty years are associated with natural resources. In some parts of Sudan, for instance, conflicts have intensified due to dwindling natural resources caused by severe droughts (Malith, 2017).

To focus single-mindedly on conflicts within and between religions not only over simplifies causal interconnections between religion and conflicts, by disregarding important alternative variables, but also leads to under estimation of attempts emerging from various religious traditions to help resolve conflicts and build peace. The point was that, when successful, religion's role in helping to resolve conflicts and build peace was crucial component in helping to achieve human development more generally. Religious peacemakers" are religious individuals or representatives of faith-based organizations that attempt to help resolve inter-group conflicts and build peace (Kuppen, 2018).

The world religions share a broadly similar set of theological and spiritual values and views and this potentially underpins their ability to provide positive contributions to conflict management and peace-building. Practical effects in this regard have increased in recent years, with growing numbers and types of religious peacemakers working to try to build peaceful coexistence in multi-faith societies, while advocating reconciliation and fairness in a world that often seems characterized by social and political strife and economic disparity (Knowles, 2018). Another step towards managing ethno-religious conflicts in Nigeria was that, the government at all levels encouraged, in their domains, effective and functional platforms for ethnoreligious leaders so that through them, it would be possible to establish a network for conflicts prevention and management . This study was necessary because in Nigeria, various political, religious, traditional and ethnic leaders in most areas of conflicts hardly sat together to discuss the causes of ethno-religious violence and how to prevent future conflicts (Irene, 2017). What this meant was that in Nigeria, with a bad history of ethnoreligious conflicts, leaders hardly met to build bridges of understanding that could lead to the establishment of mutual confidence that could sustain a multi-ethnic society. Thus, rather than being part or initiators of the solution, they (leaders) often became part of the conflicts, which they resolved.

The paramount goal of resolving conflict was not to eliminate it; rather the goal was to accentuate its profitable dynamics

To achieve this end, the Catholic Church therefore designed strategies to promote open communication and understanding (Lomanchiska 2020). The Catholic Church, as a community of faith, was different from other social organizations. It is relationship based. Therefore, the Catholic Church was more susceptible to solve conflicts most especially interpersonal conflicts than other social organizations. Complicating this matter were church leaders who viewed conflict as a destructive experience and grossly lack adequate training to manage conflicts within groups. Christians therefore commonly responded to solve this conflicts by either avoiding or accommodating it (Qiu, 2020).

Erratic weather patterns and recurrent droughts have negatively impacted the availability of resources. Frequent crop failure has led to food insecurity in the region and according to a report by IGAD Davis (2016) this has resulted in increased incidents of raids, and increased competition over water and pasture. Droughts have also led to the loss of animals, encouraging raids and counter raids.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Various studies have taken different approaches in the study of the pastoral conflicts between communities. Some focus on the ecology (Dyson and Dyson, 2016; Touliman, 2014; Scheffran, Brzoska,Kominek, Link and Schilling, 2012), commercialization (Hendrickson, Armon and Mearns, 2019; Fleisher, 2020; Kratli and Swift, 2019), ethnography (Gray, 2020: peace building (Eaton, 2018), Small arms (McCabe, 2014), and raiding (Schilling et al., 2012). None of these studies however pinpoint the real nerve centre that sustain the conflict and what should be done to stop it. This is what generated the interest in this study.

Different organs such as the local governments, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based organizations (CBOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and independent peace representatives have made several efforts to bring peace in the region (Eaton, 2008:243-244). Despite disarmament and rearming communities through the Kenya Police Reservists (KPR) (Mkutu and Wandera, 2013), peace building meetings, prosecuting perpetrators, declaring illicit firearms surrender amnesties and establishing peace committees, insecurity and violent conflicts in the region continued to prevail (Mkutu, 2010).. The current study will bring

into light the role of church justice and peace commission and conflicts management in pastoral communities

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study was to evaluate role of church justice and peace commission and conflicts management in pastoral communities.

1.4 Justification and Significance of the Study

The statistics indicate that approximately 740,000 children, women, youth and men die globally each year because of armed violence, most of them in low- and medium-income settings (Krause, Muggah, Wenmann, and 2008). Most of these deaths occur in situations other than war, though armed conflicts continue to generate a high incidence of casualties. Approaches to prevent and reduce these deaths and related suffering are becoming increasingly important on the international agenda. The UN General Assembly (2008) and the United Nations (UN) Secretary General (2009) highlighted the relationships between armed violence and under-development and various high-level diplomatic processes are drawing more attention to promising solutions. Despite the global preoccupation with the costs and consequences of armed violence, comparatively little evidence exists about how to stem its risks and effects. Apart from the important contribution of the new data to existing literature, this study addressed subject that was clearly important in Africa. The study realized that conflicts in pastoral communities have been attributed to boundary and resource tussle in the area. This frequency and nature of conflicts justified the study to find out what happened to the Turkana communities and other pastoralist communities like the Pokot and the Marire of Ethiopia from the period of 1960 to 2015 that made them experience a recurrence of conflicts. Previous attempts have all fallen short in their efforts to instill sustainable peace-making efforts. The study found out that the failed attempts are because they focused on symptoms of negative reciprocity instead of the interruption of the conflicts spiral. The study would also be beneficial to scholars as it would contribute to plugging knowledge gap in line with access role of church justice and peace commission and conflicts management in pastoral communities

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical review

Two theories were found to be relevant in building on access of role of church justice and peace commission and conflicts management in pastoral communities. The theories that were found

to best inform the research constructs are theory of protracted social conflict (Azar, 1990) and Liberal institution theory (Elton ,1964).

2.1.1 Theory of Protracted Social Conflict

Several explanations have been provided as to what causes conflicts at different levels. However, there exists a theory that explains contemporary conflicts and assists to situate it in the social and international context. The choice of E. Azar's theory of Protracted Social Conflict (PSC) as explained by Ramsbotham, (2005) in this study will be appropriate since it will situate the study in the right context. This theory seeks to explain the discontentment of communal groups due to deprivation of human needs, communal content as seen in the two groups trying to protect their identity, property and lives by revenging against the rival community. E. Azar's theory of Protracted Social Conflict (PSC) will address the 'preconditions' for conflicts visible between the communities in Turkana County. It will analyse the 'proximate causes', focusing particularly on the relationships and dynamics of the various actors, their perceptions of each other and the nature of the conflicts itself. Edward Azar offered one of the first analytical attempts to comprehensively analyse and explain the protracted nature of intra-state conflicts (Ramsbotham, 2005).

Influenced by the persistent conflicts in his native Lebanon and countries like Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Northern Ireland, Israel, Ethiopia, Sudan and Nigeria. Azar developed a framework for the 46 analysis of such conflicts which he called Protracted Social Conflict (PSC) and defined it as: "the prolonged and often violent struggle by communal groups for such basic needs as security, recognition and acceptance, fair access to political institutions and economic participation (Azar, 1990). Azar argued that the denial of basic human needs to a large portion of the population-initiated instances of protracted social violence. There are four pre-conditions that are isolated by Azar as predominant sources of PSC. These are: communal content, deprivation of human needs, governance and the state's role, and international linkages (Azar 1990).

Communal content according to Azar (1990) in PSC situations is communal identity based on race, religion, and ethnic group or cultural ties which is very important because these identities are then used to solicit basic needs. In many multi-ethnic societies, states emerge which are dominated by a single communal group. This communal group or coalition of groups ignores the needs of other communal groups, thereby straining the social fabric and eventually breeding

fragmentation and protracted social conflict (Azar, 1990). He also cited the, "disarticulation between the state and society as a whole", as a source of violence within society. This pre-condition also involves the reliance that many people have on their social groups, because of government in areas that experience PSC are often unable, incapable or unwilling to provide basic human necessities to the population, individuals turn to social groups for stability. The resultant disconnection of society and the state can be linked to the colonial legacy, which "artificially imposed European ideas of territorial statehood" onto a multitude of community groups. This results in the domination of certain identity groups over others.

The dominant group isolates itself from the needs of other groups, leading to an even bigger separation between groups even within an ethnicity (Azar , 1990). Deprivation of needs as a second pre-condition contends that all individuals aim at fulfilling their needs through their collective identity group. Needs deprivation therefore, leads to increased grievances, which individuals express collectively. Azar distinguishes between different forms of needs such as political access needs; security needs and acceptance needs. Political access needs have to do with the effective participation of individuals in political, economic, and decision- making institutions, while security needs refer to the material needs for physical security, nutrition and housing, and acceptance needs point to the need for "distinctive identity" and its social recognition. Azar's concept of human needs denotes the idea of inequalities, which means that the dominant social group "satisfies" its political access, security and acceptance needs at the expense of the needs of social (excluded) groups. As a result, the social groups that are dissatisfied are frustrated and feel (more and more) marginalized and excluded from the social, economic and political participation (Azar 1990). Governance and state' role is a third argument where Azar states; "With governments being "endowed with the authority to govern and use force where necessary to regulate society, to protect citizens, and to provide collective goods," (Ramsbotham, 2005), Azar cited governance and the state's role as the critical factor in the satisfaction or frustrations of individual and identity groups. Azar (1990) states that most states which experience protracted social conflict tend to be characterized by incompetent, parochial, fragile, and authoritarian governments that fail to satisfy basic human needs. It is said that governments, expected to be unbiased and impartial, tend to be dominated by the leading identity groups or those that have been able to 48 monopolize power within a country or territorial entity. Azar argues that: whereas in Western liberal theory, the state is an aggregate of individuals entrusted to govern effectively and to act as an impartial arbiter of conflicts

among the constituent parts; treating all members of the political community as legally equal citizens, this is not empirically what happens in most parts of the world, particularly in never and less stable states where political authority tend to be monopolized by the dominant identity group or a coalition of hegemonic groups which use the state to maximize their interests at the expense of others.

The monopolizing of power by dominant individuals and groups and the limiting of access to other groups precipitates a "crisis of legitimacy" so that "regime type and the level of legitimacy" come to be seen as "important linkage" variables between needs and PSC (Azar 1990:). Azar notes how PSCs tends to be concentrated in developing countries "which are typically characterized by rapid population growth and limited resource base" and also have restricted "political capacity" often linked to a colonial legacy of weak participatory institutions, a hierarchical tradition of imposed bureaucratic rule from metropolitan centers, and inherited instruments of political repression: "In most protracted social conflict-laden countries, political capacity is limited by a rigid or fragile authority structure which prevents the state from responding to and meeting the needs of various constituents." This creates a "crisis of legitimacy" in the governance of these countries.

The last argument put forward by Azar is the international linkages which involves, "political-economic relations of economic dependency within the international economic system, and the network of political- military linkages constituting regional and global patterns of clientele and cross-border interests. Modern states, particularly weaker ones, like those often involved in protracted social conflict, tend to be more influenced by outside 49 connections both economically and politically within the wider global community. The formation of domestic social and political institutions and their impact on the role of the state are greatly influenced by the pattern of linkage within the international system (Azar, 1990). For instance, many states are dependent on an external supply of armaments. PSC theory suggests that several of the current conflicts around the world and especially in underdeveloped parts of the world are characterized by a blurred demarcation between internal and external sources and actors. Moreover, there are multiple causal factors and dynamics, reflected in changing goals, actors and targets. Finally, these conflicts do not show a clear starting and terminating points (Azar, 1990).

2.1.2 Liberal Institutional Theory

This theory was postulated by Elton Mayo in 1964. The liberal institutional theory of international relations that is premised on the intrinsic good nature of human beings in that peace is the normal state of affairs among men; therefore, war is seen as both unnatural and irrational, an artificial contrivance and not a product of some peculiarity of human nature. Such a conceptualization presupposes that human beings have the capacity to cure the cancer of the war through antidotes such as democracy and free trade. Democratic processes and institutions would break the power of the ruling elites and curb their propensity for violence whereas free trade would aid the transcending of artificial barriers between individuals thereby uniting them into one community. In cases of war, liberal institutionalism, a variant of the theory of liberalism, calls for collective security as the solution. Such a collective security presupposes states' membership to international organizations or institutions in which they can broaden conception of self-interest and widen the scope of cooperation. By complying with the rules of the organization there would be the discouragement of the narrow pursuit of national interests and the weakening of the meaning and appeal of state sovereignty. The core of liberal theory is anchored on the concept of interdependence between all societies. Collective security is thus one of the means by which liberals try to maintain international peace and ensuring that man can realize his or her potentiality. The relevance of this theory to this study is in so far as it explains the emergence and utility of religious system such as churches as well as their role in conflict management. At the same time the study is cognizant of its key weakness in that it does not explain the narrow and selfish interests that some states pursue under the cover of international organizations and international laws

2.2 Empirical Review

Chirchir, (2019) conducted a study that sought to examine the effects of the social conflicts on the livelihood of the households, and necessary intervention measures in Kerio Valley Basin. Specifically it sought to establish: the characteristics of the households and the scope of hostilities; effects on the livelihood, social and economic wellbeing; and interventions undertaken to mitigate the conflicts. The study adopted a descriptive cross-sectional survey design. The site of study were locations most affected by conflict and these included; Chesegon Division in Pokot County, Tot Division in Elgeyo-Marakwet County, Kolowa Division in Tiati Sub-County of Baringo and Kinyach location in Baringo County. Data collection entailed an interview schedule, focus group discussions and key informant interviews. The unit of study

was the household and through systematic sampling, from an estimated total of 3170 households, a sample of 422 was interviewed. Key stakeholders were identified for key informant interviews while a cross section of community leaders participated in an FGD. Qualitative data was analysed thematically while quantitative data was entered into SPSS and results analysed and presented descriptively. Ethical and logistical issues were addressed through seeking approvals and permissions from relevant authorities such Graduate School, KUERC and NACOSTI. The study established that foremost, the typical characteristics of respondents were that the majority were male, married, middle aged and occupied mainly in pastoralism and farming; Secondly, Kerio valley conflict assumes inter-clan and inter-ethnic dimensions and are fairly frequent; Thirdly, main causes of conflict included theft of cattle, access to and control of pasture and water. Fourthly, social conflicts have negatively affected the lives and livelihoods of communities by way of, among others, loss of household income when livestock, the main source of family income, is stolen; loss of lives; strained relationships among family members and also neighbours; and loss of marketing opportunities.; Fifthly, some of the interventions undertaken included development of integrated county development plans; diversification of livelihoods through introducing irrigated agriculture and agro-processing, and intensification of security interventions. The study concluded that communities in Kerio valley have been experiencing periodic conflicts which have adversely affected the households in Kerio region and negatively affected pursuit of livelihoods; interventions put in place have to an extent contained the conflicts and especially the engagement with stakeholders. So as to mitigate the adverse effects of conflicts on livelihoods, the study recommends diversification of livelihoods by way of adoption of high value crops through irrigated agriculture; institutionalization of peace committees in the community, and enhancing infrastructure development so as to ease movement of people and their produce as well as quicken the response time by security agencies

Omondi, (2018) conducted a study that sought to examine stakeholder conflicts and its effects on the performance of expansion projects taking place at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. The study assessed the role of the following conflicts on the implementation of projects at the airport; role related conflicts, process related conflicts, relationship conflicts and interdependence conflicts. Objectives of the report were to determine the effect of stakeholder conflicts on the implementation of expansion and modernization projects at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. The performance of projects was conducted from the parameters of cost,

quality and timelines of completion of projects. The study used descriptive design and the study population was drawn from Kenya Airports Authority who is the airport owner, Kenya Civil Aviation Authority who is the regulatory body, Airlines and Handling Agents and Service facilitators. Sampling techniques included the use of stratified sampling to select a sample of 114 respondents from a population of 135 employees within these institutions. Questionnaires were used to collect data using drop and pick method as well as email. Data was analyzed quantitatively using descriptive and regression analysis with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences software to ascertain the effects of the independent variable on the dependent variable. Data was presented using table charts and written discussion. The report established that project implementation and expansion at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport are negatively influenced by stakeholders engaged conflict. The study found out that there was a significant but negative influence of conflicts on the implementation of projects with conflicts accounting for seventy three point six percent (73.6%) of variations in project implementation. The report recommended that stakeholder participation in all aspects of project implementation should be anchored in law, policies and performance appraisal of project managers to forestall uncertainties and complaints from stakeholders in projects.

Abdi, (2017) conducted a study that focused on inter-clan conflicts between the Degodia and the Garre of Mandera County in the period 2008-2015.It seek to investigate the dynamics of inter-clan conflicts between the Degodia and the Garre in Mandera County. The main objectives were to examine the causes of inter- clan conflicts between the Degodia and the Garre in the period 2008-2010.Secondly, the study interrogated the implications of the political pact between the Garre and Murule clans on the inter-clan conflict between the Degodia and the Garre in the years of 2011-2015. Lastly, the study assessed the implications of devolution on inter-clan conflicts between the two clans named above. A descriptive research design was used in the study and qualitative method was the main approach. The study used protracted social conflict theory. The study was carried out in Mandera County, in particular Rhamu Sub County and Mandera town, the County headquarters. The study targeted residents of Mandera County both male and female of 18 years and above. Purposive and snow balling sampling techniques were used in the study. Both primary and secondary data sources were used. Primary data was obtained from direct interactions with the respondents in the field through interviews and focus group discussions. Archival sources were also consulted and Secondary data was obtained from journals, published and unpublished books, theses, dissertations,

conference papers, reports, newspapers and internet sources. The findings revealed that the major drivers of the conflict between the Garre and the Degodia are grazing land, pastures, water and political- economic exclusions in Mandera County. Additionally, the findings also revealed that the Garre Murule pact of 2013 intensified the Garre Degodia conflicts. It was also revealed that the conflict between the Garre and the Degodia took international dimension especially when each clan sought the support of their kinsmen in Ethiopia and Somalia. The findings of the study will be significant as it will help inform policy interventions in addressing interclan conflicts generally and specifically those in marginalized areas of North Eastern region in particular

Cherutich, (2016) conducted a study that ivestigated elderhood in ethnic conflict management in Kenya's Rongai Sub-county from 1992 to 2015. It is to be appreciated that ethnic conflict management results in peace which in turn creates a fertile environment for achievement of sustainable development. Western and contemporary conflict resolution mechanisms, which have been in use for decades, have not yielded the desired results and rather than solely relying on their legal and lengthy judicial processes, indigenous mechanisms have been sought. One such mechanism is the institution of elders which has become instrumental in addressing the prevailing challenges of ethnic based violence. This study specifically investigated the nature, origin and causes of ethnic conflicts, examined the institution of elderhood, and interrogated the roles of elders in ethnic conflicts management in Rongai Sub-county. The study was based on the following premises: Land was the major cause of ethnic conflicts in Rongai Sub-county, elderhood institutions commanded respect among majority of ethnic groups in Rongai Sub-county and that the institution of elders played a significant role in ethnic conflict management in Rongai Sub-county. The study was guided by Protracted Social Conflict Theory and Conflict Transformation Theory. The study adopted descriptive research design. The target population was the people of Rongai Sub-county. The sample size was obtained using purposive and snowballing sampling techniques. Both primary and secondary data was collected. The primary data was collected using in-depth interviews and focus group discussions while secondary data was obtained from both published and unpublished records, magazines and books. The data collected was analyzed using thematic analysis where categories of responses for each objective from the respondents were identified, classified and combined into themes. The data was then interpreted and presented based on these categories and themes. This study has three major findings. First, the ethnic conflicts in Rongai Sub-county were mainly of violent nature,

originated from the reintroduction of multi-party politics in Kenya in early 1990s and were caused mainly by land and political issues. Secondly, the institution of elderhood was strong in Rongai Sub-county and commanded respect in the management of ethnic conflicts. Thirdly, the elders were the lead actors in ethnic conflicts management in Rongai Sub-county and played key roles that were aimed at achieving peaceful co-existence among ethnic groups. The study, therefore, recommends that the institution of elderhood be supported by the government and given a leading role in ethnic conflicts management. Secondly, the underlying cause of ethnic conflicts be identified and resolved proactively. Thirdly, ways should be found to weed out the culture of intolerance and impunity among ethnic communities in Rongai Sub-county

Barasa, (2015) conducted a study to investigate the effects of protracted pastoralist conflicts on children's social well-being from 1990-2014 in Kacheliba division. The study was guided by four objectives; to describe the nature of pastoralist conflicts among pastoralist societies, to establish the children's social well-being concerns in pastoralist conflicts situations, to determine the effects of pastoralist conflicts on education and to determine the mechanisms used by the community to address children's social well-being The study assumption was that pastoralist conflicts had increasingly become fatal with far reaching consequences on the social well-being of children. Three theories were adopted; the Protracted Social Conflict (PSC), the Human Needs Theory (HNT) and the Social Constructionist Theory. The research methods included quantitative and qualitative approaches. Results show that pastoralist conflicts influence children's social well-being in affected areas. The study recommends that concerted efforts by the stakeholders, government, schools, NGOs and religious organizations should be undertaken to avert conflicts and establish effective frameworks that promote and protect children's social well-being

Odong, (2014) conducted a study to investigate the strategies that principals in Migori District use in conflict management and how they affect performance. Descriptive survey research design was adopted. The target population was 32 secondary schools, 7823 students and 274 teachers. Data was collected using questionnaires and interview schedules and purposive, simple, random and stratified sampling was done to get samples. The instruments were piloted in four schools which were later not included in the final study sample. Validity of the instrument was done by giving the instruments to education management experts who advised on their validity. The reliability of the instrument was ascertained through the spearman rank: order correlation. Qualitative data was coded for easy interpretation. Data was presented tables,

bar graphs, pie-charts. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics i.e. frequencies and percentages through SPSS Programme. From the findings the study identified four types of conflicts in secondary schools in Migori County which included interpersonal, intrapersonal, emotional and group conflicts. Competition and collaboration were found to be the most commonly used strategies employed by head teachers to manage conflicts. It was established that conflicts affected performance and various cross-cutting measures were suggested to improve conflict management which included, co-operation between parents and teachers adequate provision of resources, training in conflict management and investment in curriculum activities to deal with stress. The study concluded that conflicts ate evitable in schools and it is therefore important that they are managed well. The study recommended that the MoE and TSC conduct regular conflicts management trainings. KICD to develop a manual on conflict management strategies and how to apply them. Future researchers should study challenges teachers face as they resolve conflicts in Migori County. Also the study recommends, further study should be conducted to determine the effectiveness of conflict management strategies in all schools across Kenya and across all levels of education.

2.3 Research gaps

Geographical gap is a knowledge gap that considers, the untapped potential or missing/limited research literature, in the geographical area that has not yet been explored or is under-explored. For instance Odong, (2014) conducted a study to investigate the strategies that principals in Migori District use in conflict management and how they affect performance. Descriptive survey research design was adopted. The target population was 32 secondary schools, 7823 students and 274 teachers. The study concluded that conflicts are inevitable in schools and it is therefore important that they are managed well. The study recommended that the MoE and TSC conduct regular conflicts management trainings. The studies presented a geographical gap as they were conducted in Migori District while our current study focused on evaluating role of church justice and peace commission and conflicts management in pastoral communities.

Methodological gap is the gap that is presented as a result in limitations in the methods and techniques used in the research (explains the situation as it is, avoids bias, positivism, etc.). Cherutich, (2016) conducted a study that ivestigated elderhood in ethnic conflict management in Kenya‟s Rongai Sub-county from 1992 to 2015. The study adopted descriptive research design. This study has three major findings. First, the ethnic conflicts in Rongai Sub-county

were mainly of violent nature, originated from the reintroduction of multi-party politics in Kenya in early 1990s and were caused mainly by land and political issues. Secondly, the institution of elderhood was strong in Rongai Sub-county and commanded respect in the management of ethnic conflicts. Thirdly, the elders were the lead actors in ethnic conflicts management in Rongai Sub-county and played key roles that were aimed at achieving peaceful co-existence among ethnic groups. The studies presented a methodological gap as it used descriptive research design while our current study adopted a desktop literature review method

Conceptual gap arises because of some difference between the user's mental model of the application and how the application actually works. Omondi, (2018) conducted a study that sought to examine stakeholder conflicts and its effects on the performance of expansion projects taking place at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. The study used descriptive design and the study population was drawn from Kenya Airports Authority who is the airport owner, Kenya Civil Aviation Authority who is the regulatory body, Airlines and Handling Agents and Service facilitators. The report established that project implementation and expansion at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport are negatively influenced by stakeholders engaged conflict. The study presented a conceptual gap as it examined stakeholder conflicts and its effects on the performance of expansion projects taking place at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, while the current study on evaluating role of church justice and peace commission and conflicts management in pastoral communities.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a desktop literature review method (desk study). This involved an in-depth review of studies related to role of church justice and peace commission and conflicts management in pastoral communities. Three sorting stages were implemented on the subject under study in order to determine the viability of the subject for research. This is the first stage that comprised the initial identification of all articles that were based on role of church justice and peace commission and conflicts management in pastoral communities from various data bases. The search was done generally by searching the articles in the article title, abstract, keywords. A second search involved fully available publications on the subject on role of church justice and peace commission and conflicts management in pastoral communities. The third step involved the selection of fully accessible publications. Reduction of the literature to only fully accessible publications yielded specificity and allowed the researcher to focus on the articles that related to role of church justice and peace commission and conflicts management

in pastoral communities which was split into top key words. After an in-depth search into the top key words (role, church justice, peace commission, conflicts management, pastoral communities), the researcher arrived at 6 articles that were suitable for analysis. The 6 articles were findings from Chirchir, (2019) who conducted a study that sought to examine the effects of the social conflicts on the livelihood of the households, and necessary intervention measures in Kari Valley Basin. The study adopted a descriptive cross-sectional survey design. The study established that foremost, the typical characteristics of respondents were that the majority were male, married, middle aged and occupied mainly in pastoralism and farming; Secondly, Kerio valley conflict assumes inter-clan and inter-ethnic dimensions and are fairly frequent; Thirdly, main causes of conflict included theft of cattle, access to and control of pasture and water. Fourthly, social conflicts have negatively affected the lives and livelihoods of communities by way of, among others, loss of household income when livestock, the main source of family income, is stolen; loss of lives; strained relationships among family members and also neighbours; and loss of marketing opportunities.; Fifthly, some of the interventions undertaken included development of integrated county development plans; diversification of livelihoods through introducing irrigated agriculture and agro-processing, and intensification of security interventions.

Omondi, (2018) who conducted a study that sought to examine stakeholder conflicts and its effects on the performance of expansion projects taking place at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. The study used descriptive design and the study population was drawn from Kenya Airports Authority who is the airport owner, Kenya Civil Aviation Authority who is the regulatory body, Airlines and Handling Agents and Service facilitators. The report established that project implementation and expansion at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport are negatively influenced by stakeholders engaged conflict.

Abdi, (2017) who conducted a study that focused on inter-clan conflicts between the Degodia and the Garre of Mandera County in the period 2008-2015. A descriptive research design was used in the study and qualitative method was the main approach. The findings revealed that the major drivers of the conflict between the Garre and the Degodia are grazing land, pastures, water and political- economic exclusions in Mandera County. Additionally, the findings also revealed that the Garre Murule pact of 2013 intensified the Garre Degodia conflicts

Cherutich (2016), who conducted a study that investigated elder hood in ethnic conflict management in Kenya's Rongai Sub-county from 1992 to 2015. The study adopted descriptive research design. This study has three major findings. First, the ethnic conflicts in Rongai Sub-county were mainly of violent nature, originated from the reintroduction of multi-party politics in Kenya in early 1990s and were caused mainly by land and political issues. Secondly, the institution of elder hood was strong in Rongai Sub-county and commanded respect in the management of ethnic conflicts. Thirdly, the elders were the lead actors in ethnic conflicts management in Rongai Sub-county and played key roles that were aimed at achieving peaceful co-existence among ethnic groups

Barasa, (2015) who conducted a study to investigate the effects of protracted pastoralist conflicts on children's social well-being from 1990-2014 in Kacheliba division. Results show that pastoralist conflicts influence children's social well-being in affected areas.

Odong, (2014) who conducted a study to investigate the strategies that principals in Migori District use in conflict management and how they affect performance. Descriptive survey research design was adopted. The target population was 32 secondary schools, 7823 students and 274 teachers. The study concluded that conflicts are inevitable in schools and it is therefore important that they are managed well. The study recommended that the MoE and TSC conduct regular conflicts management trainings

4.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND POLICY IMPLICATION FOR FURTHER STUDY

4.1 Summary

The study deciphered that most of the residents reported to have lived in the area for a longer period thereby making them spend more time in the conflicts. It was learnt from the study that access to and use of renewable, common-pool resources essential to rural livelihoods were highly contested in the area. The study also as understood that improving cooperation in their management is increasingly seen as an important element in strategies for peace building, conflicts prevention, and longer-term social ecological resilience among communities. Churches play significant role through promotion and advocacy of human rights, sponsoring peace meetings and seminars, building of schools to reform and educate the young children on the importance of peace, sponsoring games and dancing competition while others were found to be engaged in protection of citizens across the border from conflicts.

4.2 Conclusion

The study concludes that different mechanisms influenced in the management of conflicts between communities. The initiatives made by religious organization in mediating, disarmament, peace mission and reintegration were helpful in quelling the conflicts between conflicting communities. Also, the introduction of county government reduced incidences of cattle rustling as leaders from both counties usually arranged for peace meeting through which issues surrounding them were discussed and mediated upon.

4.2 Recommendations

There is need for religious leaders from pastoral communities to be involved and avoid siding with any of their respectively conflicting communities. The place that religious leaders and organizations held in the society could be observed by ensuring that the members of clergy remained non-partisan for the sake of offering spiritual and moral support to the victims of the conflicts. The elders from pastoral Communities need to assert their authority in ensuring that the commands and decisions they make to young men against attacking or raiding the neighbouring communities, were strictly followed and those found to violate could be punished

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