

**THE IMPACT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS ON UNEMPLOYMENT IN
KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF TURKANA COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

Unemployment level in Turkana County has been on rise hence has led to insecurity within the region and therefore loss of life. The estimated unemployment rate is 3.5% to the national employment all educated and the index. Because of unemployment, level of crime as increased leading to stagnant development within the county as a whole and few measures has been conducted in the past has shown that the most vulnerable group are the youth who are in the age between 20-35years who are well educated and well informed. The purpose of this research study was to investigate the impact of socio-economic factors on unemployment in Turkana County. Design was adopted for the study so as to come out with background information about the matter in question. The study was conducted in Turkana west constituency in Turkana County. The study population consisted partly homestead and population of 120 youths between 20-35 years who are the most affected group, and therefore the researcher used both stratified sample of which include interviews, observations, and focus group discussions as instrument of data collection for purposes of validity and reliability. Pre test and post test was conducted through consultation involving experts for data analysis whereas both qualitative and quantitative technique was applied to analyze data. The data was presented as diagrams, pie charts, and percentages. In conclusion the research is to enable youths to be employed either by government or self employed through personal initiatives, youth funds and the rates of insecurity reduced. Conclusions were made from the collection and analyzed data. From the study it was noted that; poor infrastructure, cultural factors, age and education, and government mandate have an impact on unemployment in Kenya. Poor infrastructure and education were the major effects in the county. The county government should try and come up with better ideas about the growth strategy that are currently in proportion with the citizens wants. Points or situations that may lead to poor infrastructure should be closely monitored and avoided as much as possible. Even though the Turkana County may find it difficult to take corrective measures to curb the issues of cultural factors, there is need to acknowledge the technological changes that are coming up. The county should adapt the modern western cultures and practice them. The county should ensure proper education system and that the majority is acquiring it. The emphasis should be on skills acquisition and not merely to pass.