

**A HISTORY OF MARIGE MARKET IN KIAMBU COUNTY KENYA, 1960 TO
2000 THE RISE DEVELOPMENT AND DECLINE.**

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DECLARATION AND APPROVAL

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This thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate the current research to my family who have been very supportive throughout the implementation of the current study.

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ABSTRACT

This study sought to analyse and investigate the history of Marige market in Komothai, Kiambu County Kenya. The underlying objectives of the study were; To investigate the historical factors that led to the growth of Marige market to 1960, to analyse how the relationship between the traders and locals led to the transformation of Marige market between 1961 to 1978, to investigate the relationship between the various market policies and how they impacted on the growth of Marige market between 1979-2000 and to analyse the relationship between the urbanization in neighbouring towns and the fall of Marige market. The study was based on the Structural Functionalism Theory by COMTE (1984). The research utilized both primary and secondary sources which was used to acquire data on issues of development of Marige market in Komothai, Kiambu County, Kenya. The study will use historical design. The study was done in Marige market in Komothai, Kiambu County, Kenya. This area was picked in light of the fact that it contains people of assorted tribes carrying out various economic activities in the region and some have been born and raised in the area, hence familiar to the historical changes the market has undergone. The study utilized interviews questions as the main instruments to collect data. The study also relied on both secondary and primary written sources to gather information which was utilized to gather data on issues of development of Marige market in Komothai, Kiambu County, Kenya. From the findings it is clear that Marige market thrived to national status by 1960s and 70s, was by the year 2000 an abandoned place with minimal or no activities. A trader who used to bring commodities such as salt from Magadi or tobacco from Meru in the 1970s, who would happen to visit the area by the year 2000, would only be welcomed by cows and goats grazing on the overgrown grass, a sign of an abandoned and alienated place. Several factors had contributed to the growth of Marige market; which included; the population of the surrounding villages, agricultural activities such coffee farming and cattle keeping, peaceful coexistence of locals, strategic location and infrastructure. That factors that led to the collapse of the market on the other hand include rural urban migration, the collapse of the coffee industry and the rise of new urban centres in close proximity to Marige market. Among the recommendations that have been offered by the current research include the need of having developments based on merit as opposed to political inclination. Another key recommendation is that the government should come up with policies for rural industrialization. The current study also recommends for the government and non-state actors raise infrastructure standards in rural areas. The need for a policy by stakeholders in the agricultural sector guaranteeing minimum returns to farmers of such crops, to bar them from unfair trade deal and competitions that always kill their hard work has also been offered as a recommendation of the current study.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

- CBD** : Central Business District
- KANU** : Kenya African National Union
- U.S.** : United States
- NACOSTI** : National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The history of urbanization is only understood with reference to the densely concentrated populations and built of environments of cities. Globally, most people dwell in urban areas compared to rural areas, with 54 per cent of the world's population residing in urban areas in 1994. In 1950, approximately 30 per cent of the world's population was living in urban (Bencivenga, & Smith, 1997). Research conducted denotes that some of the most affected areas where the rural population has reduced drastically are the Northern America and Latin America with a population of 86 percent and 82 percent respectively in the urban areas (United Nations) (Park, et al.1993). Africa currently has a population of 40 percent in urban areas while Asia has 48 percent in the urban areas as well. Open air markets depend on the workforce from the farms which implies that a decline in the population would lead to a decline in the volume of transactions (Rostow, 1994).

According to (Lewis,2001), urbanization was understood to be a natural by-product and facilitator of industrial development, driven by the growth of employment opportunities in urban areas as a result of industrial investment during the 'take-off' stage of economic development. A steady flow of migrants in search of work in the 'modern sector' was expected to keep real wages low, thereby enhancing the profits of industrial enterprises and the quantity of surplus capital available for further growth-enhancing investments. By shifting people out of subsistence agricultural production and into higher value-added activities that entail increasing specialization and exchange, the process of urbanization was seen as contributing to the economic transformation of societies.

Across most of the African capital cities most of the services are found in the city's offices. As a result most of the residents of a country access the services by travelling to upcountry. This encourages mobility in search of such services, which leads to more market for various commodities taken into such areas. Unemployment also forces most of the youth and unemployed skilled personnel to go to such areas (Breese, 1986). The areas present the available up to date techniques needed to earn a living. To some only such urban areas, for instance Kampala, that may provide the needed resources to complete their courses. Such situation has led to the fall of the small markets within their specific localities. For instance the Bakuri market in Uganda declined as a result of rural urban migration (Singh, 2010). Despite its level of growth more of the Ugandan citizens moved to the country's capital due to the improvement of services in the late 1970s.

The growth of urban centres which are centre of all services needed for both the development of an economic and life of an individual leads to increased settlements in the urban area. Marige market was a victim of the rapidly growing Nairobi town. Most of the residents moved to Nairobi to search for greener pastures contributing to the collapse of the market. The political interference from the elected leaders also had an aspect with regards to the administration and mismanagement of the tax payer's funds. This creates a gap recommending further research on the area provided for the study.

This research thesis therefore seeks solutions to the available gap and seeks to address the historical processes that led to the decline of the market such as urbanization and the drivers such as urban poverty, need for social amenities, employment as well as education. In addition the CBD also presented business opportunities to entrepreneurs leading to strict concentration of the growing market.

Nairobi is one of the rapidly growing cities in Africa attracting both local and foreign investors. It offers most of the valuable social amenities, educational activities and

employment opportunities to most of the graduates. In the past, Nairobi was just a town being a capital for the British colonialists in the 1950s. Though some of the services were decentralized, most of the services were still not relevant at the time. For instance, if a person needed to process employment that would only happen once in a year implying that such a service would not cause any disparity with regards to the demand of a commodity. At the time infrastructural development was at its core with only a few constructed buildings. Most of the residents therefore earned a living from their rural setting with a major focus on economic activities such as farming, fishing and keeping of animals.

The local trading centres at the time provided most services to the residents of such areas. Political influence was minimal therefore enabling the rise of such areas since they did not have any external control from the forces beyond their control. The major administrators were chiefs and village heads who were not politically chosen (Ellis, Devereux, & White, 1999). Politically chosen leaders often believe that it's the voice of the people they represent hence leading to misleading decisions that may lead to the decline of a market area or an entire institution (Lane, 1997). Only a few tertiary institutions were available at the time with the University of Nairobi being one of them. Less infrastructure development led to increased costs to the country's central Business District leading to decline in activity from the village.

Reduced CBD activity led to more activity in the rural setting allowing development in the rural areas (Lane, 1997). Such situations led to the development of the large Karatina open air market. Karatina open air Market is located 127 kilometres off Nairobi allowing the market to enjoy a fair share of the country's market income. Its location along the highway ensures an easy delivery of commodities to the market as well as easy shipping of commodities from the market. Despite the improvement of the infrastructure the

market has remained at its peak since its inception. In addition, most of the services are available at its vicinity.

The increase in the employment opportunities from the country's capital has led to the decline in the activity of the markets within the surrounding area. Since the 1960s the CBD and its surrounding areas has been receiving developments with regards to infrastructure. An improved infrastructure makes it easy to access the urban area (Hollingsworth, 1997). In addition most of the farmers would focus on producing commodities and taking them to a place that is most likely to fetch higher costs. Producers and traders who previously offered goods and commodities to Marige Market focused on a better paying market which slowly contributed to its downfall due to a decline in the volume of products from the farmers.

With the advancement in technology there has been a shift from a focus on rural areas to the urban centres globally. This presents a gap with regards to Marige market which may be assessed with possible recommendations and solutions presented for further research or policy implementation. Before the 1950s most of the people in the world lived in the rural areas engaging in a wide range of economic activities such as farming and keeping of livestock (World Urbanization Prospects). The Marige market was a life changing market to the individuals within the locality and the entire country as well. It enabled traders to earn a living from the activities from the market. Over time the market's activity has declined since most of the population has moved to the urban centres globally. Researchers indicate that; in 1990, half the world's population lives in cities (Muller, 1989).

In Kenya more people migrated from rural to urban areas in search of better wages and better living conditions thus depriving the rural centres of human capital needed to

develop and run businesses in these areas. There has also being a decline in the market base as more people migrate to cities leaving the less privileged in the rural centres.

The set-up of political posts to run the affairs of the ward led to a decline in activity to the charges implied on the costs from the trading activities (Lewis 1984). Political interference on the rules set to run the market also forced various members to voluntarily withdraw from associating themselves with the activities of the farm. The desire to acquire social amenities within the CBD also forced some of the farmers to focus on learning in the so called tertiary institutions within the CBD. Others shifted to town to work on the less skilled labour such as the construction of the buildings and drainage systems. As a result farming productivity reduced leading to a decline in the produce with only a few farmers producing the commodities and shipping their products individually to the CBD (Kenya Government 1986).

Social amenities started to be offered selectively to some regions based on the choice of elected leaders and denied in other regions not favourable to the elected leaders. As a result the CBD became a mother to the great markets such as the Marige market. The market attracted investors from different parts of the country leading to further growth of the market. The market used to be a busy marketing centre and hosted one of the open air markets in the nineties. The market was dead with little or minimal economic activities taking place by 1999. The area that was always glittering due to the quantity and amount of produce taken to the market was covered with grass.

Marige Market in Kiambu strong years was between, 1960 To 2000. Considering the time at which the market was operating, by the 1960s, some community members believed that it would be at the level of Karatina and Wangige markets which were considered as some of the biggest markets in Kenya. Karatina for instance was the largest

open air market in Eastern Africa by 1984. Less or minimal development took place within the area implying so much neglect from the area administration.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

There is no comprehensive study which has been done on Marige market. Other studies that have been done related to this study in Kenya are over 20 years. There is need for this kind of study since there are a lot of Markets that are failing. The government is not concern and needs to be given proves of faller or success of markets. The study focused on the various trends shaping the evolution and transformation of Marige market between 1960 and 2000, how it impacted on the economic growth of Marige Komothai Location and what led to its decline. It was therefore an endeavour of this study to document the history of Marige market to fill the historical gap which exists.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The underlying objectives of the study were;

1. To investigate the historical factors that led to the growth and fall of Marige market to 1960
2. To analyse the impact of the relationship between the traders and locals on the transformation of Marige market between 1961 to 1978
3. To investigate the relationship between the various market policies and how they impacted on the growth of Marige between 1979-2000
4. To analyse the relationship between the urbanization in neighbouring towns and the fall of Marige market.

1.4 Research Questions

The research questions that guided the study were:

1. What are the historical factors that led to the growth of Marige market to 1960?
2. What was the impact of relationship between the traders and locals on transformation of Marige market between 1961 and 1978?
3. What is the relationship between the various market policies and how did they impact on the growth of Marige market between 1979 and 2000?
4. What is the relationship between the urbanization in neighbouring towns and the fall of Marige market?

1.5 Significance and justification of the Study

There is limited work that devotes itself to the study of Marige Market, the market is a large area with a big population thus it will be a good study area which leaves several significant gaps which need to be filled up. This justifies an objective, coherent and systematic account of Marige Market since no scholar has undertaken a detailed and systematic study of Marige Market. Therefore, this undertaking intended to fill the available gaps in historical literature through collection of all accessible and available materials of Marige Market. The results of the research will constitute significant aspects in the accumulation of historical facts about the history of Marige Market. The research adds a new dimension to existing research, increase knowledge about the history of Marige market in Komothai, Kiambu County, Kenya and as well provide information and reference to other researchers who may need to research on the topic. In addition the research also intended to provide policies that may help improve the status of other existing market nearing the collapsing phase. The study will be of importance since it has addressed reasons for success or fall of markets.

1.6 Scope of the study

The study covered a time frame of 40 years that is from 1960-2000. The years were divided to cover different periods in history which include pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial. The study was carried out in Marige market in Komothai, Kiambu county Kenya to understand how the market thrived and declined. The study restricted itself to historical factors that led to the growth and the imminent fall of Marige market.

1.7 Limitations and Delimitations of the Study

1.7.1 Limitations of the Study

The study was limited to investigating the historical factors leading to the establishment, growth and fall of Marige market in Komothai, Kiambu County Kenya. Therefore the information gathered was not to be generalized in other setting in the country. The study also has no control of other variables that may have influence on the history of other local markets. The study was be limited to 1990 -2000 period where Marige market had its ups and downs. Even though the study addressed other Markets it was only limited to factors leading to the establishment, growth and fall of Marige market. The study will also be limited to respondents who are above 50 years since this were of ages in 1990. The study will also be limited to residents of Mariga since Birth.

1.7.2 Delimitation of the Study

The study was confined to investigating the historical factors leading to the establishment, growth and fall of Marige market in Komothai; Kiambu County Kenya. The researcher interviewed the local community. The study focused or examined the four objectives of the study before going out in the field. Any clarification was done in case of questions especially on questionnaires and during interview schedule. The researcher

understands different languages used by people around Marige market which made it easier for him to carry out the interview secessions.

1.8 Literature Review

The word market has been described in a number of ways. As per the Encyclopedia Britannica, (1990), marketplaces basically mean the places where goods are traded. It is a place for people to together and trade as well as exchanging products and services. The market is not simply a place in the current economic structure. The word market has been extended to cover a whole geographical region in which vendors operate. Economists recognize that the word market applies to a particular region where different demand and output conditions exist. Buyers and sellers in the area are driven by different and equitable buying and sale practices. In such cases, buyers and sellers are motivated by their personal will, spending power and market prices of a similar goods and services.

Marketplaces are areas where traders regularly meet to sell goods; indoors or outdoors, markets have been integral to the recent social, economic and political movement in cities all over the world and remain fundamental to ones political, socioeconomic aspirations (Morales, 2011). Sales, the advancement of tourism, the stimulation of business development, socialization and incorporation of young people or immigrants as well as the uplifting of places are among activities executed in the markets worldwide (Morales, *ibid*).

Berry (1967) described market places as financial, economic, and social and many other reference places whereby traders meet for sale and buy of commodities and in which the prices given and charged in each case are influenced by the opinions of others. The market is thus a system that creates self-regulation prices. Prices, on the other hand, are

the framework linking personal choice and practice. The buyer will often settle for a dealer offering the cheapest price for the same item.

In industrial countries, open market operations are the most important tool for regulating the money supply. They are also becoming more important to developing countries and economies in transition. Open market operations give central banks a lot of leeway when it comes to when and how much money they spend. They also allow them to have an impersonal, businesslike interaction with people in the market and avoid the inefficiencies of direct controls. It is important to develop indirect controls because direct controls become less effective as markets grow and markets find a way around them in a global world economy, which is why it is important to do this. More and more countries are trying to let the power of the free market run wild. Many politicians and central bankers are struggling with how to get the most out of free market operations. It was Stephen H. Axilrod who wrote this in (1997).

So that monetary policy can use these kinds of operations, the tools that are already there need to change. Also, changes must be made in the way the markets work. This study looks at the options that a central bank has for dealing with these issues and coming up with tools for adopting open market operations. In the first part, it talks about how open market activities and other monetary processes are linked. Then, it looks at how the central bank might help to build the essential financial market architecture. Finally, it looks at the advantages and disadvantages of different ways to run open market operations. It was Stephen H. Axilrod who wrote this in (1997).

The market was an important part and played a great role in the African society. By meetings and exchanges of commodities, the market has served a social function. It has created a forum where people have taken time off their normal day-to-day routines to socialize and educate each other about any new developments. Inter-community markets

also facilitated the transition of traditional skills. For example, the Kikuyu learned wood curving techniques from the Kamba community; while in return, Kamba learned agricultural practices from the Kikuyu community.

In Kenya, the majority of rural markets have been developed in administrative centres. The rules of operation of the municipal markets were established in the Legislation of the East Africa Municipal of 1903. Hawking in cities and towns with market places was forbidden. The markets had defined operating hours, policies for collecting market charges. The markets were situated on sites with design plans. Rural markets have never been regulated till 1924, when native authorities which are now county councils were established. The Local authorities were responsible for setting up and managing local markets.

Marige market used to be a busy shopping centre, hosting one of the giant open-air markets in the 1990s and even before. However the market in Komothai Location by 1999 was a pale shadow of its former self. The market was a major source of livelihood to most of the residents who majorly depended on the proceeds from the trading activities in the market. In addition, the farmers from the surrounding would also get adequate returns since the farm gate prices of the farm commodities were high since there were no transport charges accrued. By 1999, little or no economic activity took place in the market. As residents recalled, the conduct and intensity of the activities in the area attracted traders from the entire country who flocked Marige market in order to sell their various commodities.

The increased volume of traders always led to an increase in the number products available thereby leading to an increase in the number of customers, which translated to an increase in the activity within the place. Further, due to the high number of traders

some would sell similar products hence a reduction in the cost per unit that attracted more and more customers.

Residents believed that the dead market would be at a more advanced level than Karatina and Wangige, Karatina is the biggest open-air market in the Eastern Africa (Singh, 1990). These markets, by 1999 encountered a beehive of activities with an enormous amount of traders within the area. The case is a synopsis of the history of Marige Market from 1960 to 2000 in Komothai, Githunguri, Kiambu County. Marige market showed high chances of advancement and even attaining better success but by 1999, it remained a shadow of itself. The market no longer had the social activities that took place at the time.

The market has different geographical characteristics categorized under the population density, market size, region and climate. A small retailer may find opportunities in a small market while a large reseller may not find those opportunities. Consumers in various regions of the nation also have different tastes in food and style (Suttle 1998). The choices of products and market places are driven by these tastes. For instance, there are customers who prefers organic product as opposed to modern and processed food products. Such customers always prefer to go to village markets, where they can get these products without going through any middle men who may compromise the quality of such products.

Rate of population growth defines the historical changes with regards to the historical setting whereas the members of a society have to adapt the technological changes in order to provide their needed contribution (Moffet, 1994). As technological changes came up they impacted both positive and negative differences that led to change in the social life. The change in the social life affected other surroundings as well leading to change in the setting.

The rise of Marige market in the early times can also be traced to the agricultural activities that were being carried out in the market. According to the article by Velayudhan (2016), Marige market is located in a place that is agriculturally productive. The place being surrounded by different forests such as Githunguri forest and Limuru forest, receives high rainfall which makes the place a good agricultural land. The place is also strategically situated between two rivers, River Komothai and Ruiru River. Water from these two rivers offered enough supply for irrigation during dry seasons. The residents of the place who were mainly Kikuyus who had migrated to the place in late 19th century, were mainly farmers and mainly relied on land cultivation and grazing (KNA undated). These activities used to provide Marige market with the necessary products for sales. At a time when the economy largely relied on farming than manufacturing, those who had large tracts of productive land had a higher completion when it came to wealth and social status. Marige residents were industrious and grew foodstuffs such as bananas, cassavas, yams, as well as vegetables such as kales and cabbages.

During pre-colonial times when the market was mainly a barter trade, the residents of Marige market used to trade their farm produce, mainly yams and cassava with cows from the Maasai community, bows and arrows from the Kamba community as well as salt from the Magadi region. This had made Marige a bee-hive of activities as traders gathered there to trade their different commodities. One of the interviewees said, "Our parents used to grow yams and cassava and would bring them here in every market day to trade with bows and salt. The market used to be busy as there used to be hundreds of traders every market day from different parts of this country." The respondent went further to explain how the market used to receive many traders from locals who were farmers and who supplied the market with the needed commodities for the trade.

The market also received great boost from coffee farming among locals. During pre-independent era, coffee farming was an activity which was only a preserve of white settlers who grew coffee in large scale. For the people of Komothai and around Marige area, they had been allowed to grow coffee in small scale. This different opportunity offered the locals with a rare cash crop business which was highly regarded. The sale of coffee cherry beans gave the locals bonuses which gave them an upper hand in purchasing power and using the cash for trading. This made the area to become a demand of many migrants who came to the region to buy pieces of land and grow coffee.

Unemployment kept on changing with the rise in population especially with the limitation in job opportunities. In the 1960s, the society majorly depended on the agricultural sector hence people would not seek to acquire jobs in urban areas. The urban centres were also restricted to the Africans and remained largely a privilege of Europeans and Indian business men. The world stopped relying on the agricultural goods with a focus on the manufacturing good and services. This intensified rural urban migration in search of employment. This situation pushed the agricultural sector to the end with a limited production leading to collapse of small markets when other towns emerged (Central Bank of Kenya 1991).

The political setting and negligence also led to the fall of emerging markets. When politicians don't take responsibilities, and they represent the entire population, it implies the entire society has failed (Lane, 1997). More attention was given to urban centres and more resources were channelled to them. Urbanization impacted negatively on the developing markets such as Mariga market. Urbanization impacted on the developing markets. Since most of the social amenities were placed in urban areas most people moved to the urban centres in order to access them.

These are characteristics that are majorly developed through research. Such characteristics include user status, brand loyalty, benefits, usage rates and the duration some of the clients have been one's customers. When selling products traders always offer clients who buy in bulk some discount.

A general layout of the market presented an image of the capability of the market. The landscaping betrayed the laxity shown by the management of the market as well as the residents who knew the value the market held before the 1960s. The marketing centre used to be popular. The buildings housed traders and colonial administration offices that served them. The continuity of business was increased owing to the fact that there were buyers and customers. After the introduction of taxation during the colonial era, chiefs maintained trading routes. This enabled traders to come in large numbers leading to more investments thereby increasing the productivity within the area and the market as well (Spence, Annez, & Buckley, 1999).

The existence of the Railway Line (1896-1901) facilitated commodities from other parts of the country to reach Nairobi. This actualised for the link between Marige Market and Nairobi, where various commodities were brought by various traders. Marige Market was situated in a fortified area by ridges. The ridges included; Thuita, Ruiru River and Mbariyalgi. There were cottage industries which included pottery and weaving. This facilitated for commodities availability in the market. Marige market was surrounded by many traditional villages. The villages not only provided customers to the market but also provided security to the far traders. Commodities such as cattle from Maasailand, bows and arrows from Ukambani, tobacco from Meru, salts all the way from Magadi were traded in the market (Central Bank of Kenya 1991).

The existence of colonial chiefs like Magugu provided prevailing peace in the area. The chiefs acted as a link between the locals and the colonial government. The tax that the

chiefs collected was used to maintain the operations of the market. The paths or routes to the market were properly maintained by the levy. People from Komothai, where the market used to be were welcoming and peaceful to visitors. Some even offered Maasai and Kikuyu traders their cattle sheds to keep their herd of cattle waiting the market days. Such people included Mbugua wa Njango. The area around Marige was agriculturally productive. Coffee which was allowed to the locals by the colonial government in small-scale farming was grown in plenty. Animals and animal products were highly traded. All these factors led to the growth of Marige market before 1960 (Daily Nation, 29 September, 2014).

Markets contains of customers who either buy goods for consumption while traders buy products for resale. Marige market accommodated all kinds of consumers making it a preferred destination to all who decided to market. Since not all customers have similar tastes as the others there are various characteristics that may best describe the clients. The features include; demographic, behavioural, psychographic and geographic traits. This entails classifying the market with regards to their different social classification such as the household size, ethnic background, generation, occupation, education, religion, ethnic group and gender orientation. The tastes differ with respect to the above characteristics. Traders may target their products through laying their adverts through such demographic groups (Suttle 1998).

After independence, there was construction of good roads which created self-employment opportunities. Traders and consumers were allowed to do business without sanctions from the government; therefore, Marige market became more vibrant after independence. The government encouraged the spirit of hardworking to fight illiteracy, laziness and community disintegration. Communities were encouraged to form cooperative societies to pull their resources together. This facilitated for the growth of

Marige market. The co-operative societies played a major role in the sale of products like coffee, animals and animal products. More so the agricultural products were combined and cooperatives approached a single customer offering best price for their produce.

Residents who witnessed the activities of the co-operative society in Marige acknowledged lot of support when purchasing their farm inputs. The cooperatives provided them with inputs such as fertilizers, animal feeds and other agricultural inputs at subsidized prices while under some situations they would be provided in credit terms. The results of the co-operative society were reciprocated through the output produced from the increase in production. Some of the co-operative societies even ended up procuring large chunks of land and property where they later shifted from their ordinary activities by the time the market was still doing well in term of traders and consumers (Central Bank of Kenya 1991).

By 1979 the world started experiencing the pinch of influx of people who started living in urban areas than rural areas. In 1997 it was a record breaking year since the number of those living in urban population exceeded the global rural population (An Agenda for Research). Many scholars see a threat with the alarming rate of most people moving from rural settlement to urban centres. Rapid demographic change and urbanization and can be strong drivers of growth, but they also have the likelihood to exacerbate already pressing challenge. The increasing demand for basic services in the cities has a direct relationship to the population growth. History indicates that urbanization both facilitate and accompanies economic evolution from agriculture to manufacturing services and activities that led to demand capitals of labour and closeness to where the firms provide the services (Chanel, 1996).

The national government provided incentives for people to start off their own business and for small businesses to develop. The government redesigned the taxation as opposed

to the colonial regime and benefited the locals to increase the labour activity rates and encouraged work while discouraging laziness. Another important stimulus to Marige market growth was increased degree of competitiveness in the micro-economy of endorsing contestability, reducing barrier to entries of non-communities and deregulating markets to encourage new entrants. Sustainability was also attained by encouraging the formation of new markets which exploited new technology such as in transport or new trading techniques. The newly emerged markets were examples of how markets emerged, with or without government support. Long-term developments of infrastructure projects were central to the promotion of long terms growth and development in Marige market, Komothai. Better infrastructure facilitated outputs to be transported at a lesser cost, as well as generating employments and other positive externalities.

Marige markets enjoyed proper management system where the society valued the importance of the markets, with minimal political interference. The location of the Market, along the highway and further from the city, enabled the market to enjoy free and fair competition. In addition, the residents near the area adhered to the farming activities which led to a continuous supply of the agricultural produce from the farms. The willingness of the consumer helped categorize market as psychological in nature. These defining characteristics of Marige market in Komothai included; activities, attitudes, opinions, values and interests. One may add a consumer activity such as the participation of clients in weaving of baskets. A trader may identify customer opinions upon interaction with the customers on the product (Brockerhoff, 1990).

A different mode of service delivery in the rural areas leads to the decline on the score of the rating between the two localities. As a result members associated with a particular setting will go for the higher score putting off the lower score. For Instance, There had been important policy changes such as structural adjustment programs as from 1980

(Senegal) and 1983 (Tanzania), that may have extensively changed the situation migrants confront both in major urban cities and rural areas. On the case of service delivery scholars had come up with their findings comparing the rate between the rural areas and the urban areas (Brockhoff, 1990).

In this respect, rural-urban migration stems from the quest for perceived or actual benefits as a result of rural-urban income disparity (Amin, 19994). This imbalance coupled with urban bias in growth, according to study results throughout the ages, stems from the disproportionate wealth gap, property, buying power, economic activity and availability of facilities in urban centres as well as continued abandonment and deterioration of small towns and rural regions (Harris & Todaro, 1970). Although urban centres are growing in population, rural areas are experiencing decline in population. Rural regions definitely struggle as younger people migrate to urban areas and the rural area are left to the aging population. Young populations are always the targeted group in rural-urban migration. This is as a result of more employment opportunities in towns for younger generations. Older people who have already established themselves in the rural areas are left behind as with their advancing age, it becomes difficult to start a new living in urban centers (Tianhong, Maruyama & Kikuchi, 2000). Nevertheless, this implies that rural regions tend to become more conservative and less developed.

By year 2000, in Marige market, goats and cows grazed freely on grass which covered the area where the market stood. There were no longer visible pathways implying that there was no activity or management that offered any assistance while needed. Below are some of the recent pictures that indicate the current pictures of where Marige market used to be



Figure 1: Recent picture of where Marige market used to be

Source: Mbugua, (2019)



Figure 2: Abbatour where cows and goats used to be slaughtered when Marige market was in operation.

Source: Mbugua (2019)



Figure 3: Abandoned houses where Marige market traders used to stay and trade

Source: Mbugua (2019)



Figure 4: Some of the government houses that used to serve Marige people

Source: Mbugua (2019)

The demand of capital and labour that came from the rural areas implied that the members from the rural areas kept flocking the major towns where factories were situated (Kallaa&Pius, 1992). For instance, when the road was constructed one hundred metres away from Marige market most of the residents moved to the major towns in search of

employment in order to try out other opportunities. The shift to the urban areas therefore led to a reduction in the volume of produce in the rural areas. Reduced productivity meant that there was reduction in terms of the wealth produced while the population was higher. Those who lived in the urban areas waited for the hard work from those in the rural areas in order to get something they could take (Muller, 1978).

The world was experiencing tremendous change which was accompanied by the growth of new cities which was characterized by increased growth in slums with a considerable growth in urban infrastructure. The technological changes led to an increase in innovation of machines that helped reduce the workforce in the rural setting. For instance the invention of the tea plucking machines in Kenya helped reduce the rural population. Such people created unemployment gap leading to an increase in the number of unemployed individuals pushing them to urban areas in search for employment (Suttle, 1998).

Infrastructural development such as the construction of Nairobi- Kiambu –Kibicho road contributed a lot to the fall of Marige market since it had a direct impact on sale as well as access to the nearby major town. Since all the business personnel are rational they most likely had to sell their produce at areas that fetched higher prices. The society had a social mind and therefore related the changes that came about. The construction of the roads created temporary employment leading to some of the people who participated in the trade to shift their focus to the construction, for instance, women who would cook for the workmanship in that area. At the time that was their economic activity at the expense of selling commodities in the market. The duration of the construction impacted on the fall of the market since the construction took long hence people ended up forgetting their duties. (Lewis, 1984)

Neglect and the reduced activity led to the transformation of the shops to rental houses. These rental houses offered accommodation to people who depended on casual jobs to neighbouring farms who took their products to other markets whether domestic or international markets.

The growth of Kwamaiko Shopping Centre contributed a lot to the decline of Marige market. Rise of other towns has an inverse effect on the existing towns since humans always compare prices in order to arrive at the best place to shop (Singh, 1990). Residents within Kwamaiko started selling similar products such as those in Marige market. Some of the traders shifted from Marige Market since their households were close to Kwamaiko. Consequently they also moved away with the products they were selling leading to the scarcity of the products. This led to a shift of buyers to Kwamaiko who influenced others by directing their friends to the new established market (Annex, & Linn, 1990).

Due to the reduced quantity of the produce the remaining traders faced challenges trying to produce and simultaneously carrying out the trading activities in the market. Other members moved to country's capital in search of employment opportunities. Buyers also consider the volume of people moving to a particular place regardless of the price being charged. Residents say that most of the traders moved to Kwamaiko shopping centre with their previous customers. With time the centre gained recognition with more buyers trickling in the market.

Basing an argument on the sociology concept, the number had influenced the decision of the undecided buyers to go to the new market. The new market also brought new products in the market initiating more focus on them since buyers were curious to know any arrival of new products as well as catering for their needs. Such a rise had a direct impact to the rise and fall of Marige market (Daily Nation, 19th September, 1994).

The current study was based on the Structural Functionalism Theory by COMTE (1984). The concept is a sociological approach that views society as a complex system whose sections work together to foster constancy and unity. Collective consciousness, value conventional wisdom, social system, literacy, family, criminal activity and deviations as well as the media is the main principles in the functionalism theory. The definition of function: functional sociologists such as Parsons and Durkheim were interested with the quest for roles that organizations may have in the culture. Neil Smelser views society as an intricate system consisting of living things that work in coordination to keep the society alive (Newman, 2010). “Structural functionalism means that social organizations, that together form a social structure, function to preserve the harmony of the society” (Macionis, 1989). The model laid emphasis on the significance of the social structures and their social responsibilities.

The model was constituted on the writings of Emile Durkheim, who emphasised on the function that consensus play in upholding the social way of life in constituting equilibrium. Functionalists claim that in the absence of collective conscience, collective values and principles, maintaining order in society is unlikely and that social structure is vital the well-being of communities. We agree that Quality Consensus is the fundamental principle of social integration. And if members of society have common beliefs and thus have common personalities, it promotes cohesion and prevents confrontation. The society has major divisions which are joined by the shared values. Durkheim asserted that complex societies are held jointly by organic solidarity (Stowell& McClelland, 1990). In 1970s, Powell and Almond devised the structural functionalism approach to politics.

One of the ideas deriving from the Structural Functionalist concept is that individuals have social value and that larger amounts of social power turn into gains. Excellently-

integrated members of the system (those with significant social wealth) should continue to be members of the community in for the purpose of maximizing the value of their social value. One of the premises of the Structural Functionalism is that societies are coherent if they involve different intermediate categories that maintain similar standards. This hypothesis points to yet another suggestion: the better the chance of interaction between such intermediary classes, the more integrated society itself will become. The lack of social solidarity can lead to more aggression towards one another. Merton (1957) distinguished between dysfunctions, manifest functions and latent functions of society. He defined manifest functions as the designated consequences of any social forum implying that relating to the social structure means producing such as training and educating students for employment. For instance in health the manifest role would be giving help to the sick people. Latent functions describe the unintended things happen as a result of the structure but not the aimed reason. In education structure it refers to examples such as school trips and meeting new people while on health it implies volunteer work. Dysfunctions of society relates to the undesirable consequences such as not graduating, failing to get a good job, or not curing the sick.

Structuralism views culture as the first source of interaction. It focuses on how culture shapes us than in how culture becomes shaped. Scholars who use this approach concentrate on how beliefs, language and norms direct our behaviour (Brinkerhoff, White, & Ortega, 1998). Nonetheless, the research concerns for structural functionalists add the role family plays in the society coupled by how it incorporates with neighbours and culture as well as friends. The Social institutions play a major role in keeping society stable and able to function by services and goods produced and distributed provide as ways of dealing with conflict. (Newman, 1990)

However, Structural functionalism has been criticized for accepting existing social arrangements without investigating how they might take advantage of some groups or individuals within society (Newman, 1990). A major critique on the model is that it assumes a frequent interaction between a political system and its environment. It fails to recognize the probability of change and therefore ignore the probability of conflict.

The main assumption of the theory is that exterior social powers create boundaries in individual behaviour while the social order will be based on behaviour. The theory declares social change but acknowledges that it's evolutionary and slow hence forces the social structures to adapt and fit into the existing system. The approach is mainly associated with the methods and positivist thesis. It elaborates the predictable sequences of behaviour that exist within the social groups as well as the influence of culture and society.

Therefore, this study was analysed in relation to structural functionalism theory. This theory is important in the study of market since; the theory tries to look into different social institutions such as education, market, population and economy which play important role in shaping people lives. Market is an important organ in balancing and stabilizing civilizations within the society. Thus, it is the context of this theory that Marige market was analyzed.

Increased urbanization may place rural market centres at a disadvantage due to reduced population, constrained activity, and geographic isolation (Hodge& Monk, 2004). Trading conditions in remote markets may, consequently be pressured or rendered inefficient by the unfavourable environment that may ultimate characterise such remote shopping centres. Since trading activity is at the centre of the local community's social framework, such decline usually has a negative impact on the growth of the shopping centre, leading to eventual decline.

While rural shopping centres cannot be generalised as bearing similar characteristics, many of those found in the developing world are constrained by poor service provision and low incomes levels. Geographic isolation notwithstanding, NFU, (2002) argues that there are varying degrees of remoteness have differing implications for the local trading activity, with less remote markets being subjected to out-shopping as a result to leakages to nearby larger trading centres.

Rural trading centres have been described by the Countryside Agency, (2004c) as those that are non-urban, have low population density, and fewer settlements relative to urban trading centres. According to Shucksmith, (1990), rural markets are those that cover a settlement of less than ten thousand people, a definition that incorporates isolated dwellings, hamlets, and villages. This definition, however, does take into consideration the remoteness of a trading centre to other facilities that contribute to increased trading activity.

The Scottish Executive, (2002) has sought to eliminate this definitional ambiguity by suggesting that trading centres can be said to be remote if it takes more than 30mins to access them from a major town. Further, the Scottish Executive, (2002) has identified population concentration as a significant determinant of the level of trading activity that is conducted at a given location. Here, it is contented that whereas the trading of non-food products requires a higher population catchment area, the trading of food commodities can be conducted at a smaller catchment area. This speaks to the fact that population density is a key determinant of the growth of decline of a trading centre.

The decline of most open air markets in Africa has been precipitated by factors such as discrete and distinct catchments, dominance of the sole trader, part time staff, sale of general grocery items, aging or inadequate infrastructure, and an uncertain or slowly

improving trading environment (Countryside Agency, 2005). Competition in these trading centres is a function of the number of establishments and the population density.

However, the number shoppers to be targeted by traders in these a locations is further influenced by both in-shopping habits of non-residents and out-shopping habits of residents. This implies that the volume of trading activity in a market centre is a subject of both its attractiveness to in-shoppers and its capacity to meet the needs of potential out-shoppers, local population density notwithstanding. Hodge and Monk, (2004), note that usually, these markets are meant only for functional shopping as they are rarely considered as venues for recreational shopping.

In a study of rural retail centres across the world, several primary resources such as KNA (1933) have noted that trading activity in many rural areas has continued to contract and decline over the years. Shaw, (1982) observed an on-going pattern in UK rural retail centres where village shops continue to decline. The scenario is also evident in the United States where Miller, (2001) observed that rural enterprises were either barely growing or were in the verge of failing altogether.

A similar trend has also been observed in Finland where the number of rural stores had declined by a third between 1985 and 2001 (Home, 2002). In England, Shaw, (1982) observed zero retail activity in nearly half of the rural villages. While this is not as a result of population decline as it has been the case elsewhere, it has been precipitated by the infiltration of supermarkets at least four kilometres away from nearby settlements. This has eliminated the need for traditional village general stores whose product offerings are of a limited variety (Shaw, 1982). The same has been true for bank branches in the English rural trading centres as people have increasingly preferred larger towns for non-food related transactions.

Rural trading centres such as the traditional open air markets face a number of problems that make them especially susceptible to declining activity and eventual collapse. These are as a result of factors such as location and geographic difficulties, competition from larger trading centres, and unfavourable trading environment due to social and economic changes. Trading in many of these locations has, further, been constrained by inadequacies such as supply problems, reduced demand, and increased operating costs. Regulatory non-compliance and a lack of management expertise have also been identified as contributing to the decline of rural open air activity in most countries (Meeyai, 2018).

Although not all rural trading centres are destined to eventually fail completely, certain factors lead to others declining to a level that they are of little to no significance to the locals with regard to the trading activity that they are able to sustain. For instance, Ivolga, (2014) points to an instance whereby a lack of proper infrastructure may limit the growth of a trading centre. When faced with competition from a nearby centre that has proper infrastructure, a scenario emerges where it loses trading activities to the more accessible location.

Ubarevičienė, Van Ham, and Burneika, (2016) explain that locations that are remote and difficult to access are more costly to the traders as they incur higher transport and stockholding costs. Operational efficiency is, therefore, limited by these unfavourable cost structures, leading to the traders' preference of the location with proper infrastructure. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that the infrastructure endowed nearby trading centres will attract more traders, speaking to the increased variety of product and service offerings to the consumers. Consumers will then be attracted to the new market centre, in effect neglecting the old centre. Ubarevičienė, Van Ham, and Burneika, (2016) add that remote trading centres with low population densities have a

limited capacity to attract new customer bases. A low population density in these areas is usually as a result of migration of locals due to limited opportunities in the local town. Meeyai, (2018) contends that out-shopping to nearby retail centre results to an erosion of local customs. According to Velayudhan, (2016), out-shoppers are as individuals who prefer retail destinations that are beyond the immediate area. Whether through necessity, habit, or choice, consumers tend to prefer shopping in larger trading centres where a higher concentration of trading activity provides them more variety and better prices through competition.

There are several impacts of out-shopping that contribute to continued decline of trading activity in the area concerned. Firstly, in the event that trading activity in the retail destination is partially or wholly dependent on local patronage, out-shopping may bring about multiplier effects that disrupt the town's retail ecosystems. Secondly, since most shopping trips by locals in larger nearby trading centres entail multiple items, the utility of the local store is gradually diminished, leading to increased out-shopping further decline.

Initially adopted by consumers in the higher income segments, the prevalence of out-shopping is indicative of increased dissatisfaction with retail activity of the local town. Home (1993) argues that the impacts of out-shopping are more pronounced in instances where the rural town is at close proximity to the nearby town. More remote rural trading centres are, on the other hand, less vulnerable to out-shopping since the movement of consumers is constrained by unfavourable infrastructure. Along with out-shopping, local consumers supplement their suppliers in the local markets. This implies that these consumers' need for the local retail establishments ends up being limited to only non-primary shopping trips. Since larger trading destinations take up much of the trading

activity, the remote location continues to decline as smaller proportions of consumers continue to use them for their shopping needs.

A decline of trade activities in a rural trading centre has repercussions for its future prospects. As it has been observed by Meeyai, (2018), impoverished condition of the local market may lead consumers to shift their primary shopping activities in another town where they are likely to get better service. Since agglomeration of trade activity creates economic benefits for the trading centre, the effects of a shift to another location are equally damaging.

In the event that the remaining retail outlets cannot be operated effectively, a less competitive environment arises (Meeyai, 2018). These trading centres see a rising rate of shop closures as declining demand for trade associated services drives providers to stopping operations. An accompanying loss of livelihoods for the locals due to resultant unemployment reduces consumer demand and causes their flight to other towns in search of opportunities.

From the above, it is apparent the growth of rural trade centres is influenced by the health of its retail activity. This speaks to the interdependences between the level of a town's trading activity and its future prosperity prospects (Ivolga, 2014). Trade activity is also of social importance to the locals as it is both a channel for events and a community social hub. The loss of this provision interferes with the community's identity and social life.

Even in cases where residents are satisfied with the services provided by their local markets, a declining performance will inevitably lead to out-shopping. From this, it can be deduced that a patronage is not influenced by positive sentiment alone. Rather, the local market ought to tailor its product offerings to the needs of both the locals and neighbouring communities in order to realise sustainable growth.

The review of multiple study indicates how the government can play a strong role in protecting rural economies through the adoption of policies that enhance the growth of rural industry. According to Bevan, Collier & Gunning (1989) developments should be made based on merit as opposed to political inclination. When developments are guided by nonpartisan officials, the exact needs of locals are identified. According to Bevan, Collier & Gunning (1989) regional development policies should be left to non-political leaders who are competent and who will issue these developments as per the regional needs.

The need for governments coming up with policies for rural industrialization is also highlighted by the research by Velayudhan (2016) as one of the key approach of resolving the decline of rural economy. One of the major reasons for the death of rural market is urbanization.

This urbanization had been caused by industrialization in the urban centres which makes residents rural areas migrate to urban centres in search of jobs. Had these industries been built in these rural areas, people would have remained in the rural areas and work and spend locally which would have saved the market from its collapsing. Bevan, Collier & Gunning (1989) explains the need for government to encourage more industrial investments in rural areas, through policies such as tax exemption and free land to investors targeting these regions.

The government should raise infrastructure standards in rural areas. As one of the major drives of investments is infrastructure, governments both national and local governments should strive to raise infrastructure in rural areas. Road networks and modern communication networks such as fibre cable network should not be a preserve of big towns. Youths in the villages should as well access these services which will help them not to leave to town centers in search of these services. Basic amenities such as learning

institutions and medical facilities should also be developed in rural areas as it is one of the factors that make people migrate to urban centres to search for them.

One of the major income-earning activities in rural centres, is farming. Most rural residents rely on farming as their source of income. However poor pay of agricultural products such as coffee and tea had made traders and residents in rural areas to count huge losses which made them unable to continue trading in the market. Establishing of farmer support policies can help improve the rural economies and lead to the growth of rural shopping centres and markets. Such kind of policies, coupled vigorous marketing for these products by the government, will reward farmers, and make many youths who run away from farming due poor returns to return in the villages and raise farming to a higher level. As they do this, they will spend locally, and provide a customer base for these markets to thrive.

1.9 Research methodology and design

Combinations of different designs were used to obtain fundamental data in this study. The research was based on accessible literature, oral literature, focus groups and archival materials. Archival materials to be consulted included both official and non-official documents. Most of these documents were to be found in Kiambu County Council archives and Kenya National Archives Nairobi. Field Research will be conducted in Komothai Location Kiambu County. Oral interviews were conducted based on structured questionnaires.

With the view of a research design as the approach and procedures that are used when collecting and analysing the research data, the current study utilizes a historical design. According to Cohen and Manon (1994) a historical design is a research approach that utilizes both recorded and primary data to offer critical insights of what happened in the

past. Such approach helps the research to come up with an understanding of historical events such as the factors that contributed to their occurrence and how the events occurred.

This study employed historical research design. The study was done in an attempt to gather information from people so as to decide the present status of that populace. According to Maxwell (2012), research design refers to an arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to merge relevance with the research purpose. It is the conceptual structure within which research will be conducted. The specialist in this way intended to find a graphic overview plan proper to investigate and analyse the history of Marige market in Komothai, Kiambu County Kenya.

As indicated by Mugenda&Mugenda (1999) a study population refers to an entire group of individuals or elements that have at least one thing in common. The researcher utilized both secondary and primary sources which were used to acquire data on issues of development of Marige market in Komothai, Kiambu County Kenya. The study targeted 100 respondents but utilized purposive sampling to come up with 15 respondents who seemed to have reliable information on the subject of study.

The study was conducted in Marige market in Komothai, Kiambu County Kenya. This area was picked in light of the fact that it contains people of assorted tribes carrying out different economic activities in the region and some have been born and raised in the area, hence familiar to the historical changes the market has undergone. The location of study was chosen because of the accessibility to the researcher. The Marige market was a life changing market to the individuals within the locality and the entire country as well but at the current state the market has so far reduced to a livestock grazing area.

Sampling refers to the procedure a researcher uses to gather information about people, places or things concerning the study. It is a process of selecting a number of individuals

from a population such as the selected group contains elements representative of the characteristics found in the entire group (Orodho&Kombo, 2002). Throughout quantitative research, the aim would be to perform random screening to guarantee that the sample population would be indicative of the overall population and, thus, the findings could be applied to the overall population. However, the aim of qualitative research is to get an in-depth understanding and thus it targets a particular group, category of person, event or system. To achieve this goal, qualitative research relies on criteria-based sampling methods to meet their target audience. The three most popular qualitative approaches are assessment of subjects, in depth interviews as well as use of focus groups (Patton, 2005).

Every approach is ideally suited to the collection of a particular sort of data. Participant analysis is useful for the collection of data on natural instincts in their normal settings. In-depth interviews are ideal for the collection of personal narratives, perceptions and experiences of participants, especially when contentious topics are discussed. Focus groups are beneficial in obtaining data on the group's cultural values and in developing a wide and diverse overview concerning the respective groups.

One benefit of qualitative approaches in investigative study is that using open-ended questioning and interviewing allows respondents the opportunity to answer in their own terms instead of pressuring them to choose from predetermined answers, as in quantitative research methods (Skinner, Tagg & Holloway, 2000). Open-ended questions have the potential to elicit answers that are substantive and culturally relevant to the respondent, unpredicted by the investigator and rich in substance.

Another benefit of qualitative approaches is that they give the interviewer the freedom to check the initial reply of the participants and thus helps the researcher to question why or how. The interviewer should pay close attention to what the respondents say, interact

with them as per their styles and preferences, and then use "interceptors" to allow them to expand on their responses.

Purposive sampling was applied in order to get representative information concerning issues on the development of Marige market. In this form of sampling, respondents are recruited or pursued on the basis of pre-selected parameters depending on the research topic. The number of participants is defined on the basis of theoretical equilibrium, which is the stage at which the freshly information gathered no longer gives extra insight. Only those participants who seemed to have reliable information were to be selected suitable for this study and they were used by the researcher to direct him to other potential participants.

The researcher utilized both primary and secondary sources which will be utilized to acquire data on issues of development of Marige market in Komothai, Kiambu County Kenya. The study targeted a sample size of 100 respondents all of them above 50 years and above since this were of ages in 1990. The 100 respondents were residents of Marige since. The study had a sample size of 15 respondents. Focus groups discussions were used as they produce a lot of information quickly which was good for exploring and identifying belief, ideas and opinions affecting the community. Interviews session and focus group discussions were recorded on the tape recorder. The information gathered was in connection to the history of Marige market in Komothai, Kiambu County Kenya was to be produced and recorded by the researcher.

One of the major data collection instrument to be used in this research included interviews. The research interview comprises the researcher, who guides the interview process and asks the questions to the respondent, who addresses those queries. Interviews are an effective approach if the researcher needs to gather in-depth information about people's beliefs, emotions, perceptions and feelings. Some of other data collections

instrument will include observations, tape-recorder, questionnaires notebooks, pens and camera.

The information gathered is qualitative in nature. Qualitative research involves intensive data collection over extended periods of time in a natural setting. Data was analysed to incorporate coding content into themes which are similar to how interview sessions took place. Qualitative data is not always computable by arithmetic relations. The analysis varied with the purposes of the research, the complexity of the research design and the extent to which conclusions were to be reached easily (Orodho&Kombo, 2002).

Qualitative data analysis for this research was to involve conducting interviews and recording the responses on the interviewee. The recorded data was then to be transcribed and coded to deduce meaningful similarities of the findings. The researcher then used analytical skills to identify themes and relationships of the findings. The last step of the analysis was to be summarizing of the findings by linking them back to the research objective to determine whether the research has achieved its objectives. The main objectives of the study were used in the data analysis. Data obtained was classified in relations to when events occurred.

Ethical considerations are part of any research that is implemented in any entity. According to Beins (2018), ethical considerations are important in a research as they lead to the protection of interests of all stakeholders who take part in the study. Such considerations do not only protect the research respondents but they also protect the researchers themselves from the research that they are undertaking. When researchers observe research ethics, they protect themselves against legal proceedings that may be brought against them by third parties and governments. Observing research ethics also ensures that high quality research is done as the highest standards of the research are observed.

Among the ethical considerations that were made was the observance of plagiarism rules that seeks to give credited to published information that is used in a research. Every secondary data that was utilized in the current study was properly cited and referenced to ensure the source of the research information was recognized. Even the information that was borrowed from another source but rewritten was properly cited to ensure issues of plagiarism did not arise throughout the research implementation.

Another key ethical consideration was only using secondary sources that are accessible to third parties. Some of the secondary sources available such as confidential wealth management had limits on how they could be used. When such reports or sources were used in the current study, permission was first sought to ensure the interests of the publishers were respected. The information used in the research was also derived from authorized sites and databases to ensure the copyrights of the authors and publishers were not compromised. The compliance with copyrights laws was also implemented by paying for subscription where subscribed sources were used to come up with the research findings.

The private interests were to inappropriately have an effect on the development of this study. The researcher sought permit to conduct research from Mount Kenya University and NACOSTI. The researcher adhered to maintain integrity obtaining informed consent from the respondents and ensure that they participate voluntarily. The researcher explained fully the research process in advance and briefed the respondents afterwards. The researcher was open and honest in dealing with the research and was responsible for his own work and for the contributions made to the study. The researcher also maintained confidentiality of the respondents at all times.

1.10 Thesis structure

The research is structured into six main parts that include the introduction part where the background of Marige market has been offered. The introduction section also offers the research aims and objectives and the main research questions that have been addressed by the research that was being implemented. The first chapter also offers the literature review analysis where the overview of Marige market and similar markets in Kenya is given. The literature review builds the theoretical basis of the study by offering the views of past and current researchers on how markets have developed and collapsed in Kenya. The third section of the current thesis also offers the research methodology part where the research approaches and design have been given. The chapter has also explained how the research was implemented such as the data collection and the data analysis approaches that were adopted.

The second chapter of the current thesis reviews the historical factors that led to the growth of Marige market to 1960. From the chapter, an analysis of the different factors that led to the flourishing of the Marige market has been implemented. There is also the review of the type of trade that were conducted at Marige market before 1960 and the factors that could have influenced they type of trade that was being realized in marige. The third chapter analyses how the relationship between the traders and locals that led to the transformation of Marige market between 1961 to 1978. The evaluation helps in explaining the factors that attracted traders to Marige market and the factors that could have affected the trade in Marige in a negative way.

The fourth chapter on the other hand investigates the relationship between the various market policies and how they impacted on the growth of Marige between 1979-2000. The evaluation of such policies is important in explaining why Marige market collapsed at this time. The fifth chapter on its part analyzes the relationship between the urbanization

in neighbouring towns and the fall of Marige market. The last chapter is the conclusion and the recommendation section where there is a review of how the research objectives and hypotheses were realized.

CHAPTER TWO
HISTORICAL FACTORS LEADING TO THE GROWTH OF MARIGE
BEFORE 1960S

2.1 Introduction

The current section explains some historical factors that led to the growth of Marige Market before 1960s. Owing to the popularity of the market in pre-colonial and during colonial period, the researcher investigated the factors that may have contributed to this growth. Most of the respondents to research were middle-aged people who confessed that they found Marige market a robust market that commanded a position in the larger Kiambu district, (Presently Kiambu County) and beyond. But the researcher managed to some elderly populations who confessed to have seen the market grow from its humble beginnings to becoming a market giant.

2.2 Interview data and demographic information of the research respondents

The interview data consist of the information that was collected from the focus group discussions where the development of Marige Market and the factors that could have led to the collapse of the market have been discussed. The interview data has also offered information on the different factors that contributed to the development of the bank in the first place and some of the issues that influenced the bank to collapse.

As most of the information was based from the interviewees and survey of the focus group, the current section has presented the common demographics of the focus group members who were used in coming up with the research findings. The focus group demographics establishes the gender, age and the jobs of the interviewees who took part in the research. The question of whether the respondents live in Marige and the

surrounding areas is also among the key factors that have been reviewed when coming up with the research findings.

Majority of the respondents who took part in the study described themselves as senior citizens who are about 70 years old. According to Kamau (O.I., 2019) who was one of the interviewees

“I was born in the late 1930s and have witnessed the growth and the eventual collapse of Marige market.”

His views were shared by majority of the respondents who explained how they witnessed the Mau Mau war whose end led to the increase in the economic activities within the Komothai area and other areas of Kiambu (KNA 1958). However, there were some few respondents who became adults when Marige market was already a large market.

“I moved to Komothai area in 1980s when Marige Market was a large open air market attracting customer and traders throughout Kiambu and surrounding areas..... I did not witness the growth of Marige Market but I witnessed its collapse”, (Musyoki, o.i, 2019).

The fact that most of the interviewees who took part in the study have advance age implies that they have complete understanding of Marige market where they understand the factors that could have contributed to both the growth and the collapse of the market. Most of the members of the focus group who took part in the study described themselves as having been customers of Marige market when only five interviewees described themselves as being traders within the market. According to one of the interviewees,

“I had a stall in the Marige market where I used to sell food products from 1960s to 1990s... I stopped selling the products when the numbers of the customers decreased substantially and it was impossible to make profit within the market” (Kimotho, O.I., 2018).

The view was supported by four other members of the focus group who explained how they had invested in different markets within the Marige market where they used to earn their lively hood.

The views that most of the interviewees who are members of the focus group were customers in the Marige market are clearly outlined by the views of one woman who explained how she used to purchase bananas and flour and Marige market during the market days.

“As a young girl in 1960s, my mother used to send me to Marige to buy various products such as bananas and porridge flour..... With a ten cent coin, I could buy bananas that are enough for the whole family” (Victoria, O.I., 2019).

Her views were shared by the majority of the respondents who explained how they used to buy different products at Marige market during market days. Such views are also reflected by the research by Wainana, which explains how the high quality of products that were available at Marige market and the low prices that charged on most of the products are among the major considerations that were made by traders in the area (Wainaina, 2014). Such views indicated how most of the interviewees who took part in the study had a clear understanding of the operations of Marige market as they were either the customers or traders who had transacted in the market.

Most of the interviewees who took part in the study explained how they are residents of Komothai where they have lived in the area for most of their formative years. While there were some interviewees who explained they were born in different locations but settled at Komothai area, most of the respondents who took part in the study explained how they were born within Githunguri constituency. They explained how they have lived near Marige market and had witnessed the growth and the collapse of the market.

“I was born in Kibichoi area in Githunguri but settled near Marige market after the independence” (Wagacu, O.I., 2019).

Her views indicated how most of the interviewees come from Githunguri constituency even when they were not from the Marige market area.

2.3 Historical factors that led to the growth of Marige market

2.3.1 A Meeting Place

Marige market used to be one of the greatest social centres where people from different cultures and group used to meet for some various social functions. The greatest of those social gathering was a function which used to be held once in every two or three years. This was an initiation ceremony. It used to be such a great function that attracted each and every person in the community, young and old to go and witness boys becoming men and girls becoming women. Due to the strategic location of Marige market, and the presence of Komothai River which acted as a sacred place for the function, many inmates came from different ridges and localities to attend the rite of passage ceremony. One of such inmates who had attended a rite of passage ceremony at Komothai River and later a pass out ceremony at Marige market was an elderly man who identified himself as Kimotho wa Jorum.

The man who in his 90s also he confessed through the interview, recalled of how Marige market used to be a great meeting place for initiates from Komothai location and coming from as far as Githunguri and Ting'ang'a for initiation ceremony. He recalled that,

We attended our circumcision ceremony at Komothai River banks and later came at this grounds which houses Marige market for pass out ceremony after finishing the required period. We were a group of more than 100 inmates drawn from as far as Kibichoi and Ting'ang'a. It was a great lifetime ceremony that bonded all the inmates together and from we would all treat one another as a real brother (Kimotho, O.I., 2019).

They would therefore continue to meet in the place at least once every season, to celebrate their brotherhood and unity.

The same confession was explained by another respondent who explained how his father used to narrate how inmates met in the region for initiation ceremony. Karanu (O.I., 2019) said,

“My father used to narrate how Marige was the central point where initiates from different areas used to meet before the start of the traditional ceremonies.....”

He explained how people travelled from different areas in Githunguru such as Kibichoi, Gaitieko, Ting'ang'a to meet at the area where Marige market was located. Such views were also shared by majority of the respondents who were interviewed who explained how the use of Marige area as a meeting point influenced the growth of the market later as most of the residents in Githunguri and other parts of Kiambu knew about the place.

2.3.2 Agricultural Giant

Marige market is located in a place that is agriculturally productive. The place being surrounded by different forests such as Githunguri forest and limuru forest, receives high rainfall which makes the place a good agricultural land. The place is also strategically situated between two rivers, river Komothai and Ruiru River. Water from these two rivers offered enough supply for irrigation during dry seasons. The residents of the place who were mainly kikuyus who had migrated to the place in late 19th century, were mainly farmers and mainly relied on land cultivation and grazing (KNA undated). These activities used to provide Marige market with the necessary products for sales. At time when the economy largely relied on farming than manufacturing, those who had large tracks of productive land had a higher completion when it came to wealth and social status. Marige residents were industrious and grew foodstuffs such as bananas, cassavas, yams, as well as vegetables such as kales and cabbages.

During pre-colonial era when market was mainly barter trade, the residents of Marige market used to trade their farm produce, mainly yams and cassava with cows from Maasai community, bows and arrows from Kamba community as well as salt from Magadi region. This had made Marige a bee-hive of activities as traders gathered there to trade their different commodities. One of the interviewees said, “Our parents used to grow yams and cassava and would bring them here in every market day to trade with bows and salt. The market used to be busy as there used to be hundreds of traders every market day from different parts of this country.” The respondent went further explain how the market used to receive many traders from locals who were farmers and who supplied the market with the needed commodities for the trade.

The market also received great boost from coffee farming among locals. During pre-independent era, coffee farming was an activity which was only a preserve of white settlers who grew coffee in large scale. For the people of Komothai and around Marige area, they had been allowed to grow coffee in small scale. This different opportunity offered the locals with a rare cash crop business which was highly regarded. The sale of coffee cherry beans gave the locals bonuses which gave them an upper hand in purchasing power and using the cash for trading. This made the area to become a demand of many migrants who came to the region to buy pieces of land and grow coffee.

One of the respondents who had migrated to the region in with her parents in early 50s narrated about its popularity. She recalled how she came to Marige with parents in early 50s after the beginning of freedom war. Kenyatta had been jailed and this had irritated many people to go to forest to fight for freedom. This made the white to start segregating the kikuyu community and more so, young men who were gathered and locked in 'ciugus' to prevent them from going to forest. With little activities to carry on Location 20, where she lived the responded explained how her father bribed the chief area who gave us a pass to travel to this region as it was not possible to travel without pass document.

“On arriving here, we were received by chief Magugu, who gave us shelter until we got a place to stay. Within a short time, we had started trading in the market and we had bought a plot and settled” (Wacera, O.I., 2019).

As more people flocked in the region, diversification of activities emerged, where many migrant brought different cultures and different ways of doing business. People started

bringing in more commodities and within no time, Marige market had become a renowned market, in the whole of Kiambu and beyond.

With coffee farming more people started to flock to the region to seek employment in the coffee farms and coffee processing industries. These migrants provided a ready market for produce of Marige region, as they did not cultivate land for food production and therefore had to rely to other farmers of those produce for a living. Coffee production also offered the residents with capital to start businesses. It had given birth to Saccos such as cooperative society, which provided loans to farmers with guarantee of coffee bonuses. Mbugua, (79, 2019) narrated of how his parents started an egg farming and sales business with a loan they had acquired from the co-operative. He views correlates with some of the published primary sources such as KNA (1934) that explains how little capital was required to trade in Kiambu region.

Mwangi explained how his father who was a coffee farmer had secured a loan of Ksh. 3 which was enough to buy enough chicks and start an egg farming business. Within two years, the business had fully grown and his parents used to supply over 100 trays of eggs every week.

“The eggs used to be sold to traders from Nairobi and other big towns such as Nakuru who would come for them once every week.” (Mbugua, 79, 2019)

With these loans, more people started businesses and this made the market to grow even larger.

2.3.3 Peace in Marige Region

Unlike other regions which were cattle-lusting related crimes, Marige region was welcoming and had provided a peaceful ground to all the residents and migrants. The residents of the region were generally peaceful to all locals and migrants. This culture had been mostly motivated by the fact that most of the residents had their families migrated into the region in late 19th century and acquired the land from Ndorobos, who were mainly the locals and who were hunters. The residents had no cultural and communal attachment the region as were themselves migrants. This made them to welcome others whom they enjoyed doing business with. One respondent said,

Our forefathers came here in 19th century from Muranga after population increase in the region” (Irungu, O.I., 2019).

Such views are similar with the published primary source by KNA (1950) that explains how Kikuyu community co-existed peacefully with Dorobo and Athi in the Kiambu region They therefore came here for better opportunities and land for cultivation, and unlike other communities, who used to rebel migrants, Ndorobos were welcoming and they used to sell land to them in exchange for cattle. With an adoption program where the Ndorobos were welcomed and adopted by Kikuyu migrants, the peaceful coexistence continued and it was upon every successful migrant to keep with the rules. With this culture more people continued to migrate to the region, and brought different cultures and ways of doing business. Marige market was the place where they used to meet for some culture exchange and for business. It therefore made the market to continue becoming busy and dense in population and activities.

The local administration had ensured that peace prevailed. While most of the interviewees were critical of the role that the colonial government played in influencing

the growth of Marige market, the minority of the interviewees who took part in the study explained how colonialism played a strong role in the growth of the market. One of the local administrators who is highly praised and remembered for the position he played in the growth of Marige market was Chief Magugu. Chief Magugu was described by locals as a peaceful but a no-nonsense man, who won't take lightly any act of crime or peace breaking.

Chief Magugu used to organize barazas, in which remind the residents of importance of peace and good neighbourhood. He would also ensure that he punish severally anyone who was found inciting one community or group of people over the other. One respondent narrated of how one person had been excommunicated from the community after he incited his community over Masaai traders. He said,

With this character of the chief, and his welcoming heart, many people felt at peace in the region, which encouraged more people to migrate and run business thus expanding Marige market even further. His views were supported by Wamagatta, a researcher, who had found of how the colonial chiefs

“ensured that there were no cattle raids in the Marige area and the traders merchandise was protected from thieves (o.i Wamagatta, 2016)”.

With security in Marige and its surroundings, it was possible for traders to move from far places and sell their products at Marige area. They felt secure selling their products and animals and Marige market.

Chief Magugu also ensured that the levy which was collected from the activities in the market was used to improve the living standards of the locals and the general upkeep of the market. Ms Victoria, O.I., a retired teacher explained how the chief ensured that the

market was kept clean always with basic amenities such as toilets and clean water which encouraged more people to come and trade in the market.

“The chief had employed some workers to clean the market and ensure order in the running of the market. Roads leading in to the market were also well maintained and this made it easy to bring in goods to the market,” (Victoria, O.I., 2019).

By early 1960s the market had become a regional market, where traders flocked from all over the country for business.

2.3.5 Completion of Railway Line

The completion of the railway line in 1900, gave a great boost for Marige market to grow. With the railway in place, more traders could come from as far as coast to bring salt and ornamental commodities and take back food stuff and animal products from the market to their region. Other traders came from Meru to bring tobacco and tea produce which they traded with agricultural produce, and other products such as arrows from kamba traders. The railway line also made the movement of goods from the market to Nairobi capital city easy. More traders would therefore come in and buy commodities in large quantities for Nairobi market. Kimotho (O.I., 2019), narrated of how he used to transport cassava and yams through railway line to Nairobi City market, where demand was high. He said,

“With high demand of land produce in Nairobi City market, I used to buy cassava and yams from the residents of Komothai location and take it to Nairobi City Market. The returns were so good that, within

six months I had bought a plot which I latter constructed a shop.”

(Kimotho, O.I., 2019)

With railway line, the market was opened not only to locals and people of Kiambu district but to traders from all over the country. This made the market to grow even further.

2.4 Conclusion

The chapter has explained some historical factors that led to the growth of Marige Market before 1960s. Owing to the popularity of the market in pre-colonial and during colonial period, the research has shown the existing environment that led to the market. The next chapter then outlines how the market transformed from 1960 to 1978 when the first president of Kenya died.

CHAPTER THREE

TRANSFORMATION OF MARIGE MARKET.

3.1 Introduction

The review of the interview data and some of the secondary sources indicate how Marige market greatly flourished in the period of 1961 to 1978. During the current period, The Marige market was able to expand as it attracted traders from different parts of the country. The existence of financial institutions also helped the market to experience exponential growth.

3.2 Factors contributing to the growth of marige market after 1961

Majority of the people who were interviewed were those who were employed in the coffee estates in areas neighboring Marige market. One of the respondents, Wacera (O.I., 2019) said,

“I used to trek every day from my residence in Marige to search for cheap labor in the coffee estates nearing the market.”

Her sentiments matched the ones found by Bevan among others in a research to know the effect of booming of coffee farming in Kenya, in which they claim that, Many young men would relocate from other parts of the country to the coffee growing zones in search for better jobs but

“found themselves in a coffee plantation where they used to pluck coffee from 8 in the morning to 6 in the evening and earn peanuts”
(Bevan, Collier & Gunning, 1989).

A larger number of the respondents explained how they used to visit the market in each and every day to buy various commodities using the little money paid for the work done in the estates. The daily visits to the market to buy a few goods made them regular customers and as well led to the growth of the market. One old female interviewee, Wagucu, (O.I., 2019) stated that,

“As was the norm, I had to pass through Marige market every day to buy different commodities in small quantities since the wages was very small.....the goods I used to buy were always available irrespective of the days of the week”.

Ten customers supported the view in that the fact that every good that each customer needed was available created a room for new customers to join the market which led to the expansion of the market. Majority of the workers in these estates were young men who married young ladies as their wives. One of the persons in the target group supported the view with these words,

“I married in a church wedding in 1967 when my husband was only 26 and myself 20 years of age”. (Victoria, O.I., 2019)

The marriages resulted to an increase in the population since the number of women getting married increased. The other factor that led to population increase was increase in birth rates since more children were being born.

“I came from Nyeri and married my husband in Ngewa in 1962 and I had seven children by the year 1978,” (Mwihaki, O.I., 2019).

The increase in population resulted to the growth of the market as more commodities were required to feed the big families. Mwhaki explained how the increase in the size of his family led to an increase in the goods and services needed by his family. Her views describes how increase in the requirements in a particular family resulted to the growth and expansion of the market.

‘I used to buy one kilogram of maize flour and one packet of milk every day when I had not married. However, by the time I had four children I used to purchase two kilograms of maize flour and two packets of milk’. (Mwhaki, O.I., 2019)

Two female respondents asserted that population increase was a major contributor to the transformation of the market as traders sold more goods to the increased population. Many development projects were introduced to cater for the needs of the increased population in Marige town. The few people who were financially stable started building new and decent houses that transformed the market.

“I bought a small piece of land in Margie town in 1968 and built ten single rooms that I rented out to the traders of Marige market and the people working in the nearby coffee plantations” (Macharia, O.I., 2019).

Five members of the focus group supported his views that increase in accommodation led to the growth of Marige market as many people settled within Marige town. Neighborhood communities used to grow different types of crops that were sold in the market leading to the growth of the market. Some of the respondents started practicing

farming way back in the 1950s to meet the rising demand of various commodities in the market. Mbugua, (79, 2019) stated that,

“I was born in Kibichoi and due to the increase in demand for fresh vegetables by the people who worked in the coffee plantations I decide to start a small farm where I started horticultural farming.”

His views were shared by another respondent who narrated how she supplied tomatoes to the market on a daily basis to serve her regular customers majority of whom were the white settlers.

“I carried 50 kilograms of tomatoes on my back every day to the market and sold them to my loyal customers most of whom were the owners of the coffee estates in the area and the black who held prestigious positions like the management in the estates,” (Irungu, O.I., 2019).

Another person in the focus group figured up how farmers in the areas near the market started growing new varieties of crops that were mostly demanded in the market since many people had migrated from other areas to come and work in the estates near the market.

“I abandoned growing cassava and started growing potatoes which I sold to the Dutch since it is the staple food in their mother country”.
(Kimocho, O.I., 2019)

Ten people supported her assertion that the shift from growing one type of crop to the ones demanded led to the growth of the market as the customers could not visit other markets since anything required was available in the market. According to Wagucu, (O.I., 2019,

“Growing of bananas fetched more returns compared to vegetables that almost every one cultivated”.

One respondent cited the fact that growing of vegetables involved low costs thus almost everyone was able to grow them hence fetched low profits when the sold them in the market.

A larger number of the respondents pointed out why they took their farm produce to the market and not sell in their farms. One Karanu, (O.I., 2019)

“ I lived in Thuita which is approximately one kilometer from Marige market and I had to carry 20 kilograms of fresh pepper on my back and take them to the market during market days where I sold them at higher prices contrary to when selling them in the farm”.

His sentiments were supported by eight female respondents who explained that the higher returns fetched by farmers in the market enabled them to continue practicing farming thus ensuring continuous supply of farm produce in the market hence the growth of the market. Another interviewee hinted that the reason behind higher prices in the market was due to the absence of brokers as farmers dealt directly with the customers. The various commodities supplied to Marige market made the market to be the most preferred destination by many traders from areas neighboring the market within

Githunguri constituency where other types of crops needed were not grown and thus not available. One of the persons in the focus group said that,

“I lived in Kiambururu which is approximately eleven kilometers from Marige market and I had to visit the market every weekend to buy cabbages that I sold to the residents of the area in the entire week in my small stall,” (Mwihaki, O.I., 2019)

A greater number of the interviewees underpinned her views that availability of goods in large quantities in the market resulted to better prices and thus traders from different areas visited the market regularly to buy different commodities thus leading to the growth of the market. One person in the target group claimed that,

“I was a vendor who went to Marige market in all market days to buy goods which I would later sell in Kibicho area by way of hawking”, (Mwangi, 78, 2019).

Mr. Mwangi explained how the steady supply of agricultural commodities led to the growth of the market,

“There was construction of different structures in the market including shades that were used by the traders to protect them as well as their goods from severe sunshine or even rainfall”, , (Mwangi, 78, 2019).

Majority of members in the target group supported her views by saying that these structures made the traders to always have fresh commodities that remained attractive to either regular or new customers hence making them to always visit the market when in

need of any commodity thus leading to the growth of the market. According to one respondent who is a former Public Health Officer, construction of social amenities like public toilets in the market also resulted to the growth of the market as they facilitated maintenance of hygiene hence preventing outbreak of diseases like Cholera.

Rich people bought land from the peasants leading to the growth of Marige market. Kimotho argued that the rich persons bought large tracts of land after independence which they used to carry out various economic activities that were beneficial to the residents of the larger Marige area.

“I sold eight acres of land that was idle to a particular tycoon who hailed from Fort Fall district in 1954 and in 1955 he partitioned the land in to two equal portions and planted coffee,” (Kimotho, O.I., 2019).

He added that the various well up people who bought the land in the areas neighboring Marige either before or after independence formed the foundation for the growth of Marige market. Another respondent who sold his land said that,

“My eldest son worked as a clerk in an estate which was owned by a man I sold my land to” (Mbugua, 79, 2019)

According to three respondents, creation of employment by the rich people provided wages which the employed lot used to buy goods in the market. The people who bought land gave money to the ones who sold making them have cash to spend for various purposes that largely contributed to the growth of Marige market. One interviewee said that,

“I sold my land which was in Komothai at a cost of four hundred thousand and later bought a small land in Marige town at a cost of one hundred and fifty thousand and later built four rental houses that I immediately rented upon completion,” (Mwangi, 78, 2019).

A larger number of the interviewees claimed that it was necessary for the poor to sell their idle land to the rich so that it could be turned into a productive land leading to an increase in the number of economic activities carried out in the area. Mr Karanu stated that,

“I worked as a foreman in one of the sites and together with the other workers we ate our lunch in one of the hotels in the market,” (Karanu, O.I., 2019)

According to another interviewee very few of the businesses that served food and beverages fell. Majority of coffee estates that developed in the areas around Marige town as a result of the poor selling land to the rich led to creation of employment opportunities for various people and eventually the growth of the market.

“I moved from Nyandarua and settled in Thuita in the year 1958 where I worked as a secretary in one of the coffee estates”, (Njoki, O.I., 2019).

Her statement was supported by another research by Odhiambo, a researcher, who stated in her research that, it was completely beneficial for the rich to buy land in different areas within Githunguri constituency since these areas would experience growth including the market. His views were supported by another respondent who claimed that majority of

the locals were unemployed before the rich bought the land from the poor but later got employment due to various economic projects the rich undertook after buying land (Odhiambo, 2000).

Selling of land by the poor to the rich resulted to the settlement of these rich people together with their families in the areas they bought the land leading to an increase in population which led to the transformation of these areas as well as the market. Mr. Kimotho claimed that,

In the beginning of the year 1967 our village had a population of about ninety nine people including adults and children but by the end of year 1974 the population had risen to about two hundred and one persons''.

Another respondent in the target group explained how population increase led to the growth of the market,

''the rich people became new customers in the market thus increasing the customer base and also they built new and better structures in Marige town. (Kimotho, O.I., 2019)

Hardworking population led to the transformation of Marige market. According to Mr. Musyoki,

''The traders in the market usually reported to their businesses early to cater for the customers who used to come to the market early in the morning, '' (Musyoki, O.I., 2019)

His views were supported by Mr. Karanu who proclaimed that majority of the traders were up for the task as some reported as early as four in the morning.

“I used to wake up at 3 in the morning, carried two jerry cans of milk and would arrive at the market by 4 am with a milk bar..... And by 7 in the morning I would have sold all the milk (Kamau, O.I., 2019).

Six persons in the focus group added that the larger number of the people who bought milk in the market were the ones who owned hotels in the town and whose majority of customers were the people who visited the market either as traders or customers.

“I went to Nairobi every Tuesday to buy the various commodities that had ran out of stock and were highly demanded by customers” (Musyoki, O.I., 2019).

His views were underpinned by two other male persons in the target group who affirmed that the traders in Marige market were very industrious as they travelled for long distances in wee hours to bring what was not available in the market. One respondent added that,

“My sister travelled from Nyaga to Machakos twice a week to buy oranges when they are in season and sold them in Marige market at higher prices thus making reasonable profit.”(Njoki, O.I., 2019)

Her sentiments were supported by the research by Bevan, Collier, & Gunning (1989) that shows how from 1970s many new commodities especially fruits grown in other regions

started selling in the market and led to the growth of the market as customers bought them in large quantities.

The persons that practiced in farming were very hardworking a situation that contributed to the transformation of the market. One woman in the focus group postulated that,

“I reported in my farm at 7 in the morning and left at 4 in the evening apart from Saturdays which was e day I took my produce in the market,” (Wagacu, O.I., 2019).

Her sentiments were supported by majority of the interviewees who claimed that the hard work witnessed from many farmers in areas near Marige market led to the growth of the market since they competed to have the grade one quality of products. The result was that products sold in the market ended up to be the best a case that attracted many customers from outside both consumers and traders. According to a former customer,

“I visited Marige market every weekend to buy bananas for cooking as they were big in size and soft, a variety that my husband loved most,” (Njoki, O.I., 2019).

The people who were involved in the construction of various structures in marige town and surrounding areas were very industrious creating a room for the growth of Marige market. According to one person in the target group,

“I persevered morning cold as I trekked from Marige town to Thuita passing through a forest to one of the coffee estates in the area where I worked as a mason” (Karanu, O.I., 2019).

The view was supported by another person who was a constructor in another estate who explained how the people in the construction industry in the areas within Githunguri constituency passed through the market every day and bought the various goods they required in their homes. One respondent asserted that,

“After I have worked for extra two hours that is from the recommended exit time 5 pm up to 7 pm I passed through the market to buy green vegetable for my supper,” (Gikonyo, O.I., 2019).

Majority of the interviewees claimed that residents of Marige area and the ones neighboring the market bought most of the commodities they required in the market despite some working far away from the market. One male respondent explained that,

“I was employed by Bata Shoe Company Limited in 1967 and posted in Limuru...however, my family resided in Ngewa and I had to pass through the market to buy various goods they required whenever I visited them,” (Mwangi, O.I., 2019).

His views were similar to the findings of Wainaina (2014) in his research of the market who supported his assertion that despite some residents working outside Marige jurisdiction the still found it necessary to buy goods in the market which led to the growth of the market (Wainaina, 2014).

Two women who were traders in the market in the 1970s braced similar sentiments by saying that both traders and farmers bought whatever they lacked in their custodies from their colleagues. The growth of the market was realized due to a wide range of customers from outside the market and still within the market itself. Another former trader stated that,

“I sold utensils in the market but I had to buy vegetables from my colleagues in the market whenever I needed them” (Musyoki, 64, 2019).

Three respondents claimed that the mode of trading described by that woman led to the transformation of that market.

A greater number of people who used to work in coffee estates and even those who were employed to carry out domestic duties in the homes of the rich people bought goods in large quantities when visiting their families who lived outside Githunguri constituency. One male respondent who worked as a security guard in one of the estates had this to say,

“I had to buy a dozen packets of wheat flour in the market every time I am visiting my family who resided in Kiambaa” (Mbugua, 79, 2019).

Three female persons in the target group claimed that the support that the traders gave to each other in terms of buying the goods you did not have to your fellow traders created a good platform for the market to grow.

Another factor that led to the transformation of Marige market was the prevailing peace and security in the entire Githunguri constituency. One of the former female traders explained the benefits of having a peaceful society similar to Marige area. Mr. Musyoki (O.I., 2019), stated that,

“I use to sell utensils and other commodities in the market and upon closing my business I packed them in different sacks and kept them in my store which I never locked even for a single day”.

The traders were also very peaceful, caring and never entertained infighting amongst them.

“The principle that always guided us is that we should be our brothers and sisters keeper” Added Musyoki.

Another respondent explained. Majority of the traders agreed with her views that living together without quarrels or unnecessary hurling of insults against each other facilitated the growth of the market as customers always described Marige market as the most peaceful market in the entire constituency.

Peaceful and reverent farmers in the areas surrounding Marige market also led to the transformation of the market as well. According Wacera (O.I., 2019),

“Every farmer had to fence his farm so that the domestic animals reared could not get in to the farm of another farmer and destroy the crops planted”

Mrs. Wacera, explained that they agreed on the fencing so that none of them could count losses emanating from such destruction and which could be preventable. She added that,

“We peacefully coexisted together and continued supplying our goods to the market often since we believed in the principle of preventing rather than curing” (Wacera, O.I., 2019).

The residents of Marige area and its surroundings held peace as the only item that could guarantee security of people and property in those areas. Peace is a necessity for the

growth and development of any place. One interviewee who is a former teacher hailed the residents for maintaining peace at all times.

“I resided in Marige town where I had rented a single room and when on duty I woke up at 3 and reported to school by 5 and I never experienced any form of insecurity during my ten year tenure in the school,” (Victoria, O.I., 2019).

She said. Her assertions were supported by another respondent who described how they felt safe even when coming back home from school during evening hours or even at night when coming from other schools for some activities like sports and academic contests for example the science contests.

There was no much conflict among the neighbors but when it happened they reported their grievances to the administration that was in charge so that the situation could not deteriorate and force the investors to run away. The sole purpose for the use of the legitimate channels that was mandated with maintaining law and order was to ensure that this area kept on growing.

“It was on a Thursday morning In 1972 my neighbor on one side of my land removed the beckons demarcating my land and his and moved them five inches towards my side.... I reported the matter to the chief and in the following morning we resolved the matter peacefully with the help of the village elders” (Kimotho, O.I., 2019)

Majority of the respondents supported his statement by saying that such wisdom built confidence among the investors who invested in the area leading to its growth. Majority of the people in the focus group confirmed that hospitability of the locals was a major

contributor to the growth of Marige market. The locals welcomed the newcomers who came to work or invest in the larger Marige area. According to one interviewee investors were confident that the well-disposed friendship between them and the locals was a clear indication that they would reap good returns from the investments they made. Another male respondent claimed that,

“I started a hotel in Marige town in 1974 and due to the cordial relationship between myself and the residents of the entire Marige area, my hotel was always full to capacity in the morning, during lunch time and as well at night”. (Gikonyo, O.I., 2019)

Seven persons who took part in the study stated that Marige area transformed as a result of the residents being accommodating to everyone who worked or invested in the area. The warm-hearted relationship amongst locals and the people who visited the area to look for either investment opportunities or jobs and even those who came for adventure undertakings led to intermarriages amongst them. As a result the area developed fast leading to the growth of the market as well due to the polling of ideas by the newly made relatives. One respondent stated that,

“I married a lady from Thika in 1969 and after missing the milk in the market for five consecutive days she advised me to start buying milk from dairy farmers and open a milk bar in the market where I could later sell it” (Mwangi, O.I., 2019)

Another interviewee added that,

“I bought my first land in Marige town in 1972 and in 1976 I build a house after my wife discouraged me from selling fruits as they yielded low returns and start selling clothes that yielded higher returns”
(Mukaru, O.I., 2019).

CHAPTER FOUR

MARKET POLICIES EFFECT ON GROWTH OF MARIGE (1979 – 2000)

Various market policies contributed to the growth and the imminent fall of Marige Market. The growth of population in the urban centers and majorly Nairobi as the capital city of Kenya increased the demand for farm products and other commodities. This had a positive influence on the Marige market, which had traders trading these commodities to the city dwellers and other traders. One old man who claimed to have traded in the Marige Market since 1965 recalled that

I had traders who would come all the way from Nairobi to buy cattle for slaughter. The demand had increased in 80s where I used to sell 50-100 sheep and goats on a market day”

Another old man, who claimed to have shifted to Komothai from Nyeri in early 60s, noted that

“I used to trade vegetables from Karatina to Marige market, where most of Nairobians and Kambas from Machakos town would come for the produce (Macharia, O.I., 2019).

As the population increased in Nairobi and other urban centers within the proximity of the market such as Thika and Machakos, the demand for agricultural produce increased growing the Marige market even higher.

Government incentives to small businesses impacted the growth of Marige market. Traders were encouraged to form co-operatives in which they would save and latter borrow at small interests. Merry-go-rounds had also started to gain popularity, enjoying the support of the government where instead of table-banking; individuals would form a

group and contribute to one of them. The cycle would continue until would go on until all members are covered. One interviewee reported that, he had gotten his seed capital for starting a stall market through getting a loan from Kiambu Teachers Sacco which was formed in 1978 and is currently known as Metropolitan National Sacco. With these banking institutions, traders could save and borrow loans thus boosting their productivity.

Redefining taxation was another major policy that contributed to the growth of the market. Whereas former colonial taxation was being based majorly on households, the new taxation policy was based on returns and wages one made. This shift lessened burden on those households without economic activities which encouraged them to save on what they used to pay as taxation before to start off new economic activities. Mr. Macharia explained of how he used to pay ksh.50 a month as taxation, but with the change of policy, he managed to save to a tune of ksh. 2000 which he used to start a restaurant. He added that,

“The market was thriving so much that by 1985, barely three years after starting the business, I managed to buy that plot and constructed a hotel (pointing to an old abandoned structure).” (Macharia, 86, 2019).

Another middle-aged respondent explained of how his father used to buy them Christmas clothes in the market every year after being employed by the city council of Kiambu as a tax collector in the Marige market.

Another major policy that led to the growth of Marige market was the removing of barriers to outsiders to settle and trade in any part of the country. This was a great gain to the wealth and ambitious entrepreneurs. Traders came from as far as Machakos and

other parts of Ukambani in sale of grains; majorly black beans and others came from Meru in sale of tobacco and miraa. As a result, Marige became a major meeting point for different traders from various parts of the country. One respondent who had become a permanent resident of Komothai from Machakos said

“I came here in 1982 as a trader. By then I used to bring black beans from Machakos to sell to customers who would come all the way from Nyeri. When the business started to thrive, I bought a land at Komothai, near Marige market, and with that I could also buy local produce majorly vegetables and sell them to other traders in Ukambani.” (Musyoki, 64, 2019)

Another respondent said of how he used to buy tobacco from Meru traders, which he would later sell in smaller quantities to residents at a profit. Peaceful coexistence of Marige and by large Komothai people contributed further to the growth of the market. The locals led by their chief had started to welcome outsiders for trading and they all had a collective responsibility to ensure for the security of all the traders and their commodities. As reported by some of residents who claimed they saw Marige market grow from a small beginning agreed that the region rarely experienced insecurity or communal conflicts. One senior respondent said that,

“We all lived as brothers and sisters. We needed this brotherly love for our customers and traders to feel secure and at home” (Wacera, O.I., 2019).

Her comments were shared by three other respondents who recalled of how their chief was a no-nonsense man and would not entertain any form of conflict and insecurity.

Marige market also enjoyed a cool political environment with minimal political interference. The market though close to the Nairobi City was politically calm, which encouraged traders from different political divide to trade freely in the market. The market was also managed properly without corruption in interference from provincial administration. The market had been segmented to different portions for traders. Goats and other cattle traders had their own segment, grain and other cereals had their own segment, vegetables and fruits and virtually every other product had a segmented area for its trading.

The market cleanliness was also maintained more by the traders collectively as opposed to the local council. This had given them a sense of ownership where they felt as members of Marige community as opposed to just traders. Mr. Mwangi said that

“I used to take bananas to the market and would always get ready buyers. I would then proceed to the grains section and buy beans and other grains from Kamba traders” (Mwangi, O.I., 2019).

Another respondent explained of how traders used to praise the market due to its political stability. She explained that traders from different parts of the country used to flock in the Marige market due to its political calmness.

Another contributing factor to the growth of Marige market was its strategic locality. The market which is in Komothai location, Kiambu County is strategically located within minutes of drive from Kiambu town and Nairobi City. The market is also centrally accessible from other major towns such as Nyeri, Machakos and Thika town. This factor contributed to its growth as traders would come from all those towns to the market where products, and majorly agricultural produce traded at relatively cheap prices compared to

prices in major towns. Mr. Macharia, (86, 2019), recalled of how different traders from different parts would flock into the market on a normal market day.

“I used to meet with traders from different parts of the country but majorly from Nairobi and Machakos. They preferred our market because prices were relatively low and there were varieties of products in the market (Macharia, 86, 2019)

He went further to explain of how it was cheap to move goods from the market to Nairobi, where transport was as low as 20 shillings and there were enough buses to ferry them. Agricultural activities of the residents also added to the success of the market. People of Komothai are majorly farmers with conducive climatic condition and black cotton soil for farming. They also welcomed the call by the national government to start farming and engage in other economic activities and shun laziness. The region also had various plantations owing to the colonial regime. Locals were majorly farmers of coffee, vegetables and potatoes. Ms. Wacera, who also used to trader her farm produce in the market, remembered of how she used to trade cabbages from her farm in the Marige market.

“I had a small farm where I used to grow cabbages and other vegetables and would carry them to the market where they would fetch good returns from customers from Nairobi City.” (Wacera, O.I., 2019)

This farming produce supplemented for the market products thus making the market to have cheap-priced goods which facilitated further to its growth.

Coffee farming also provided capital to most of the Marige residents who used the returns to start or grow their businesses in the market. Respondents claimed that, coffee farming

was one of the lucrative cash crop of the time. Before the fall of the coffee board of Kenya and other pitfalls that befell the industry, the product used to be the most lucrative one in the country. All respondents who were born in the region or had settled there and owned coffee farms explained of how coffee was gold to them. Other researchers had found about the position of coffee among their farmers in Kenya. In their research, Gamba & Komo said, “Coffee was a black gold. Its returns were used to educate the children and start businesses, but the industry was later mismanaged leading to fall of coffee board and great losses to the farmers” (Gamba & Komo, 2014). Every other respondent would give a similar story of success of coffee farming and how it helped them acquire loans to start of businesses.

Growth of technology and other advancements fueled the growth of Marige market. The market had gotten connected to the national electricity grid in the early years of independent which acted as attraction for the new traders. As a result different activities had started mushrooming in the market such as welding, which attracted most people to settle in the region and start of small businesses. New trading techniques brought new ways of doing business. Traders started going directly to the farmers and buy their produce at relatively low prices and bring them to the market. A respondent who was a farmer within the region noted,

“Initially we used to carry our small produce to the market but later bigger traders would come directly to our shambas and buy our produce for resale in the market.” (Kimotho, O.I., 2018).

Another respondent recalled of how his father had a small barber shop in the market and how electricity had seen him grow his business.

Another defining factor of Marige market was its infrastructure. The market enjoyed good infrastructure with all-weather roads connections to major towns in its locality. Komothai-Githunguri road acted as the main route for traders. Farmers would transport their farm produce to the market from as far as Kwamaiko, Githunguri and Ting'ang'a. according Mr. Kimotho,

“Before construction of Nairobi-Kiambu-Kibicho highway, the main road used to pass through Marige market. Traders were therefore flocking to this market on their route to Nairobi and they would buy vegetables and other farm produce.” (Kimotho, O.I., 2018)

Similar views were held by several other respondents who claimed that the road was one of the contributing factors to the growth of the market.

Marige market won't have grown to its levels without good community perspective. The market which was regarded to as psychological in nature had the willingness of consumers and goods relationships between them and their traders. The market was not only a sales point but a social and a meeting point. Some respondents recalled of how they used to go the market on market days even if not to trade but to meet with friends and enjoy different activities in the market. One respondent said

“I used to come to the market every market day to meet with friends and enjoy the acrobats and other entertainers who would flock in the market in such days and act for some little pay” (Njoki, O.I., 2019).

This perception of the market as a social and a meeting place fuelled further for the growth of the market. With Marige being a gathering area from pre-colonial era for initiates and other communal functions, the market had grown its popularity far and wide.

This helped in the growth of the market even in years after independence. Locals and visitors viewed connected to the place due to those pre-independence connections. As one of the respondents observed,

“I was circumcised at Komothai river banks and held our initiates ceremony at this market and I have been visiting this market since then to meet with my age-mates.” (Kimocho, O.I., 2019)

Another interviewee who explained of how her mother was initiated in the same place and how she would visit the market for “mwomboko” dance with her fellow age mates also shared a similar view. As a result the market grew in popularity which went far beyond the independence.

Among the factors that contributed to the success of Marige market as cited by some of the interviewees is the growth and spread of trade. In the early 1960s, the country had developed a strong infrastructure that included elaborate trading routes.

There were clear routes everywhere that led to different regions far from Marige. Traders could easily and safely come to marige from far regions such as Machakos, Kajiado Meru and the larger eastern province to trade. Marige market had become a famous centre where traders trusted to make big sales as well buy other products to take back home (Mwangi, O.I., 2019).

According to another interviewee, Marige market was located off the main road that led to Nairobi and Kiambu, therefore its geographical location was among the factors that made the market to flourish, the ease of accessibility of the developing interior encouraged trading activities between the traders.

Before 1960s, Marige market was concentrated with all sought of indigenous products such as food stuffs from different communities. According to one of the interviewees, people use to bring their farm produce so that they could trade and purchase that which their region could not produce.

“The kambas from Machakos and other regions could bring honey and oat, and in exchange, they would purchase yams and maize from the people of Marige.”(Musyoki, 64, 2019)

He added that, the availability of a wide variety of products attracted even more traders to visit the market.

“The Merus would bring tobacco for sniffing, this was a popular product during the time and majority of the communities would travel from far in order to get it” (Musyoki, 64, 2019).

The interviewee also added that, kambas on the other hand would come to purchase traditional ornaments made by the Meru and Embu communities who were also good at basketry and weaving of mats and blankets.” With people flooding from different regions of central and eastern provinces, it was a guarantee that the market would flourish like it did.

Majority of the interviewees confirmed that Marige market was a busy place and always buzzing with activities especially on market days. The availability of products such as cattle and meat from the Masaai in Kajiado made traders want to visit the market more.

“There was always a team of traders who would walk at the way from Isiolo and Kajiado to come and trade their cattle at Marige market the

main reason being that the demand was certainly high as well as the reward of going back home with other stuffs such as maize beans and tubers that could not flourish in their regions” (Macharia, 86, 2019).

One of the interviewees also mentioned that, the authenticity of the produce being sold in the market contributed to its success. The traders trusted that the farm produce would always be in great condition and were usually from their richest harvests. For instance the honey that the Kambas brought to the market was considered the best at the time. On the other hand they were sure to take back home the best tobacco from the Meru and Embu communities.

The availability of a major slaughter house in the market centre also contributed greatly to its growth. People use to come from far places to purchase meat and other animal products from the market. According to another interviewee, the main reason the maasais visited the market was because they found a ready market for most of their cattle. “The people of Marige and its surrounding preferred to purchase their livestock from the Maasai community because it was considered cheap”. Mr. Macharia also added that the market became a meeting place where most social events were being held.

“The slaughter house provided local hotels with meat. People were enthusiastic to eat nyama choma and soup while holding small meetings and for recreational purposes”. Marige market was full of small butcheries where the locals bought their daily meat. (Macharia, 86, 2019)

4.1 Factors and market policies that contributed to the fall of Marige market

Marige market, a once vibrant and rapidly growing market in Githunguri Constituency in Kiambu County is today categorized by old abandoned building structures, a vast bare

land with cattle grazing on the grass and memories among those who witnessed the rise and the fall of the market. Government policies of the day, urbanisation, growth of adjacent centres, fall of agricultural sectors such as coffee sector, economic suppression in the country, as well as harsh weather conditions are just part some of the factors that contributed to the fall of the Marige market. Today, the market has been overtaken by other vibrant and rapidly growing markets such as Kwamaiko market and Githurai markets.

The period between 1979 and 2000 is characterised with rapid urbanisation across most countries in Africa Kenya included. This urbanisation is as per the most of respondents one of the blessings which was a curse to them. As Nairobi grew and more industries and governmental jobs increased, many residents of Komothai and the surrounding started to migrate to Nairobi in search for greener pastures. This took away the working capital and the customer base that the market relied on. As Mr Karanu, (O.I., 2019) replied,

“My father who used to run a retail shop in the market relocated to Nairobi after learning that there was more returns and demands in the city due to high population in the city.”

Other urban centres such as Nakuru and Thika were also flourishing, attracting more migrants from Marige region due to its proximity national highway that connected the region those urban centres. Life had also started to become difficult in the villages, which made more residents and mostly youths to relocate to more promising urban centres. Ms. Wacera lamented on how her two sons went to Nakuru in early 80s thus leaving them to manage their shamba and a small a small banana business they were operating in the market. She further lamented that

“The pressure between managing our farm including a small coffee farm and the taking the bananas to the market twice every week was too much and her husband advised her to stop the business and concentrate on the farm” (Wacera, O.I., 2019).

Equal sentiments were shared by two other respondents who explained that their sons and daughters relocated to towns of Thika and Nakuru where demand for human capital in industries and white plantations was rising thus leaving them to manage the market which led to its collapse.

As urban centres grew, more traders started taking their commodities direct to the capital city. The growth markets such as Gikomba market City market in the Nairobi city made many traders to shift from relatively smaller local markets such as Marige market and buy stores in the largest markets of the day. This paradigm shift from where customers and small traders would come all the way from Nairobi to Marige market for food-stuff and other commodities reduced the authority of Marige market in the region. Mr. Gikonyo, who claimed that he knew five traders who had relocated to Nairobi market recalled that

“I used to come to this market every week to buy cereals and other commodities three of my customers went to Nairobi where the market was flourishing,” (Gikonyo, O.I., 2019).

He went further to say that, most of the outside traders and mainly those from Ukambani and Meru, had to relocate their businesses to Gikomba or City market where the business was lucratively profitable as compared to Marige market. Three other respondents explained also of how food stuff and other commodities were trading cheaper in the city as opposed to Marige market due to competition from other parts of the country. This

saw customers even from Githunguri and other Kiambu regions go directly to Nairobi to commodities there as opposed to the market.

Another factor that had negative impulse effect in Marige market was the effects of collapsing economy in the country. The economy of the country was which was once thriving was on a free fall. Government policies that allowed for more unregulated imports had affected the local industry negatively. The government entered into bilateral agreements with European market and other western countries which instead on having a mutual benefit, where Kenya would increase exports to these countries as they increase their exports to Kenya, the market skewed to the favour of western countries. One of the respondents who seemed informed with the national affairs lamented that,

The government of Kenya was tricked by European countries to loosen the import regulations as they tightened theirs for Kenya's agricultural exports. This shift led to increase in the local market for goods that could also be produced locally such as coffee and rice which were more presentable to the consumers thus killing the local market (Mwangi, O.I., 2019).

As a result the local markets faced suppression from imports from Western countries where the wealth people went for the foreign products at the expense of the local products.

The economic growth of the time also affected the Marige market negatively. A country which had experience a stable and a promising economic growth had started to experience a declined growth with rising inflation. At the same time the government embarked on large borrowings which contributed negatively to the economy. As Mr. Mwangi explained

“The Kenyan shilling had started to lose value and a dollar which would be exchanged at 20 Kenyan shillings per dollar had risen to 50 Kenyan shillings by late 80s” (Mwangi, O.I., 2019).

As a result, most businesses collapsed and many traders who had loans with banking institutions had to pay more than double of their borrowing. The fall of daily industry such as KCC also affected the traders negatively who had started to rear cattle and trade in daily products. This made most of the traders to count losses leading to collapse of Marige market.

Another contributing factor to the fall of Marige market was the fall of coffee industry led by the Coffee Board of Kenya. Almost all respondents who had lived within Marige market and Komothai location had a good story to tell of how life used to better and business used to flourish in the 60s and 70s courtesy of coffee industry. The industry which was largely controlled by White settlers before independence had become their new gold after the independence. Respondents; one by one explained of how they were educated or educated their children using coffee proceedings. Mrs. Victoria recalled

“We used to wait for the bonus day with nostalgia. Once the coffee bonus was paid, our parents used to pass by Marige market and buy each of us a new dress and shoes.” (Victoria, O.I., 2019)

But what was once a black gold and one of the Kenya’s largest export commodities by value had become bushes, as others uprooted the plants to try other products as the industry collapsed.

Ms. Wacera could not hold her tears as she explained how they lost a car they had bought with her husband through a loan secured by coffee proceedings. She explained how when the Kenya Coffee Board collapsed, debt collectors from a co-operative bank they had a

loan with, woke them up early morning, and all they wanted was the key for the car as they had defaulted their loan repayment (Wacera, O.I., 2019).

She explained of she cried and tried to plead with them to give them some more time but they could not listen. As they used to ferry farm products to the Marige market using the van, they had to abandon the business. Another respondent lamented on how the fall of the sector had negatively affected farmers who used to be their most trusted customers thus reducing the activities in the market. As a result, traders started to live one by one and either re-locate to other places or close their business entirely. At the end grass started to grow in the market, and activities slinked to only a few local traders selling some farm produce to the locals on Komothai region.

It is not easy to forget the 1997 draught and its effect on the Marige market. The year saw one of the largest draughts face the country. The country experienced very low rainfall with some regions experiencing almost zero millimetre rainfall. Rivers dried and crops weathered and dried while in shambas. One of the rivers that dried was river Komothai, which used to supply water for irrigation and other domestic use in Marige market and other areas of Komothai location. Marige market which was largely depending on agricultural produce from within the region was greatly affected, by lack of supplies as well as customers shying from the market due to lack of finances. Mr. Macharia, who was a farmer and a trader in the market, remembered of how his cabbages in a five acre land dried up after river Komothai which he was relying to irrigate the crops dried up. This led to great losses and he explained that

“The loss came with too big financial implication.... and I had to sell a truck I had bought two years before to offset the loan I had with a

micro-finance institution after they risked to take the car to offset the debt” (Macharia, 86, 2019).

Other respondents explained of how traders ran away from the market after registering continuous losses due to the draught.

The deprecation state of the infrastructure and transport sector in the region in 80s and 90s led to the fall of the Marige market. The roads through the Marige market and from the rural farms in the Komothai region had started to deteriorate and this led to food products taking long to reach the market, with perishable goods rotting or getting destroyed before they could reach the market. On contrary, roads in other regions were being developed and this made many traders to close their shops and to relocate to other favourable areas where market was easy to operate Mr. Macharia recalled that,

“On a rainy day, our truck could get stacked in the muddy villages and at times it would take us three days to reach the market from the villages.” (Macharia, 86, 2019)

Such sentiments were also shared by a few other respondents who complained of government negligence in the development agendas and development policies.

Another policy that led to the collapse of the market was the expansion of capital city to its environs. With growth of Nairobi city, land in the city had become scanty and highly costly to buyers. This made investors and other entrepreneurs to relocate to other areas within the reach of the capital, mainly Kiambu, Kajiado and Machakos districts. As Marige is within proximity of Nairobi city, many prospective and hedge traders started buying pieces of land in the region either for developing structural resident buildings or holding for more returns in the future. With good prices of land parcels from Nairobians, the residents who were majorly farmers subdivided their land for sale. This curtailed their

farming which was the main source of products in the Marige market thus reducing the market inflow. One of the interviewees recalled that

“One of my neighbours who used to grow vegetables and bring them to the market for sale, subdivided his land and sold it to buyers from Nairobi remaining only with a piece where he built his house.”

(Mukaru, O.I., 2019)

As a result the market lost its relevance as it relied on cheap farm produce from the region. Traders started shifting to other areas where goods were readily available and with cheap prices thus killing Marige market.

Construction of the Nairobi-Kiambu-Kibicho highway was more of a curse than a blessing to the people of Mariga market. Whereas at the inception of the project the traders were counting profits as customer base increased with the increase in the workers on the construction site, the project continued the gains started to shift to losses. Most of the residents of Komothai were hired to work on the project as casual labourers which made them to abandon their farming activities and other business activities to work in the project. This had negative effect to the market which relied mostly on locals, through their farm produce and trading. As one respondent replied,

“When the construction started, I abandoned my farming business to seek for employment in the project. It was well paying as compared to farming and that saw my fellow brothers and other village mates seek for employment in the project.” (Mukaru, O.I., 2019)

What this did to the market was shrinking its base of products and workers which resulted to the fall of the market as more traders changed business to selling food to the workers.

The road was also constructed at a far distance from the market, and the entrance route to the market was muddy and deplorable. As a result, traders who used to come to the market from other parts of Kiambu and other parts of the country started to shy away from the market after being shadowed by the new highway and isolated from the main routes. Residents recalled of how some traders would get stuck in the muddy entrance from the highway and vow never to return to the market. Mr. Mukaru went further to claim that claimed that

“A trader who had brought beans and other grains from Ukambani was stuck in the entrance for a whole day and when he managed to get out of muddy road he never returned to the market.” (Mukaru, 86, 2019)

Mr. Musyoki also complained of how the authorities rejected their appeal as the residents of Marige to have the road pass through the market and cited structural design as what the authorities and the constructor relied on to deny them the offer.

“This was unfair to have the road pass far away from the people and when we asked them to have an extension to connect the market with the highway, the constructors claimed that was not part of their project and would come with an extra cost which they were nor ready to bear.” (Musyoki, 64, 2019)

There was also claim that the road took too long to complete thus making former traders and farmers who used to supply Marige market with commodities to forget their business or close entirely close them. He went further to explain that,

“The construction of the road took too long to complete. As a result, those who had abandoned their business to take part in the construction went back to find them collapsed and others never went back to their former businesses.” (Musyoki, O.I., 2019)

Mr. Gikonyo, (O.I., 2019), recalled of how he used to sell potatoes in the market but after abandoning the business to seek greener pastures in the construction project, he went back to find the market shrunken and opted to relocate to nearby growing markets. As a result, Marige market started experiencing fewer activities and finally, stores which were used as retail shops were converted to residential houses which housed the casual labourers in the construction project. Mr. Gikonyo pointed a structure and said

“That used to be the largest store in the market. After businesses declined with traders avoiding the market due to its poor road connections, the owner converted the store to residential and rented them to the employees of the road construction project.”(Gikonyo, O.I., 2019)

Authorities’ policies in taxation and licensing also had their share in the fall of Marige market. The local authorities had exerted high taxation and licensing charges to the traders with little or no return to the market. Doing business in the market started to become difficult as the traders were charged similar licensing and taxation as their counterparts in bigger cities and towns such as Nairobi and Thika. This was not reflected on the service delivered to them as the government and local authorities neglected them. Basic amenities such as toilets were not constructed and garbage was not collected from the market. Mr Mwangi, (O.I., 2019) lamented on how the Kanjos only used to come to collect taxes without any return to the market. As a result, traders as well as customers

started to shun away from the market, which was experiencing deplorable conditions and poor services.

Prices started to shoot up as traders tried to recover the high taxation levied on them by the tax collectors. Mr Mwangi explained that,

When the traders viewed that the marketing conditions of Marige was unbearable, they started relocating their businesses to their businesses to other markets. One of major traders nicknamed muhindi, had a physical fight with one of the tax collectors after declining to pay remittance before the kanjos cleaned entrance to his shop. He was reported to the higher authorities and was forced to close off his shop as it had become unbearable for him to run the business here.

(Mwangi, O.I., 2019)

Other respondents shared of similar sentiments of how the authorities were overcharging them despite the fact that the business had started to shrink. All the above policies contributed in one way or the other the fall of the Marige market as the traders started to exit the market to other promising markets in the Nairobi city and other towns.

Majority of the interviewees confirmed that the construction of Nairobi –kiambu-kibicho road was a major contributor to the collapse of Marige market. The road was constructed 400 metres away from Marige market, according to Kimotho, (O.I., 2019) the new road resulted to migration of traffic,

“Initially vehicles would pick up and drop passengers and goods at Marige and that stopped as soon as the new road was completed”.

His claim was supported by KNA (1955) that explains how the development of the road network had a direct impact on local trade in Kenya as traders are relocated to be closer to the road when doing business.

He also added that, the new road being kilometres away from Marige market, majority of the traders could not manage to relocate their businesses due to family and rent factors therefore were forced to completely shut down which was quite a blow to a number of households.

The Nairobi –Kiambu-Kibicho road like many infrastructure development created a number of employment opportunities. As good as this might sound it was a major contributor to the fall of Marige market. Mr. Kamau (O.I., 2019) stated that, traders quit their activities to be employed in the construction of the road which was then the better option compared to business which was slowly dying.

The diversion of activities from Marige region to Kwamaiko area soon resulted to Marige being completely deserted. The new shopping centre started at Kwamaiko took over.

“Kwamaiko is only 100 metres from kiambu- Nairobi road thereby is a centre of business attraction. Traders were left without a choice but to set up their businesses at kwamaiko. Kwamaiko has had great support from the county council since its start and this road has made it a business magnet.” (Wacera, O.I., 2019)

Kwamaiko market had an upper hand advantage to Marige which faced infrastructure challenges as well as a stiff competition from the rapidly developing Kwamaiko. According to another interviewee, the two markets sold similar commodities as well there by making Marige market totally insignificant.

Another interviewee explained how his business in Marige market failed as a result of urbanisation. Mr. Irungu had this to say,

When my first son relocated to Kiambu town to work as a mechanic I was glad, but I did not know how that would affect my business then. My other son left as well to seek employment and I had to take care of my farm and shop all by myself. The struggle between the shop and maintaining my farm made me lose a lot of my customers and soon enough my business was closing down. (Irungu, O.I., 2019)

He also added that business at Marige market was flourishing as he was able to educate all his sons from the profits made. Majority of the traders opted for their agricultural activities as most of the help had moved to the developing urban areas. Besides, agriculture was more rewarding as compared to trading at Marige market.

Another factor that led to the collapse of Marige market was the state of infrastructure in the region. One of the former traders explained just but some of the challenges she faced back then,

“I used to sell fruits and cereal in that market. The road could get really muddy during the rainy season and most of my stock could go bad due to lack of customers.” (Musyoki, O.I., 2019)

He went further to explain how he had to close his business due to lack of stalls and constant interference from the local authority demanding for tax money. Majority of the respondents complained that Marige market collapsed due to ignorance from the local authorities.

“They came and collected their taxes then left, none of our grievances were taken into consideration.” (Musyoki, 54, 2019)

There is no much social or economic activities taking place in Marige market currently. The once vibrant market sadly exists in its shadows. According to Musyoki, there was once a banking institution in the market centre that offered loans and investment advice to traders.

“I was once offered a loan by the bank and I expanded my shop to a bigger retail store. I lost ksh300, 000 of my business savings when the bank collapsed. I had to close down my business as well.” (Musyoki, 54, 2019)

The demise of such banking institutions was a huge set back to Marige market. Traders could no longer access loans to improve their farming or business ventures as a result majority of their on-going projects stalled as others collapsed.

Urban centres that were coming up in particular Nairobi and Kiambu gave traders the opportunity to carry out entrepreneurial activities outside their local market. The natives from Marige and its surroundings were remarkably fortunate to have such a wide variety of marketable produce from their farms. With market proximity in Nairobi and Kiambu, and the newly constructed road, it was quite prudent for them to sell their produce in the thickly populated settled area around their reserve. Ms. Wacera (O.I., 2019) confirmed that,

“Potatoes, maize, bananas and vegetables are more profitable in Nairobi compared to the retail price in Marige, besides the demand

there is bigger and I prefer taking my produce there.” Evidently Marige market could not survive the outside competition.

The growth of nearby towns such as Kiambu and Githurai market also contributed to the drastic fall of Marige market. Implementing policies have stimulated economic growth in developing towns over the years. However this strategy has had both negative and positive impacts to the rural economy. Taking the case of Marige market as an example, the growth rate of nearby towns stalled its development. The infrastructure and opportunities being offered by these neighbouring towns were better and more profitable. A good number of the rural population was therefore forced to move to Kiambu town to seize the opportunities. A number of households were affected since the bread winners had migrated to seek employment and other goodies. The cities were flocked due to industrialisation and growth of slums.

According to one of the interviewees husbands left their homes to be employed into the cities due to the changing times. Families needed money to take their children through school. Education had become a basic demand therefore parents were mandated with the responsibility to educate their children.

“I left the village because two of my sons were supposed to join high school so I needed reliable income to be able to support them”.

(Kimotho, O.I., 2019)

Families that had their relatives in the cities were obviously doing better compared to those who remained in the villages. Therefore the pressure to migrate was high and the

numbers of individuals seeking greener pastures increased. Eventually the rural areas were deserted with only women and children and the elderly being left at homes.

Population in the rural areas had also increased therefore the upcoming towns provided a getaway for many who needed room for personal growth. Marige market was abandoned not because the place was in a liability but because other places developed faster and provided unlimited opportunities. When people moved to the nearby towns the nearby towns the market centre was slowly being deserted and the market depopulated. Marige market had initially flourished due to the agricultural boost of the region. The region was well known for intense coffee plantation. The drastic turn of activities was as a result of the fall of coffee boards in the region. The price of coffee went down. The lending corporations were no longer operation and some of the farmers lost their money. That being the case most of the farmers stopped to produce coffee. The market relied upon selling of coffee seedlings and other farm inputs. Mbugua, (79, 2019) recalled how he came to close down his business.

“I use to produce coffee seedlings and sell them to the market, the demand was high and I use to make lots of profits. When the farmers uprooted their plantations I also run out of business and my stall collapsed”.

People would come from far places to come and purchase their seedlings in Marige as it was centrally located

4.2 Conclusion

The current section has shown how the rise and decline of Marige market was experienced in 1960. The second section shows how the market completely collapsed by

2000 due to the development of new towns and shopping centres such as Kiamaiko shopping centre.

CHAPTER FIVE

EFFECTS OF NEIGHBORING TOWNS TO MARIGE MARKET

5.1 Overview of the urbanization of areas surrounding Marige market

The growth and urbanization of emerging towns and centers always have a reciprocal effect on the existing ones. The reason is that traders, as well as customers, compare prices and competitive advantage of the new markets with the existing ones, wherein many instances, the new markets beat the old ones as they come with advanced infrastructure and technology as well as the psychological effect of the newness. There has also been a negative relationship between the growth of major towns such as Nairobi to the existing pre-colonial centers and markets such as Marige market. As the urban cities grew with more urbanization, most people started shifting from rural areas to urban areas in search of jobs and better livelihood thus decreasing the population in the villages. The urban centers have also enjoyed advanced infrastructure, advanced education centers and technology, which have pushed more youths from upcountry to big cities for higher education and better livelihood.

Before the independence and in the early years of independence, Marige market was a booming market within Githunnguri constituency and in the larger Kiambu County. People used to come from as far as Nairobi to buy agricultural foodstuff among other commodities that were trading in the market at relatively cheaper prices. But by the year 2000, a market that would have been projected 30 years before to be of equivalent to Karatina market (which is the largest open-air market in East Africa), and the only physical activity in Marige market were herds of cattle grazing on the overgrown grass in what once used to be the largest market in Kiambu county. The locals attributed the fall of Marige market to the mushrooming of other centers such as Kwamaiko, Githurai as well as the urbanization of the Nairobi market.

5.2 Urbanization of Nairobi and other Towns

The first blow of Marige market was the urbanization and industrialization of Nairobi City. As the country's capital industrialized in the late 70s and early 90s demand for human capital went high. This demand was filled by residents of the adjacent districts, with most of Komothai youth in which Marige market is located migrating to Nairobi in search for greener pastures. Mr. Mbugua (79, 2019) explained how his two younger brothers left home for Nairobi, where they hoped to get employed in the Industrial area. Almost every other respondent who had been born within the area had a similar story of a son or daughter, husband, parent or a relative who left the village to Nairobi in search for jobs and other livelihoods.

One respondent remembered how her husband and her brother-in-law left them one morning after being promised a job in the city but they stayed for 8 years before returning home. As a result, she was unable to educate her two sons who left school at primary level went to Nairobi also for the search of a better life. Those who succeeded to get jobs or start businesses in the city invited their friends and relatives to the city thus decreasing the population in the village even higher. Ms. Njoki lamented that,

"My brother who had gotten a job at the industrial area called for my eldest son who had just completed high school and by 1990, the other two sons had joined them, leaving me alone in the village" (Njoki, O.I., 2019)

As a result, activities in the Marige market reduced as most customers and traders had started to relocate to Nairobi where there were job opportunities and market for traders was promising, leading to the collapse of Marige Market.

5.3 The growth of City Markets

As the urban centers grew, many traders started taking their products directly to Nairobi markets. The competition in the city had grown stiff as traders from different regions of the countries flocked the city markets with foodstuff and other products for sale which reduced the prices of commodities in the city market. This made it rationally impossible for traders who used to come from Nairobi to Marige market for the purchase of foodstuff from locals. Farmers and traders from Marige market who could take their products to the city markets started taking goods to Nairobi directly, thus reducing activities in the Marige market.

Ms. Njoki, who had started taking her vegetables directly to Gikomba market said,

"I used to bring a truck of cabbages and other vegetables to this market every week. But when the market declined and a friend of mine from Gikomba market told me of the promising business in the city, I started taking my vegetables to him, and within a few months I was taking a truck of vegetables every two days." (Njoki, O.I., 2019)

As most traders bypassed the local market to the city market, locals also started going to Nairobi markets for their purchases. According to a respondent,

"My husband who was then working with Kanjo, used to go to Nairobi every Saturday to buy us clothes and foodstuffs, where they were cheaper and modern as compared to the ones at Marige market." (Victoria, O.I., 2019)

This led to a decline in customers from Marige market that shifted to the growing city markets, making many other traders to close off shops as well and relocate to other promising towns such as Nakuru and Thika.

5.4 Technological Advancements

As the technologies advanced with advancement of industries and imported technology by traders, new means of farming were devised. One of these devices was the machine to pluck tea in the tea farms. This dealt a big blow to employees who were working in these farms such as Limuri tea farms near Komothai location. These left with nothing to do and no livelihood in the village, which made most of them go to Nairobi and other towns to seek better opportunities. Marige market, which used to benefit from these employees from their regular income, was left with a reduced market base. Mr. Macharia recalled how they used to have great sales at the end month.

“Every end month the Market experienced good sales due to the salaries of the coffee farms employee. I used to sell three bales of clothes on an end-month market day, but when the employees were fired after the introduction of coffee-plucking machines, the sales went down to barely one bale. (Macharia, 86, 2019)

Ms. Victoria remembered how their father used to work on one of those farms and how he could buy clothes and shoes for them from Marige market every end month. She went further to say,

“Their firing killed our only source of income, and our father was forced to go to Nairobi in search for another job.” (Victoria, O.I., 2019)

Other effects of technology in the region were in dairy farming, where large daily farmers had started to use machines to cut the cows' fodder and others for milking the cows. This made other farmers who relied on the employment on those dairy farms to be rendered jobless. As Mr. Karanu said,

“My father used to work in a large daily farm where he feeds the cows and milks the lactating ones. When new machines were bought half of the employees were fired, my father included.” (Karanu, O.I., 2019)

Similar sentiments were shared by other respondents who said of how the market started to die after many people went to Nairobi due to hardships in the village.

5.5 The Effect of Karatina Open-Air Market

Other than Gikomba and City market, there was Karatina market in Nyeri County which was starting to thrive. The location of Karatina market, in lowlands of Aberdare hills and being near to Mt. Kenya Mountain, made the market strategic for farmers within these regions. The market which is also connected to Nairobi city through a Nairobi Nyeri Highway grew to become the largest open-air market in the country. Traders from Nairobi and other bigger towns such as Nakuru and Thika started to flock to the market to buy agricultural produce, mainly vegetables which were selling at a very lower price compared to other markets in the country. This made traders who were initially trading at Marige market, to start shifting to Karatina market where the business was booming. As Ms. Wacera said,

“I used to come here every Saturday to sell vegetables to customers who used to come from Thika and Nakuru towns. But when they learnt of Karatina market and how the products were cheaper at the market, they all started going to Karatina. At the end my business became unprofitable and I eventually closed it.”(Ms. Wacera, O.I., 2019)

Two other respondents reported also of how their businesses were dealt a major blow by the popularity of Kararina open-air market.

5.6 The Effect of Kwamaiko Shopping Centre

When the Nairobi-Kiambu-Kibicho highway was completed, other markets emerged along the highway that nailed the last nail to the dying Marige market. One of these markets was Kwamaiko market. The market which is in Githunguri was the greatest beneficiary of the new highway as the road went through the market. Kwamaiko shopping centre, which had operated as a small centre but with some activities such as Kwamaiko polytechnic, exploited the benefits of this new development, which had sidelined Marige market after passing a hundred meters away from the Marige market. New activities started to mushroom in the market, and some factories were built within its proximity such as Githunguri Dairy Farmers Co-operative Society Factory. According to one of the respondents,

“The construction of Nairobi-Kiambu-Kibicho highway, opened Kwamaiko market, which was an old but dormant centre. The highway made people to start coming into the Centre and starting some activities and even students started attending the polytechnic which had started to gain popularity.”(Kamau, O.I., 2019)

These new developments attracted residents of Githunguri constituency and beyond to settle in the region and start some businesses as well as those working in the factory and the polytechnic.

As Kwamaiko market started to grow, traders started to move from Marige market to Kwamaiko market. The returns on Kwamaiko market were promising as the population had started to increase due to the new factory and the highway which made livelihood better in the new town (KNA 1941). Due to its proximity to Marige market, traders could easily compare benefits from the two markets, and shift to the new one with excessive overheads costs. Mr. Mwangi, (O.I., 2019) said,

"One of the major traders who was operating a mali-mali shop in Marige market, relocated to Kwamaiko market, which was growing and easier to run the business due to its connection with the highway."

As traders started shifting to the markets others followed the suit. One respondent said of how one of the traders who had a cereals store closed the shop and opened one at Kwamaiko market, which was close to his home. The news of the growth of Kwamaiko market continued to reach to the traders in Marige market, who followed the suit and closed off their stores at Marige market. He went further to say that, within one year, more than ten big stores had closed in Marige market and relocated to Kwamaiko market. The growth of Kwamaiko market had also customers from Marige area and the entire Komothai location moving to Kwamaiko market, where goods were cheaper and in greater variety. Most farmers started taking their farm produce directly to Kwamaiko market, where the customer base was promising as they could get customers from Kiambu town and other areas of Kiambu County. One of such farmers, who was also a resident of Marige was Ms. Wacera who recalled that,

"The business in Kwamaiko market had started to flourish after completion of the highway. Most of the traders, who had run away from Marige market, had started to come to Kwamaiko market, which is only a few kilometres from here. ... I started taking bananas from my shamba which I used to sell at Marige market to Kwamaiko market and the business was well rewarding." (Wacera, O.I., 2019)

Other respondents remembered of how they started going to Kwamaiko market every market day and within some years they had forgotten Marige market.

5.7 Conclusion

The growth of these centers and several others such as Githurai and Ruiru centers rendered Marige market redundant and made it close. Most traders and customers shifted to the new markets, which were on the highways from Nairobi, and where products were cheaper and in variety as well as increased customer-base in these growing centers. Other humanitarian services such as schools and hospitals developed in these new centers which attracted more residents of Marige and traders to these new markets. Marige market was therefore left to operate as a village market, with a smaller market base making what was once a vibrant market in Kiambu to be shut down and forgotten.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Summary and Conclusion

In conclusion, Marige, a market which had thrived to national status by 1960s and 70s, was by the year 2000 an abandoned place with minimal or no activities. A trader who used to bring commodities such as salt from Magadi or tobacco from Meru in the 1970s, who would happen to visit the area by the year 200, would only be welcomed by cows and goats grazing on the overgrown grass, a sign of an abandoned and alienated place. Several factors had contributed to the growth of Marige market as explained earlier; which included; the population of the surrounding villages, agricultural activities such coffee farming and cattle keeping, peaceful coexistence of locals, strategic location and infrastructure.

Nevertheless, from 1979, various factors and policies brought down Marige market to its knees by early 2000s. Urbanization in the urban centres did a major blow to rural centers, where Marige market was one of, and shifted the population and businesses to urban centers. Some political policies also played a role in the fall of the market. Others included infrastructure alienation, where a highway was constructed far from the market; other neighbouring centers grew taking the business away from Marige Market, and fall of the agricultural sector, more so the coffee sector.

In the early 60s, traders were flocking to Marige Market from all over the country to trade their products. By then, most people were constrained to their villages and more business was thriving in local areas as the population was high as compared to urban centers which worked as colonial headquarters. Marige market had a geographically strategic location that favoured it over other centers making it a marketing bee-hive. As learnt from the research, the strategic location of Marige market; Thuita, Ruiru River and

Mbari ya Igi ridges, offered Marige market as a meeting center which in return allowed for the market to thrive. The market also benefited from its vicinity to Nairobi. Being close to the capital city of the country made traders, who by then used to go for products and more so agricultural products from rural markets, to flock Marige market for their shopping. As more traders came in, more products were brought into the market, which made traders from as far as Meru to bring tobacco to the market, as Masaai brought cattle from Masaai land. The ripple effect of this was the increase in competition as more people brought similar goods to the market, which in return lowered the cost of products attracting more customers to the market.

The colonial leadership and post-colonial leaders in the Marige region played a major role in the growth of the market. Unlike many other centers at the time, Marige Market enjoyed political calmness and peaceful environment courtesy of local administration. The researcher found that local chiefs such as chief Magugu had ensured that the locals remained in harmony with one another as well as to visitors. This made visitors feel welcomed, and would, therefore, camp in the area without fear of any attack. The locals went further to giving shelter and water to Masaai cattle brought in the market for sale. As security is a major factor in the growth of any center, the security of Marige Market played a positive role in growing the village market to national status. Chief Magugu also ensured that the taxes and tariffs collected from the locals were used prudently, where much of it was used to raise the standards of the market making it one of the best markets at the time. This attracted more traders who all grew the market to higher heights.

Another factor that had led to the growth of Marige Market was its agricultural activities. Marige market was situated in an area with high agricultural productivity. The climate and soil type of the area allowed for farming of different types of crops. Coffee farming, which was largely an activity of whites-only by the early 60s, had been open to locals on

small scale farming. As coffee farming was a promising and a highly rewarding agricultural activity, residents of the area had made good returns which made them look for ways to expand their business, thus making many of the traders in the market. Many other agricultural and livestock were reared in the area, which other than providing capital for local traders, provided for products of the sale in the market. This had made the prices of products at Marige market to go low, as products were fetched locally, thus attracting the market to many more customers who in return allowed for more growth of the market. These entire factors among others had made Marige market to become a beehive of activities before its activities started to diminish in the early 80s to almost no activity by the year 2000.

One major factor that led to the fall of the market was the urbanization as experienced in the late 70s and early 80s. During this period, the country was undergoing industrialization, which raised demand for workers in urban centers, where these industries were located. People started flocking the urban centers from all over the country in search of greener pastures. Marige area which is located near Nairobi city had most of its residents migrate to Nairobi to fill these positions. The cost of living for these emigrants was not as good as they had projected, and as a result, many slums mushroomed in these urban centers. Lack of good wages made people spend less on expenses which made Marige market to suffer a blow as it used to rely upon the livelihood of these people to make sales.

Urbanization also robbed of people of Marige region youth and energetic people who were the future of the market. It was therefore left to aged people, who had also other farm activities. With time, they were unable to handle the two activities which made them start exiting one by one. Finally, the market was left without traders and this led to the imminent fall of Marige market.

With Kenya gaining independence, many factors changed politically. Elected leaders started directing developments to some areas considered politically favourable to them as opposed to others. Marige market, which had enjoyed peaceful coexistence of its people and political calmness, was subjected to political correctness. Various policies and decisions were made politically which worked led to the fall of the market. Traders had started to complain of over taxation, much of which was squandered instead of developing the market. As a result, the infrastructure in the region deteriorated and some basic amenities such toilets in the market were abandoned. Eventually, traders started to exit the market in search for other markets which had better working conditions.

The construction of Nairobi- Kiambu –Kibichoi road contributed to the fall of Marige market. The road was constructed a hundred meters away from the market, and feeder road connecting the market with the highway was in bad condition for motorists. The construction also offered for casual employments for local who thus abandoned their previous activities, some being traders at the market, to take chance in the new activities. Other traders also abandoned their business in the market, to sell food to the construction workers. As the business had started to fade away, other traders who owned dome business houses in the region converted them to residential and rented them to the road constructors. All these robbed off the market its resources and assets for business to thrive. It was noted that the construction of the highway took much longer than expected making traders who had left their businesses in Marige temporarily to take part in the construction, to forget of their businesses and by the time of return, the market was already on its knees.

Marige market also suffered from growth of other adjacent centers, more so those who had a direct connection with the newly created highway. This included Kwamaiko centre which was along the Nairobi- Kiambu –Kibichoi road. Being connected to the highway

had made many traders, most of whom were previous traders of Marige market to shift their businesses to Kwamaiko market. Kwamaiko market also benefited from other facilities in the town such as a polytechnic and a daily farm, which provided a ready market for the products in the market. Other markets had started to grow in Ruiru and Githurai, and due to their proximity to Nairobi, traders started abandoning Marige market to these emerging markets. Marige was therefore left to act as a village market, and as Kwamaiko market is not far from Marige, many customers from this region started shifting to Kwamaiko market. In the end, Marige market was fully abandoned and left to fade away.

Marige market used to rely on agriculture to provide products for the market as well as money for the customers to shop in the market. As it had been learnt from the research, one of these major agriculture products was coffee. It had remained to one of the major sources of livelihood for the residents and had even led to the development of some saving Sacco and other banking institutions which offered financial support to residents such as loans. When the KPDU died due to poor prices of coffee, residents of this region suffered a lot. Most of them had taken loans with these banking institutions and their business was auctioned off to pay for the debts as coffee sector counted losses year in, year out. Most of these people had invested in Marige market as traders and were left with no more options other than off the businesses. The country also suffered a great drought in the late 90s which had seen several rivers in the region dry. As the customers used to camp in the region for agricultural products grown in this region, the drought led to the death of their market.

It was therefore found that Marige market, which was once renowned in the whole country had been killed by factors, most of which could have been avoided or limited as they were local. Nevertheless, other national and other global as those of urbanization

and the market needed to restructure itself to the new dynamics and continue competing with the new markets.

6.3 Recommendations

Many factors that led to the fall of Marige market were local and political factors, which could have been avoided or rectified with political goodwill. Though the research was limited to historical factors leading to the growth and fall of Marige market, the factor might have similar effects in other markets and centers as well. The researcher, therefore, came with some recommendations which if implemented can help to revive Marige market, but also help other centers and markets which may be on the same route of Marige market to recover. These recommendations are:

- I. From the first objective developments should be made based on merit as opposed to political inclination. Marige market had thrived well when it was under the management of chiefs, who were not elected and thus not politically inclined. When the market was left to elected leaders, political policies took off the resources away from the market to other areas and this led to the fall of the market. The researcher, therefore, recommends that regional development policies be left to non-political leaders who are competent and who will issue these developments as per the regional needs.
- II. From the second objective the government should come up with policies for rural industrialization. One of the major reasons for the death of the Marige market was found to be urbanization. This urbanization had been caused by industrialization in the urban centers which made residents of Marige and other rural areas migrate to urban centers in search of jobs. Had these

industries been built in these rural areas, people would have remained in the rural areas and work and spend locally which would have saved the market from its collapsing. The government should, therefore, encourage more industrial investments in rural areas, through policies such as tax exemption and free land to investors targeting these regions.

III. From the third objective the government should raise infrastructure standards in rural areas. As one of the major drives of investments is infrastructure, governments both national and local governments should strive to raise infrastructure in rural areas. Road networks and modern communication networks such as fibre cable network should not be a preserve of big towns. Youths in the villages should as well access these services which will help them not to leave to town centers in search of these services. Basic amenities such as learning institutions and medical facilities should also be developed in rural areas as it is one of the factors that make people migrate to urban centers to search for them.

IV. In the fourth objective one of the major income-earning activities in rural centers, as seen in Marige market, is farming. Most rural residents rely on farming as their source of income. However poor pay of agricultural products such as coffee had made Marige traders and residents in the area to count huge losses which made them unable to continue trading in the market. It is therefore recommended that policy is established by government guaranteeing minimum returns to farmers of such crops, to bar them from unfair trade deals and competitions that always kill their hard work. Establishing of such kind of policies, coupled vigorous marketing for these

products by the government, will reward farmers, and make many youths who run away from farming due poor returns to return in the villages and raise farming to a higher level. As they do this, they will spend locally, and provide a customer base for these markets to thrive.

6.4 Suggestions for Future Research

The research paper was limited to conducting historical factors that led to the growth and fall of Marige Market. This limits the research to generalizing it to factors that affected other markets at the time as well. As it was noted from a few of the respondents when Market was fading away, other more markets such Karatina open-air market were thriving, to a level of becoming the largest open-air market in the country. The researcher could however not deduce the factors that could favour such markets over markets such Marige which were closer to the city. It is, therefore, suggests that more comprehensive and comparative research be done among these markets to find out why the same conditions could make some markets to grow as others faded away.

It is also suggested that research be conducted in the present emerging markets to learn factors that are making some to thrive as others other in the same conditions struggle to get a share of the market. There is need to investigate the relationship between the various market policies in the whole county. This will help the struggling markets to learn from the thriving ones and compete to the same standards.

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Oral Interviews

Please check appendix 1 for the list of the interviewees

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APPENDIXES

Appendix I: List of Members

Name	Age	Profession	Location	Date
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Wacera S. 84 Years (Farmer, Komothai , 18 /08/2019)

Wagacu F., 92 Years (Farmer, Komothai , 19/08/2019)

Irungu J., 74 years (Farmer, Komothai , 20/08/2019)

Mwihaki N., 77 years (Farmer, Komothai, 19/08/2019)

Njoki R. 81 years (Farmer, Komothai, 19/08/2019)

Gikonyo J., 83 years (Constructor, Komothai, 25/08/2018)

Kamau M., 73 years (Farmer, Komothai , 21/08/2019)

Mbugua K., 79 years (Security Guard and a farmer, Komothai, 23/08/2019)

Mwangi N., 78 years (Trader, Komothai, 23/08/2019)

Mukaru S., 81 years (Former trader, Komothai, 29/08/2019)

Karanu A., 66 years (Masonary, Komothai , 21/08/2019)

Victoria W., 72 years (Retired teacher, Komothai , (30/08/2019) (Victoria, 72, 2019)

Macharia W., 86 years (Former trader and farmer, Komothai, 25/08/2019)

Kimotho J., 92 years (Farmer, Komothai , 30/08/2019)

Musyoki., 64 years (Trader, Komothai , 30/08/2019)

Appendix II: Interview Questions guide

Introduction

This research questions are carried to help identify the historical factors that helped Marige market in the early years to 1960s. The research helps the interviewer to find the issues that led to the growth of the market and what led to its fall. These research questions acts as a guide to the research but the questions are developed during the research through an open process.

Key questions

1. How old are you and did you witness the growth and the fall of Marige market?
2. What were historical factors that led to the growth of the Marige market before 1960s?
3. What was the influence of the local leadership in the growth of the market and how did colonial leadership affect the growth of the market?
4. How did coffee farming in the region affect the growth of the market and well-being of the locals?
5. What was the relationship between the traders and locals that led to the transformation of Marige market between 1961 and 1978?
6. What were the various market policies and how they impacted on the growth of Marige between 1979-2000
7. How can you rate the local authorities and administrations that led the market and managed the region between the years 1979 and 2000?
8. How did the fall of agriculture and coffee sector between 1979 and 2000 affect the performance of Marige market?
9. How did the construction of Nairobi- Kiambu –Kibicho road contribute to the fall of Marige market?
10. What is the relationship between the urbanization in neighboring towns and the fall of Marige market?

Appendix III: Time Frame

	2017			2018			2019		
ITEM	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan- April	April- Aug	Aug- Dec	Jan- April	April- Aug	Aug- Dec
Research topic identification									
Concept approval									
Writing Proposal									
Presentation of Proposal									
Piloting Research Instruments									
Data Collection									
Data Analysis									
Presentation of Thesis									

Appendix IV: Research Finances


ITEM	COST
Preparation of proposal	10,000
Research tools	31,000
Stationery	4,000
Data collection	18,000
Data analysis	12,000
Research assistants allowances	26,000
Miscellaneous expenses	5,200
Total	106,000

Appendix V: NACOSTI Research Identity Card

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT:

MR. PATRICK KIARIE MBUGUA of **MT. KENYA UNIVERSITY, 90-232 RUIRU,** has been permitted to conduct **research in Kiambu County** on the topic: **"A HISTORY OF MARIGE MARKET IN KIAMBU COUNTY KENYA, 1960 TO 2000,"** for the period ending: **19th March, 2020**

Permit No. : NACOSTI/P/19/95681/28842
Date Of Issue : 19th March, 2019
Fee Recieved :Ksh 1000



Applicant's Signature **Director General**
National Commission for Science, Technology & Innovation

Appendix VI: NACOSTI Research Authorization Letter



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Telephone: +254-20-2213471,
2241349,3310571,2219420
Fax: +254-20-318245,318249
Email: dg@nacosti.go.ke
Website : www.nacosti.go.ke
When replying please quote

NACOSTI, Upper Kabete
Off Waiyaki Way
P.O. Box 30623-00100
NAIROBI-KENYA

Ref. No. **NACOSTI/P/19/95681/28842**

Date: **19th March, 2019**

Patrick Kiarie Mbugua
Mount Kenya University
P.O. Box 342-01000
THIKA.

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION

Following your application for authority to carry out research on “*A history of marige market in Kiambu County Kenya, 1960 to 2000*” I am pleased to inform you that you have been authorized to undertake research in **Kiambu County** for the period ending **19th March, 2020.**

You are advised to report to **the County Commissioner and the County Director of Education, Kiambu County** before embarking on the research project.

Kindly note that, as an applicant who has been licensed under the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 to conduct research in Kenya, you shall deposit a **copy** of the final research report to the Commission within **one year** of completion. The soft copy of the same should be submitted through the Online Research Information System.



GODFREY P. KALERWA MSc., MBA, MKIM
FOR: DIRECTOR-GENERAL/CEO

Copy to:

The County Commissioner
Kiambu County.

The County Director of Education
Kiambu County.

Appendix VII: Mount Kenya Introduction Letter


Mount Kenya University

SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

MAHS/39965/2015

15th February, 2019

*The Director, Research Coordination Division
National Commission for Science, Technology & Innovation
Utalii House, 8th & 9th Floor
P.O Box 30623 - 00100
NAIROBI*

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: PATRICK KIARIE MBUGUA- REGISTRATION NO. MAHS/39965/2015

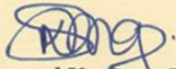
The purpose of this letter is to introduce the above named student who is pursuing a **Master of Arts in History Degree** in the **Department of Languages and Humanities** in the **School of Social Sciences**.

The title of his research is *"A History of Marige Market in Kiambu County Kenya, 1960 to 2000."*

He has been cleared by the University's Ethics Review Committee (Certificate attached) and now has to proceed to the field to collect data for his research between **February, 2019 and April, 2019**.

Any assistance accorded to him will be highly appreciated.

Thank you.


Mount Kenya University
Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies
P. O. Box 342 - 01000
Thika

Dr. Samuel Karenga, Ph.D
Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies
Enc.

Main Campus, General Kago Road, P.O. Box 342-01000 Thika. Tel: +254 67 2820 000.
Cell: +254 720 790 796, 0709 153 000
Email: info@mku.ac.ke, Web: www.mku.ac.ke
Chartered and ISO 9001 : 2008 Certified Institution.
Unlocking Infinite Possibilities

Appendix VIII: Kiambu County Commissioner Letter



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND CO-ORDINATION OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, KIAMBU

Telephone: 066-2022709

Fax: 066-2022644

E-mail: countycommkiambu@yahoo.com

When replying please quote

County Commissioner

Kiambu County

P.O. Box 32-00900

KIAMBU

Ref.No: **ED.12 (A)/1/VOL.III/130**

7th August, 2019

Patrick Kiarie Mbugua
Mount Kenya University
P.O. Box 342 - 01000

THIKA

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION

Reference is made to National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation letter Ref No. **NACOSTI/19/95681/95681/28842** Dated **19th March, 2019**.

You have been authorized to conduct research on "**a history of Marige Market in Kiambu County Kenya 1960 to 2000.**" The data collection will be carried out in **Kiambu County for a period ending 19th March, 2020.**

You are requested to share your findings with the County Education Office upon completion of your research.

Alice M. Nyathoko
Alice M. Nyathoko
FOR: COUNTY COMMISSIONER
KIAMBU COUNTY

Cc County Director of Education
KIAMBU COUNTY

County Director of Health Science
KIAMBU COUNTY

National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation
P.O. Box 30623-00100
NAIROBI

The Deputy County Commissioner (*For information and record purposes*)
GITHUNGURI SUB-COUNTY

"Our Youth our Future. Join us for a Drug and Substance free County".

Appendix IX: Ministry Of Education Research Authorization Letter



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION State Department of Early Learning & Basic Education

Telephone: Kiambu (office) 020-2044686
FAX NO. 020-2090948
Email: directoreducationkiambu@yahoo.com

COUNTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
KIAMBU COUNTY
P. O. Box 2300
KIAMBU

When replying please quote

KBU/CDE/DEPT 8/Vol. I/(48)

7th August, 2019

Patrick Kiarie Mbugua
Mount Kenya University
P.O. Box 342-01000


THIKA

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION


Reference is made to the National Commission for Science Technology and Innovation letter Ref. No NACOSTI/P/19/95681/28842 dated 19th March, 2019.

The above named has been authorized to carry out research on "*A history of Marige Market in Kiambu County, 1960 to 2000*" for a period ending 19th March, 2020.

Please accord him the necessary assistance.


ALICE MUKWANA
For: COUNTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
KIAMBU COUNTY

Appendix X: Certificate of Ethical Clearance


Mount Kenya University

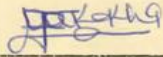
MAY 29, 2018

Ref. No. MKU/ERC/0806


CERTIFICATE OF ETHICAL CLEARANCE

This is to certify that the proposal titled “A HISTORY OF MARIGE MARKET IN KIAMBU COUNTY KENYA, 1960 TO 2000”, Whose Principal Investigator is Mr Patrick Kiarie Mbugua (MAHS/39965/2015) has been reviewed by Mount Kenya University Ethics Review Committee (ERC), and found to adequately address all ethical concerns.

Mr Francis W. Makokha
Secretary, Mount Kenya University ERC

Sign:  Date: 29.05.2018

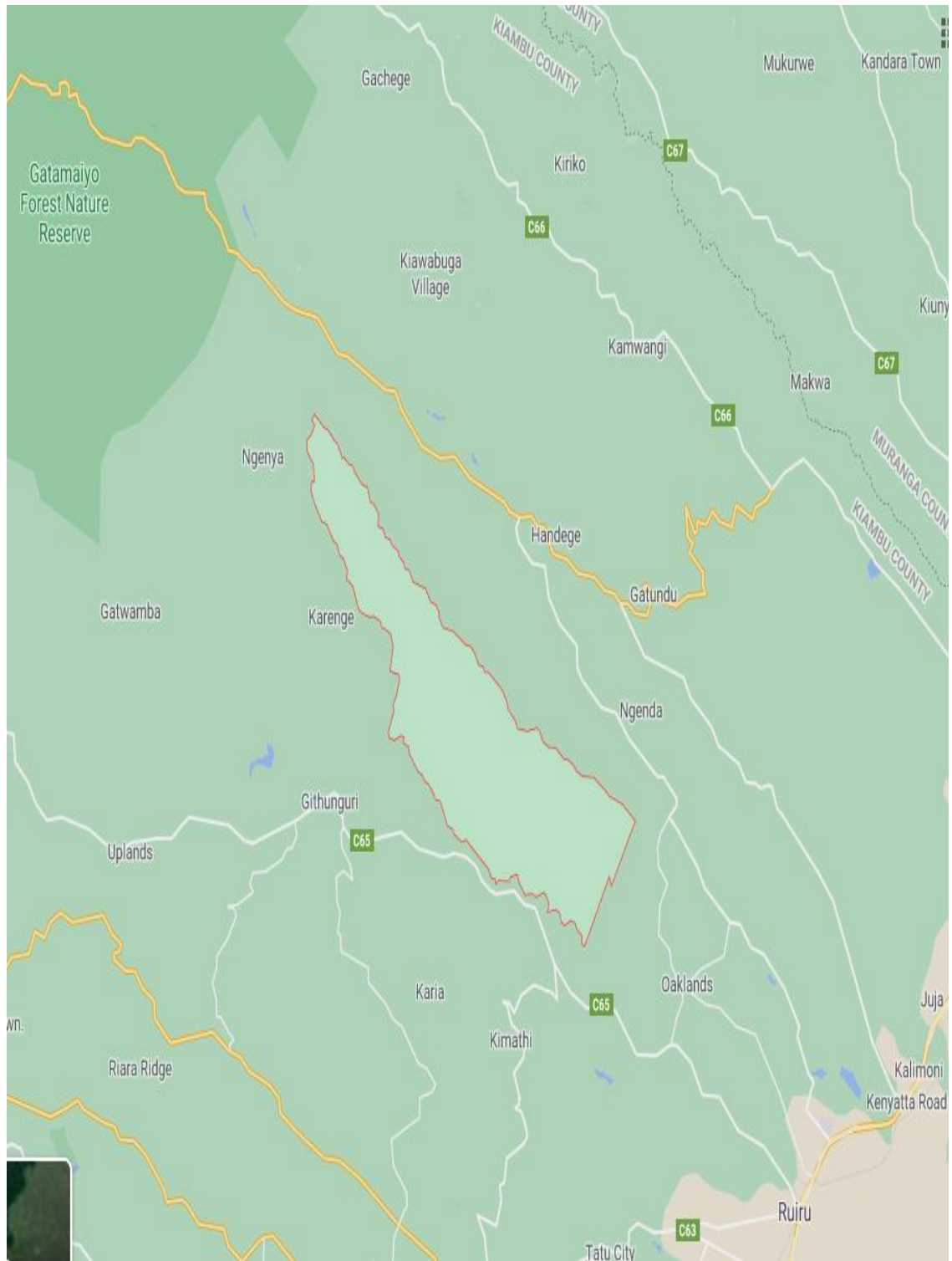
Prof. Francis W. Muregi
Chairman, Mount Kenya University ERC

Sign:  Date: 30.05.2018

The Chairman
Mount Kenya University
Ethics Review Committee
P. O. Box 342 - 0100, Thika

Main Campus, General Kago Road, P.O. Box 342-01000 Thika. Tel: +254 67 2820 000,
Cell: +254 720 790 796, 0709 153 000
Email: info@mku.ac.ke, Web: www.mku.ac.ke
Chartered and ISO 9001 : 2008 Certified Institution.
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Appendix XI: Kiambu County Map



Appendix XI: Similarity Index

A HISTORY OF MARIGE MARKET IN KIAMBU COUNTY KENYA, 1960 TO 2000 THE RISE DEVELOPMENT AND DECLINE.

ORIGINALITY REPORT

8% SIMILARITY INDEX	7% INTERNET SOURCES	3% PUBLICATIONS	5% STUDENT PAPERS
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PRIMARY SOURCES

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Publication

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Publication

Exclude quotes Off

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