

Inclusive Governance on Conflict Management, Marsabit County Kenya

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ABSTRACT

Inclusive constitution-building methods promote interactions between elites and constituents and ensure public and elite legitimacy for the constitutional settlement. The functions and obligations of clan heads have changed significantly over time. Many of the clan chiefs have had to find new ways to lead their people while staying true to their roots. To effectively address the governance and development difficulties facing our country, we must actively include clan leaders, and we urge the government and other development actors to do so. The aim of the study was to investigate inclusive governance in conflict management at Marsabit County in Kenya. This study adopted a case study research method utilizing a case study research design. Qualitative and quantitative data and research methods were used in this study. The study's primary focus was on all citizens residing in Marsabit County as the study's target population. The study adopted purposive sampling to pick interviewees for the pilot study, questionnaire and interview guide/schedule. Descriptive analysis was used on primary and secondary data collected vide the questionnaire. Content analysis was used in the investigation. The study concluded that inadequate composition and participation of clan representations leads to poor inclusive governance; effective stakeholder decision-making processes are positive ingredients for inclusive governance and solid conflict management; poor and unfair resource distribution is an ignition for further conflicts in Marsabit County, and therefore, it may not lead to inclusive governance for effective conflict management. The study recommended the need to integrate community and clan leadership in core areas of security management, stop any planned conflicts that may involve armed groups with unrecorded or unauthorized firearms, ensure equitable and fair distribution of resources. Furthermore, there is need to effective and amicable inclusion of the stakeholders and other global funders in the conflict decision making process and ensuring fairness/impartiality in the whole processes is useful.

Key Words: *Inclusive governance, stakeholders, conflict management, resource distribution.*

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Nagle (2021) opens that if governance systems allow for constructive management of disputes and resistance, the likelihood of violence is reduced. In Beirut, for instance, conflict is typically blamed on social and economic disparities as well as political inequalities (which may be ethnic or

religious). Recent studies have focused on the economic factors that lead to war. The correct political arrangements can help avert bloodshed even though conflict might emerge for any variety of reasons. It is possible that the constitution's structure and the operation of political and legal institutions will be factors in governance. Stewart (2020) opines that effective resource distribution, fair engagement in community leadership and inclusivity of the external partners such as community donors, and stakeholders remain considerate forms of conflict resolution in a recurrent situational conflict inflicted area. According to Roth et al. (2017), in Netherlands, a set of general principles can be used to guide donor interventions, but the optimum model will depend on the circumstances. The role of traditional elders in conflict management has lessened in the modern world because of the growing interconnection of participants and the complexity of the problems that underpin conflict. To put it another way, "conflict management" refers to the process of bringing conflicting parties together to address their disputes. Mediation is a delicate balancing act between the mediation process and tribal concerns that traditional leaders have been involved in since time immemorial. In Nepal, Jamil (2018) observes that gender and other dimensions of human identity are taken into account, and all institutions, policies, processes, and services are made accessible, responsible, and responsive to all citizens through clan leadership.

In Egypt, pluralism and radicalism are more vital than removing ill-representational institutions at a time when socialism is in decline and orthodox left ideology is at an all-time high point of impasse (Murithi, 2017). The importance of a socially inclusive government and the ramifications of a democratic socialism that appreciates variety must be given significant attention (Stewart, 2020). To do discourse analysis, ethics and the ability to "self-construct" are essential. The discourse analysis approach to citizen participation includes an emphasis on social power and knowledge growth. That knowledge and values are relative is one of the goals of postmodern decision making, which aims to reveal society's hidden power and information structures. According to Schneider (2016), debate can be used to relieve tension, provide a platform for making and contesting assertions, and assist policymakers. The use of formal procedures can reframe the decision environment, educate politicians about the public's expectations, and increase the legitimacy of collective decisions through the use of formal processes. In Nigeria, Idike et al. (2019), hold that dissenting views and social minorities, in particular, are to be integrated into the decision-making process through participatory decision-making. Participatory approaches such as discussion groups, internet chat rooms, and open forums are appropriate since they do not place hard limitations on decision-making. Revelatory information on stakeholder concerns is disclosed. Research on pastoral conflict in northern Kenya is being performed to better understand where we are now and where we need to go in the future (Mutungi, 2020).

Idike et al. (2019) in their thought do provide that inclusivity in governance remains a resolute way of resolving communal related conflicts since it does provide fair ground for amicable considerations on all parties involved. Rangelands that make up more than 80% of Kenya's entire land mass have been cited as the main obstacle to their growth. Partly because of the expropriation of rangeland, many pastoralists have been forced to move to or near cities and are now scrambling to find new jobs. Institutions that deal with natural resources and land management must be built so that pastoralists can continue to be a stable source of income and a major contributor to national economies. A few examples of interethnic disputes are those between the Borana and Gabbra, as well as those between the Borana and Rendille.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Proactive and judicious inclusion allows the emerging state to creatively construct its own version of democracy, stability, and peace (Bonaya, 2021). When citizens from all walks of life have a voice in government, the country is better equipped to deal with the myriad crises and complicated difficulties that threaten its very existence. Transitional and post-conflict periods present both favorable conditions and formidable challenges for constructing the democratic institutions essential to lessen the possibility of future hostilities. If post-conflict countries are to have any chance of restoring trust amongst communities, they must make social, economic, and political inclusion top priorities (Vanessa, 2018). Traditional methods of replenishing herds lost to severe droughts, plagues, raids, or other misfortunes included raiding other pastoralist groups or relocating villages for animals (Karienyé & Warfa, 2020).

In addition to enlarging grazing areas and increasing bride prices, warriors often staged raids to show off their bravery and gain respect from their peers. Elders frequently approved such raids, praying over the raiders before they left (Mohamed, 2018). However, in recent times, rustling events between communities have become more violent and frequent, degenerating into unprecedented levels of armed action. The breadth and viciousness of the conflicts have even puzzled the region's elders. If transition processes are inclusive, nationally owned, open, and democratic, the subsequent democratic system will be strong. Adan (2020) undertook a study on *evaluating contribution of informal peace agreement to community conflict management among Borana and Gabra communities in Marsabit*, where he opined that the possibility that people will stick to the established standards and remain politically active increases when there is a general feeling of ownership over the decisions that are made during periods of transition. According to Ichuloi et al.(2019), the ability of a democracy to withstand destabilizing shocks and crises is correlated with the degree to which its citizens have participated in shaping its foundational institutions and processes, such as the creation of a constitution, the formation of political parties, and the holding of elections. More than just individuals directly involved in the conflict need to be part of the peace process if a society is to have a better chance of avoiding a return to armed violence (Hassan et al., 2019). Insights applicable to inclusive peacebuilding practice at large may be gleaned from highlighting the experiences and challenges of a specific minority group. Despite their important contributions to peace building and post-conflict recovery, women, men, and gender and sexual minorities from all walks of life too frequently have little sway over the peace that is ultimately achieved.

Inclusive governance methods promote interactions between elites and constituents and ensure public and elite legitimacy for the constitutional settlement. Another study by Watakila (2015) holds that sacrifices are made in order to reach an agreement that is fair to both parties, and this is what we mean when we talk about compromise. When both sides are on the same level or when negotiations have stalled, compromise is a good way to move forward. Kenya's North Eastern Region has been particularly vulnerable to pastoral violence in the Horn of Africa (HOA) over the past three decades. In the world's driest and semi-driest places, extreme hunger and violence are becoming the norm. Many civil society organisations, as well as international and intergovernmental organisations and sponsors, are involved in conflict management programmes. Many pastoralist and agro-pastoralist tribes in Kenya have faced a variety of issues, including socioeconomic marginalisation and frequent and significant confrontations over natural resources, in the past few years.

Communities often resort to violence in an effort to reclaim abandoned property or obtain access to valuable resources on it (Bangura, 2021). Oftentimes, ethnic and cultural tensions stem from disputes over cattle or from differences in means of subsistence. Populations are displaced, lives are lost, and the number of widows and orphans rises, all of which contribute to a worsening economic situation (de Waal, 2020). Pastoralist groups like the Borana, Maasai, and Samburu are being threatened by land grabs by the government and commercial companies. The functions and obligations of clan heads have changed significantly over time. Many of the clan chiefs have had to find new ways to lead their people while staying true to their roots. To effectively address the governance and development difficulties facing our country, we must actively include clan leaders, and we urge the government and other development actors to do so. Human rights and other legally binding criteria require that clan leaders “move with the times” in order to fulfil their responsibilities in a way that is consistent with those principles. Increasingly, people recognize the value of traditional leaders in mobilizing, guiding, and inspiring their communities. Resource abundance in an area remains an important issue to the community. However, the limitation of the same or bias in sharing and distribution induces conflicts and resident parties. Policymakers and academics have emphasized explanatory factors such as democratization, economic development, income distribution, the strength of domestic political institutions, and even civilizational forces, all of which place a premium on issues of state security and stability. With minimal investigation and studies into this area to provide contextual evidence, it is therefore the need for this study to examine inclusive governance in conflict management. With the exception of a tiny group of peace and security experts, most Kenyans are unaware of these international frameworks. The fact that the government has been hesitant to incorporate these guidelines into law and ensure their full implementation is far more important. It is against this backdrop that this study sought to investigate the clan leadership of clan elders in conflict management in Marsabit County.

1.3 Research Objective

The aim of the study was to investigate inclusive governance in conflict management at Marsabit County in Kenya. Specifically, the study sought to determine the composition of clan elders in conflict management in Marsabit County; to establish stakeholders’ decision making in conflict management in Marsabit County; to assess resource distribution in conflict management in Marsabit County.

2.0 Theoretical Review

2.1 Composition of Clan Elders

The urge to improve the lives of its members has led to the development of governance and leadership systems at all levels of society, from the family to the community to the nation (Idike et al., 2019b). The rules and roles within these systems are spelled out in advance and codified. In today’s interconnected world, improved channels of communication and collaboration between organizations and at governmental levels are crucial. Specialized legislative, judicial, and executive institutions have developed in countries like Kenya to satisfy the distinct demands placed on each branch of government. To adapt to these changes, some modifications have been made, but at their core, all leadership and governance structures continue to work toward the same end: enhancing and maintaining the quality of life in their constituent communities (Karienyé & Warfa, 2020). In spite of this, the clan and other traditional organizational forms have not been given sufficient academic consideration, especially in relation to the function they play in transitional contexts. Local institutions like clans are governed by a set of customs and traditions. Such legal

frameworks have been developed and implemented over the course of many centuries as a result of the human impulse to exert control over one's life in a certain environment.

2.2 Stakeholders' Decision Making

One of the many advantages of deliberations is its willingness to consider opposing viewpoints. There is always a reason to sit down and talk things out, even in the most extreme circumstances of dispute. When faced with intractable value disparities, understanding the reasons underlying people's divergent viewpoints might help policymakers focus on areas of universal agreement (Simuziya, 2021). A necessary condition for fruitful debate is that all participants make assertions on terms that other participants can accept in principle. Its goal is to establish fair circumstances for social collaboration, and its normative basis is trust.

Peace is more likely to last if the local people feel that they had a hand in shaping the transition through their participation in peacebuilding efforts (An et al., 2021; Ntale et al., 2020; Umbaru & Sharif, 2020). Recognizing that the path from conflict to peace and democracy cannot be defined by a single event. Change is rarely easy. The mere signature of a peace treaty does not ensure that hostilities will cease, at least in the eyes of the people, or that the underlying reasons for the conflict will be resolved. On the other hand, a transition demonstrates that the key combatants are willing to stop fighting and work together to restore the state. Beyond the pursuit of simple numerical representation of a wide range of interest groups lies the importance of focusing on communication to encourage inclusion and the tough concerns of identity development, which are essential for long-term, sustainable inclusion.

2.3 Resource Distribution

Competing claims have been made for control of the world's traded natural resources since the beginning of recorded history. Legal regimes and institutional structures have been discussed extensively for their ability to break this link and ensure that natural resources are "managed" to support peace, sustainable development, and stability. Examples of "conflict resources" include oil, lumber, minerals, and diamonds, all of which are obtained and sold from regions where violence is persistent. Not all international actors or legal regimes place the same importance on the same components of resource exploitation during times of conflict.

A proponent of this view argues that resource-rich countries are more prone to civil conflict because of autocratic rulers, widespread poverty, and inadequate governance mechanisms. When earnings from natural resources are diverted for private gain or used in ways that don't benefit the larger good of the public, it breeds animosity that, when combined with other reasons, can lead to violent conflict. Ineffective government control over extraction regions and borders during times of conflict is a major contributing factor to the unrestrained exploitation of natural resources by rebel groups, the prolongation of war, and accompanying human rights abuses. Third, the recognized connection between a transparent system of resource governance and peace-building means those efforts to reclaim state authority over resource-rich areas and promote a set of liberal principles like good governance and accountability obtain international backing.

The acceleration of land use disputes can be traced to the simultaneous acceleration of urbanization and the concomitant transformation of social and economic growth. Correctly identifying land use conflicts is essential for optimizing the spatial pattern of land use and resolving land use disputes. Previous studies on land use conflicts using multi-objective evaluation methodologies underestimated the occurrence of such conflicts as a result of failing to account for the scarcity of

natural resources and the diversity of human requirements. Land appropriateness, land resource scarcity, and human need diversity were used in the linear weighted sum model to calculate the land use conflict index. Increased pressure on spatial use and a decrease in the value of ecosystem services have contributed to the emergence of conflicts over their use. These changes in land use patterns, such as the development of construction land, have been driven by economic interests.

2.4 Conflict Management

Dissimilarities between individuals or groups are a resource in conflict management. A well-managed conflict can have positive effects on an organization's output. The goal of conflict management is to reduce conflict's negative effects and maximize its positive effects on learning, innovation, and efficiency within an organization (Amiara & Kenneth, 2018). When one group's members take a stand against or reject the beliefs or actions of another group, this creates friction, disagreement, or discord, which we call conflict. Both intragroup and intergroup conflict involves disagreement and hostility between members of different groups. There is usually a pattern to group conflict. In some cases, the conflict escalation phase is followed by a conflict resolution phase, and then normal group interaction can resume (Catherine, 2019).

By definition, conflict arises whenever two or more social actors (individuals, groups, or states) pursue mutually exclusive ends or when two or more social actors (individuals, groups, or states) pursue a shared end that can be attained by only one social actor but do so by competing means (Musingafi et al., 2019). For businesses, "organizational conflict" refers to any disagreement between employees over the distribution of resources and the assignment of roles within the company. Perceived differences in priorities between parties involved in a situation can lead to conflict. Put another way, discord arises when there is a disconnect between current reality and ideal future outcomes. Unexpected crises that are not addressed promptly and satisfactorily can have catastrophic results. These days, nobody is safe from the frequency and severity of corporate crises (Kuot, 2021).

Interpersonal friction is a given in any social interaction. This is especially true of work groups, which are often hastily put together by a variety of people with varying experiences, perspectives, and values. Good, bad, or ugly conflicts can be handled in similarly nuanced ways (Bouh & Mammo, 2018). Disputes between employees are the leading cause of stress and negative feedback in the workplace. Rather than viewing conflict as a potential learning experience, we tend to view it as something that is unpleasant, unproductive, and takes up a lot of time. Managing conflicts is multidimensional, according to the research.

Conflict management is another name for these approaches. Integrating, submitting, dominating, dodging, and compromising are the dimensions. When integrating, it's important for everyone involved to work together. When dealing with conflicts in an integrative manner, compromise is sought so that everyone involved is satisfied with the outcome. Some examples of this include promising to be truthful with the other person and discussing contrasting viewpoints openly.

One of the keys to being obliging is putting the other person's needs ahead of your own. This strategy is typically employed in cases where there is a large power distance between the groups in question. An example of this would be a disagreement between a manager and an employee. If a subordinate has a disagreement with a superior but still agrees to do what the superior wants, that could be interpreted as a depiction of obedience (Bouh & Mammo, 2008; Kong'ani et al., 2021). To dominate is to use a zero-sum game strategy or coerce others into doing what you want so that you can come out on top. The other party's preferences and requirements are disregarded during

this procedure (Rahim 2002). To avoid conflict, it's best to withdraw and shift blame. It's a short-term strategy predicated on avoiding conflicts (Kocel 2013).

2.5 Contemporary Management Theory

Contemporary management theory will serve as the overarching framework for this investigation. Since its inception in the late 1940s, the behavioural or contemporary view, also known as the human relations view, has been the preeminent school of thought in this area. It argues that conflict is inherent to any organization and that its impact, positive or negative, depends on how it is managed. Up to a certain point, performance can rise alongside conflict; however, if the conflict is allowed to escalate or is not resolved, performance will fall. Through this method, one learns to live with and even make sense of conflict. Interactionists believe that friction is intrinsic to progress. When compared to the behavioral approach, which tolerates disagreements, the interactionism point of view actively promotes them because of the belief that a harmonious, peaceful, tranquil, too-cooperative project organization is likely to become static, apathetic, stagnant, and unable to respond to change and innovation. For organizations to remain self-critical, functional, creative, and innovative, this strategy encourages managers to sustain a healthy dose of conflict.

Conflicts are seen as an inherent part of any organization, and modern management science theory holds that they cannot be eradicated entirely. Thus, a manager's job is to keep the peace so that everyone can continue contributing to the company's success. Conflict resolution is a clear indicator of the quality of a manager or business owner. It is important to effectively direct counterproductive work behaviors because they are anti-innovation behaviors. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to develop effective strategies for resolving disagreements. To better understand inclusive governance and resolve conflicts, this theory will be useful.

2.6 Research Gaps

Research reviews have demonstrated that intercommunity conflicts are pervasive, even at the level of small clans and other forms of local administrative units (Bonaya, 2021; Mambo, 2019; Ogara, 2018; F. Watakila, 2015). It also hints at the fact that despite the enduring nature of these conflicts, evidence on surveys and research across several dimensions is missing to identify the most efficient means of conflict management in communities at war. One of the study's flaws is that it doesn't account for how participants' lack of conflict management skills may have influenced the results. There is no supporting evidence for the assertion that poor conflict management escalates conflicts and has negative consequences in either Marsabit County or the North Frontier District. Although there is little evidence to support this assertion, conflict management that reduces negative effects while increasing good ones is crucial for communities (Hassan, 2021). Tensions, however, arise when clans are dependent on one another for resource distribution and when clans have different short-term aims and different aspirations for autonomy, neither of which are addressed in this study (Abshir Abdulle, 2019; Bayu, 2021; Ichuloi et al., 2019). From these analyses, it is unclear that communities' competing claims to land and resources that are beneficial to these groups constitute the central cause of conflict in these conflicts. There isn't enough information from Marsabit County to prove that the government's "divide and rule" policy often starts or worsens these kinds of fights.

3.0 Research Methods

In order to answer the research questions, researchers typically develop an overarching strategy (Saunders et al., 2007). The study applied both qualitative and quantitative approaches to its research questions. This investigation made use of both qualitative and quantitative information and techniques. To this end, we used a case research design, collecting both qualitative and quantitative data through surveys. This method won favor because it is applicable to studies in the field of education (Bryman, 2013). The study had two variables: independent and dependent variable where inclusive governance was the independent variable and conflict management was the dependent variable. The study was conducted within Marsabit County in Kenya. The choice of this site was solely because inter-tribal wars are frequently witnessed in the area. Surveying all community leaders from Borana, Gabbra, Rendille and Burji, Daasannach, Somali and Sakuye communities were the main target population of the study. Additionally, the study's primary focused on local community leaders as the study's primary population. The study targeted residents of communities in Borana, Gabbra, Rendille and Burji as well as the Daasannach, Somali and Sakuye within the Marsabit County. The target population included all citizens of 18 years and above in Marsabit County with keen consideration of the community or clan elders, advocacy and stakeholders working for NGOs and CBOs, and National and County Government officials in Marsabit County. According to KNBS (2019), the county has a total population of 549,785 with 77495 households. A one-day random pilot study was conducted in Maralal Town-being Marsabit County headquarters and commercial town -to ascertain the views of the respondents (10) about the conflicts in the region. Researchers consulted with their project community leaders to establish the reliability of their devices.

Split-half reliability was used to increase the reliability of the questionnaires and interview schedule. Once the combined scores are obtained from the two surveys, the study used the Pearson product moment correlation coefficient formula to see how well they correlate with one another. Instruments were considered trustworthy if they had a correlation coefficient of 0.5 or higher. Considering the study was utilizing both qualitative and quantitative data, the study chose descriptive analysis and content analysis to analyse quantitative and qualitative data respectively. The choice of the technique was because content analysis focuses on the specific communication message and the message creator. Besides, researchers can quantify and analyze the presence, meanings, and relationships of such certain words, themes, or concepts. The respondent's answers were kept strictly confidential, and the researcher promises that they won't be used against them in any way. After each day of the experiment, the researcher collected the completed questionnaires from the participants. Researchers always get their subjects' permission to collect their data beforehand. They were informed that they can voluntarily stop participating in the study at any time.

4.0 Results

4.1 Composition of Clan Elders

Respondents revealed that majority of the clan elders are core arm of decision-making processes, and ensure both compliance and enforcement of the both security, Government and County Government rules, laws and regulations or and decisions passed through security committees. They also expressed that in dispute resolution involving theft, conflict, natural resource management and land are equally handled without any impartiality. Besides, they are facilitators an ambassadors of cultural festivals held in the area. Considering community is never void of

wrongdoers, and petty offences, they are also charged with the responsibility of punishing them. They are also charged with the convergence of meetings such those relating to peace, security, and any other meeting that may need constructivism public engagement by the community members. Subsequently, they also act as solid information gathering agents, intermediaries of the various government agencies. Considering Marsabit has presence of rangelands and other rare establishments, they are also charged as ground personnel to ensure there is no encroachment being a coordinated exercise with other responsible teams.

One of the key informants held:

Clan elders are important community leadership agents. They do bring to together members of community and discuss matters of community wellbeing, most of which are positive though at times they also encourage conflict or activities that lead to conflict or those that fuel conflict. E.g. they request elites/politicians to fundraise and purchase Small arms and light weapons, elders to distribute or rather oversee distribution of those SALWs. The also encourage members to raid the rival community etc.

Respondents suggested that through effectively educating the community on the effect of conflicts, and through continuous dialogue with the communities; coming out to clearly in condemnation of the heinous unreservedly whether the victim community is their tribesmen or the perceived enemy tribe. This is by putting words to actions in solving the conflicts as effective possible strategies.

A key informant opined:

Ensuring regular disarmament and demobilization exercises could increase Government control and presence. As much as there is peace, people are still armed and mobilized which is dangerous making the peace we are enjoying very fragile because anything can happen in a blink of an eye. Again the same guns are currently used by thieves as they patrol Marsabit town. Security is never guaranteed; in an event one person die today hell will break loose.

The findings revealed that regularized clan meetings such as *Barazas* with the clan leadership in liaison with the Government coordination and police units are effective. It was also revealed that religious leadership engagement proved an effective way of managing conflicts since they act as peace actors in the area. Besides, unity among the clan leadership all the way through high ranking legislative wing leadership and by them encouraging peace promotion campaigns was suggested as an effected way. De-radicalization of insurgence actors is also an effective clan position of promoting peace. It was also suggested that resolving conflicts amicably, clear land demarcations, compliance with the law, and implementation of peace cohesion initiatives as effective strategies. Further, collection of intelligence on the planned attacks by herders/warriors; development of clear resource sharing formula; working hand in hand with different state agencies as an effective mechanism. Provision of regular security to affected areas was also suggested as one way of bringing communities together.

4.2 Stakeholders Decision Making

The findings revealed that regularized clan meetings such as *Barazas* with the clan leadership in liaison with the Government coordination and police units are effective. It was also revealed that religious leadership engagement proved an effective way of managing conflicts since they act as peace actors in the area. Besides, unity among the clan leadership all the way through high ranking legislative wing leadership and by them encouraging peace promotion campaigns was suggested as an effected way. De-radicalization of insurgence actors is also an effective clan position of

promoting peace. The respondents suggested that effective involvement of locals through utilization of *Nyumba Kumi*, religious leaders and stakeholders, women and youth, with respective peace committee formations as effective means. It was also suggested that resolving conflicts amicably, clear land demarcations, compliance with the law, and implementation of peace cohesion initiatives as effective strategies. Further, collection of intelligence on the planned attacks by herders/warriors; development of clear resource sharing formula; working hand in hand with different state agencies as an effective mechanism. Provision of regular security to affected areas was also suggested as one way of bringing communities together.

Participants suggested need for continuous engagement of local communities; recruitment of peace ambassadors; involving political leadership and equitable sharing of available natural resources; formation of resource users association to oversee distribution and use of natural resources, and formation of conflict management committees. They also suggested strengthening the available informal and formal institutions; elevating the scarce resources to cater for the whole community; proper adherence to agreement by both parties; engagement of stakeholders and community elders frequently in uniting communities. In effort to improving peace in the region they suggested punishing the perpetrators; bringing reconciliation such as peace meeting between the two warring communities, at least twice in a year; and preaching peace and security among the communities. Also, cultural inclusion such as promoting positive cultural practices like Lake Turkana cultural festival which brings together all different tribes from Marsabit county.

Respondents suggested civic education; resolving political boundaries and negotiated democracy; capacity building of the political leaders on the impact of violence and conflict and on the negative and positive peace. Also, reporting any cases of suspected attacks and book the perpetrators into book; discouraging leaders on proliferation of small and light weapons; and by enlightening the residents on effects of bad politics that can lead to conflicts. It was suggested that it's important to include both men and women in conflict management in that they can bring in their challenges and help in providing solutions to solve some issues that affect them. Further to this, there is a sense of inclusivity in the present as compared to the past however; there is need for greater improvement of the gender inclusiveness.

Among the factors provided by the respondents are political interest, radicalisation and politicization, cross border peace promotion actors; conflict and violent extremism de-escalation promoters; Collaboration amongst community to bring a win-win resolution; political rivalry; administrative boundaries; ethnic profiling; and government resources access/distribution. Also, youths and women for peace; unity among political leaders; loss of look lives and livelihood; deployment of security personnel and lack of resources to facilitate smooth running of the conflict management processes are among core factors. Besides, illiteracy among the inhabitants; resources sharing; good will from religious leaders and political leaders were also identified among the factors. However, negative factors included impartiality of political leaders; failure of existing security apparatus to work without biasness and with zeal to make peace things work; all communities' participation in conflict management; lack of funds to run the conflict management activities, and frequent inter-clan clashes.

A number of respondents revealed that scarce grazing land; political interest; youth and women for peace initiative; greed and grievance; structural violence and local leaders and community elders involved in peace negotiations processes; formation of declarations between neighbouring communities to avoid cross border conflict; and collaborations of all the peace actors within the county are among the major concerns.

One of the key informants provided that:

The concern on unfair distribution of available resources and opportunities in the county is a touchy issue. This is because there is need to address some of the historical issues on poor management of natural resources such as land, community land utilization, and clear boundary demarcations. For instance, Community boundaries are very sensitive as land disputes continuously occur due to pasture and water.

Respondents expressed that by educating people about disadvantages of conflicts; bringing together all actors with peace and security components; formation of conflict management committees, and facilitation of continuous peace dialogue processes are some of the roles by the stakeholders. Other roles included reconciliatory approaches; creating forums and peace caravan; establishing sharing resources framework and resource mobilization, distribution and offering logistical and financial support during regular peace meetings. Besides, stakeholders offer capacity building trainings and securitization information support to peace committees.

A key informant inferred:

Stakeholders are so useful in the management of conflicts. This is by providing the required resources to manage the conflicts experienced among the locals through community sensitization on the need to promote peaceful coexistence and promotion of joint/early conflict resolution; and being a champion of peace and forefront in bringing especially the warring communities together for peace dialogue. They are also cornerstones in terms of offering resource mobilization during conflict management efforts; and financially supporting the conflict resolution meetings among others.

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A number of respondents held that engagement of clan and same elders from warring communities or traditional supreme elders' decision making at yaa. By inclusivity will ensure that the decisions should come from across all members involved. This is in effort to solving conflict fairly and in time. In the same realm, equal sharing of resources is an important aspect for avoidance of the escalation of conflicts. Others opined that all leaders to work together in promoting peace for the betterment of their communities understanding the problem by identifying the parties involved and brainstorming an alternative solution by addressing the issue of conflict with grassroot community and teaching them on peacekeeping.

It was evidenced that utilization of a periodic Peace Caravan, Church exchange program such as those conducted at *Dukana/Ileret Parish*; and exchange of animal gifts. Besides, holding regular peace negotiations and conferences between bordering communities such as involvement of herders/warriors in peace dialogue meetings and women for peace by different actors may prove as an effective initiative.

The establishment of peace committees comprising of all community in Marsabit County with effective engagement of stakeholders and community elders in peace initiative mutual agreements by communities to stay in peace is also a good peace initiative. Regularized inter-clan and faith festivals such as the *Children Peace Initiative Kenya*; *Catholic Churches Cultural Festivals* and *Lake Turkana Cultural Festival* are effective in promoting positive cultural practices. Subsequently, respondents held that equitable sharing of natural resources to evade conflicts possible through ensuring regular disarmament, peace meeting, and Fighting against inter clan clashes.

4.3 Resource Distribution

Participants suggested need for continuous engagement of local communities; recruitment of peace ambassadors; involving political leadership and equitable sharing of available natural resources; formation of resource users association to oversee distribution and use of natural resources, and formation of conflict management committees. They also suggested strengthening the available informal and formal institutions; elevating the scarce resources to cater for the whole community; proper adherence to agreement by both parties; engagement of stakeholders and community elders frequently in uniting communities.

In effort to improving peace in the region they suggested punishing the perpetrators; bringing reconciliation such as peace meeting between the two warring communities, at least twice in a year; and preaching peace and security among the communities. Also, cultural inclusion such as promoting positive cultural practices like Lake Turkana cultural festival which brings together all different tribes from Marsabit county. By organising frequent meetings to discuss issues affecting the residents and providing tangible solutions; clan elders are sources of information, and do understand the terrain of the area, and are more reachable when problems arise. It therefore implies that elders remain effective personalities in the management of conflicts as evidenced by

4.4 Conflict Management

Respondents suggested civic education; resolving political boundaries and negotiated democracy; capacity building of the political leaders on the impact of violence and conflict and on the negative and positive peace. Also, reporting any cases of suspected attacks and book the perpetrators into book; discouraging leaders on proliferation of small and light weapons; and by enlightening the residents on effects of bad politics that can lead to conflicts. Respondents revealed that majority of the clan elders are core arm of decision-making processes, and ensure both compliance and enforcement of the both security, Government and County Government rules, laws and regulations or and decisions passed through security committees. They also expressed that in dispute resolution involving theft, conflict, natural resource management and land are equally handled without any impartiality. Besides, they are facilitators an ambassadors of cultural festivals held in the area.

Considering community is never void of wrongdoers, and petty offences, they are also charged with the responsibility of punishing them. They are also charged with the convergence of meetings such those relating to peace, security, and any other meeting that may need constructivism public engagement by the community members. Subsequently, they also act as solid information gathering agents, intermediaries of the various government agencies. Considering Marsabit has presence of rangelands and other rare establishments, they are also charged as ground personnel to ensure there is no encroachment being a coordinated exercise with other responsible teams.

One of the key informants held:

Clan elders are important community leadership agents. They do bring to together members of community and discuss matters of community wellbeing, most of which are positive though at times they also encourage conflict or activities that lead to conflict or those that fuel conflict. E.g. they request elites/politicians to fundraise and purchase Small arms and light weapons, elders to distribute or rather oversee distribution of those SALWs. The also encourage members to raid the rival community etc.

It was suggested that ensuring neutrality and impartiality, security teams and other teams maintaining high levels of professionalism could lead to curbing conflict incurrence in the area. Also, involvement of stakeholders such as Non-Governmental and Human Rights Actors in the fight against actors of conflicts is a good means of addressing the issue. Besides, settling colonial and post-colonial land insurgence land disputes, ensuring fair resource distribution, and maintaining proper audit on all resources allocated in the area is an effective mechanism in addressing the conflict situation.

A key informant opined:

Ensuring regular disarmament and demobilization exercises could increase Government control and presence. As much as there is peace, people are still armed and mobilized which is dangerous making the peace we are enjoying very fragile because anything can happen in a blink of an eye. Again the same guns are currently used by thieves as they patrol Marsabit town. Security is never guaranteed; in an event one person die today hell will break loose.

5.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

The aim of the study was to address the impact of inclusive governance on conflict management within Marsabit County. The study was domiciled on establishing the composition of clan elders in conflict management in Marsabit County; establishing stakeholders' decision making in conflict management in Marsabit County and to assess resource distribution in conflict management in Marsabit County. It was evidenced from the above results that there was a fair participation in terms of gender. Also, it was evidenced that clan elders and other security arms of government have a core role in the management of security within Marsabit County. Devoid of the communal secrecy and composition within the communities and clans in Marsabit County, it was also evidenced that security agents do have a limitation in addressing security issues more so to the inter-clan clashes (periodic).

It was also evidenced local community-based institutions and non-governmental agencies alongside the clan elders have a greater role in terms of managing conflicts. This is also evidenced in the public participations (*Barazas*) held to address security related and peace cohesion among the communities. The public participation in the management of conflicts in Marsabit County also details other bordering counties' teams as a coordination exercising. It is therefore evidenced that inclusive governmental, communal and other local advocacy teams and human rights defenders do have a composite role as stakeholders in the conflict management.

From the results in above chapter, resource distribution was evidenced as a core concern to the members of public, community leaders, and security teams assigned to Marsabit County. In summary, it is evidenced that there exist bias in resource allocation especially natural resources considering communities domiciled in Marsabit County encounter regular mobility in search of resources like water for their livestock. In terms of financial resource allocation and addressing regular natural calamities/disasters in the area that contribute to loss of property and fauna owned by the clans, resultant engagement and dialogue have proven effortful to resolving conflicts in the area.

There is proper clan composition however, from the evidence above, bias in clan representation in conflict issues leads to further escalations. It therefore, concludes that inadequate composition and participation of clan representations leads to poor inclusive governance.

Stakeholders from the above findings play a greater role in solving conflicts and disputes, and the larger inclusion and constructivist encouragement in the same dimension is a recipe for effective conflict management and inclusive governance. Therefore, the study concludes effective stakeholder decision-making processes are positive ingredients for inclusive governance and solid conflict management. Resource distribution as evidenced in the above findings is not fair, therefore, impartial and other communities remain neglected for utilizing available natural resources and the allocated resources. The study therefore concludes poor and unfair resource distribution is an ignition for further conflicts in Marsabit County, and therefore, it may not lead to inclusive governance for effective conflict management.

5.2 Recommendations

The study makes the following recommendations based on the findings of the study. There is need to intensively integrate community and clan leadership in core areas of security management. This is in effort to maximize active participation by persons who integrate with the community members on the daily basis. There is need for the National Intelligence Service, the Directorate of Criminal Investigation's Criminal Intelligence Unit, and other County/Sub-County National Police Service, and other Counter Terror Units to work in tandem in curbing the organizers or inciting members including politicians who fund conflict related matters in Marsabit. This will largely stop any planned conflicts that may involve armed groups with unrecorded or unauthorized firearms. There is also need to conduct community based clan leadership trainings to clan leaders. This may help them participate well in other high level peace meetings that may prove challenge to clan leaders who use the local dialect that is not English or Swahili. It will also help curbing the language barrier challenges witnessed in addressing conflict issues in Marsabit County. There is need to ensure equitable and fair distribution of resources. This can be achieved through the County Integrated Mapping units. It can also involve other National Government agencies such as Kenya National Bureau of Statistics that can provide the regular stats on the population change in the area. In doing this, it can escalate the resource issue that causes regular conflicts. Smaller clans should have a fair representative engage in the whole decision-making process considering larger clans tend to have larger representation.

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