

**ASSESSMENT OF VARIABLES INFLUENCING ABJECT POVERTY IN MANDERA
COUNTY, KENYA**

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MARCH, 2024

DECLARATION AND APPROVAL

Declaration by student

I declare that this is my original work and has not been presented to any college or university for award of degree or diploma.

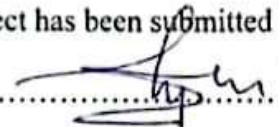
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This project has been submitted for examination with my approval as the university supervisor.

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DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to my dear wife, parents, colleagues, friends for the support they have given me in my pursuit for further education.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

God, the source of all wisdom and understanding, is ultimately to thank for my accomplishments. I'd like to take this time to express my deepest and profound gratitude to Dr. Kennedy Nyariki, my supervisor, who has been nothing but kind and helpful during the whole of this project period, i am also immensely grateful to Dr Isaac Abuga for his invaluable guidance and unwavering support throughout the duration of this project and the entire staff of post-graduate studies Nairobi campus. Finally, I'd like to express my heartfelt gratitude to those who have been there for me and offered words of comfort and hope at this challenging time specially my dear wife Khadija Abdirahman for her tremendous support. God bless you abundantly for your kindness and generosity.



ABSTRACT

The primary goal of this study was to shed light on the causes of severe poverty in Kenya's Mandera County and how they have evolved over time. In specifically, the following theories were the focus of this study: Is the poverty rate in Mandera County, Kenya, related to the number of people living there? Does a person's level of education in Mandera County, Kenya, have any influence on whether or not they are severely impoverished? Does one's job title make a difference? Does political stability in Kenya's Mandera County have an effect on the level of poverty there? The tremendous poverty in Kenya's Mandera County motivated this study. The descriptive technique was employed for this investigation. Mandera County was the location of the investigation. The 2019 census by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) provided both the population estimate of 1,200,890 and the sample size of 96. The majority of the information was gathered via the use of questionnaires. Following the evaluation, the tool was adjusted to maximize the quality of the data it was gathering. The draft was revised based on their comments, which helped ensure the information was accurate. The survey's legitimacy was further bolstered by its having undergone preliminary editing and by consulting with experts for feedback on which questions to ask. Before beginning the analysis process, the questionnaire was double checked for typos and made random checks to make sure nothing had been missed. Cleaning, editing, coding, and tabulating the data were all part of a thorough analytical procedure after double-checking of the consistency of the questionnaires. The study findings show that the majority of respondents agreed that the fact that some families in Mandera have many children contributes significantly to the region's high population, which in turn may restrict economic prospects and ultimately contribute to people living in poverty. Most respondents agreed that early marriage, particularly among girls, was a major role in the persistence of poverty since it caused many young women to leave school. This was followed by a consideration suggesting that high school grads may not go on to further education and might, thus, stay economically disadvantaged. It was determined that the majority of respondents agreed that the lack of employment opportunities is a major contributor to poverty in Mandera, followed by the belief that there are not enough businesses and industries in the region to support the local population. The majority of respondents agreed that there had been an uptick in tribal clashes in Mandera, and that this was likely to be followed by an uptick in insecurity, both of which would make it difficult for locals to support themselves economically. Since most people in Mandera view children as a source of labor, the study recommends that reducing the number of family members is necessary to alleviate extreme poverty in the region. To ensure the majority of its citizens, if not all, attend school and gain the knowledge and skills necessary to improve the region and reduce extreme poverty, the county government of Mandera must devise strategies such as paying school fees to those who cannot afford to do so. In the event of inclement weather that reduces crop yields, the county might encourage the populace to adopt innovative farming technology and practices that will increase the quality and quantity of agricultural products for human consumption and commercial sale. Terrorism has always been a problem in Mandera County due to its proximity to Somalia; as a result, securing the county's porous border will benefit its residents by making the area safer for commerce. Since political corruption is so pervasive, the organizations tasked with monitoring how tax are spent in a specific county need to step up their game.

ABBREVIATIONS

FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
SID	Society of International Development
SPSS	Software for Social Science Statistics
U.S.A	United States of America
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fun

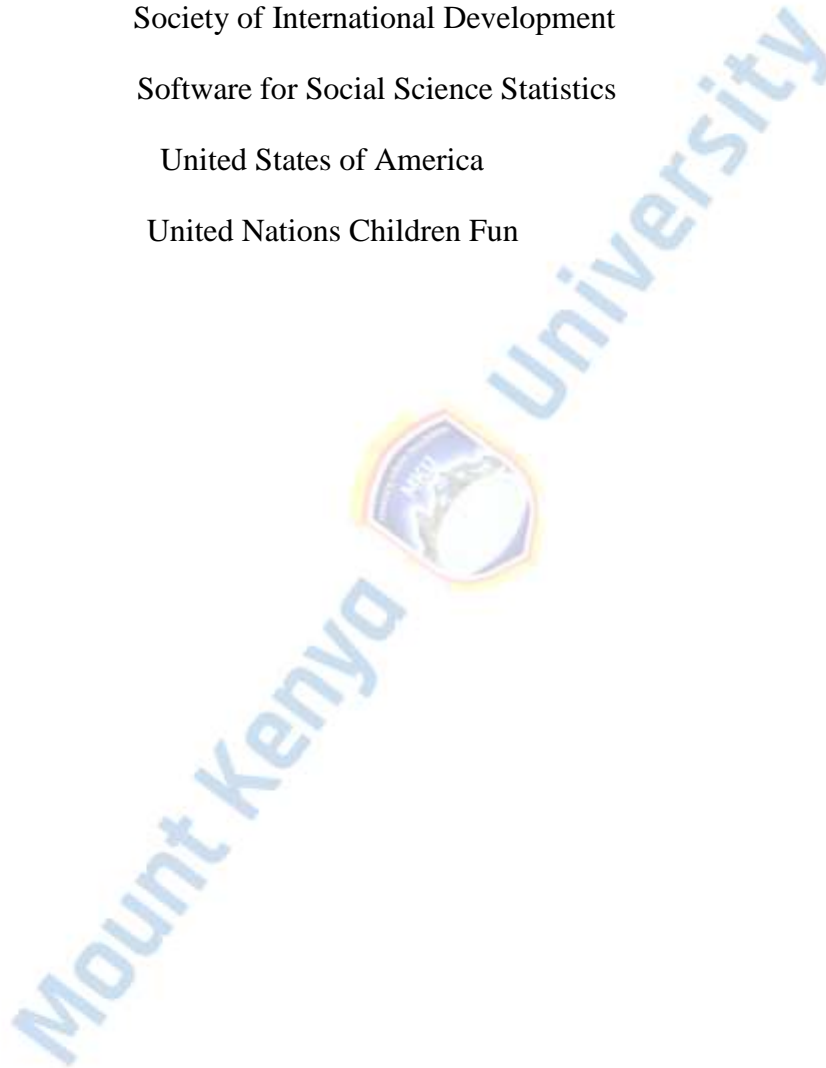


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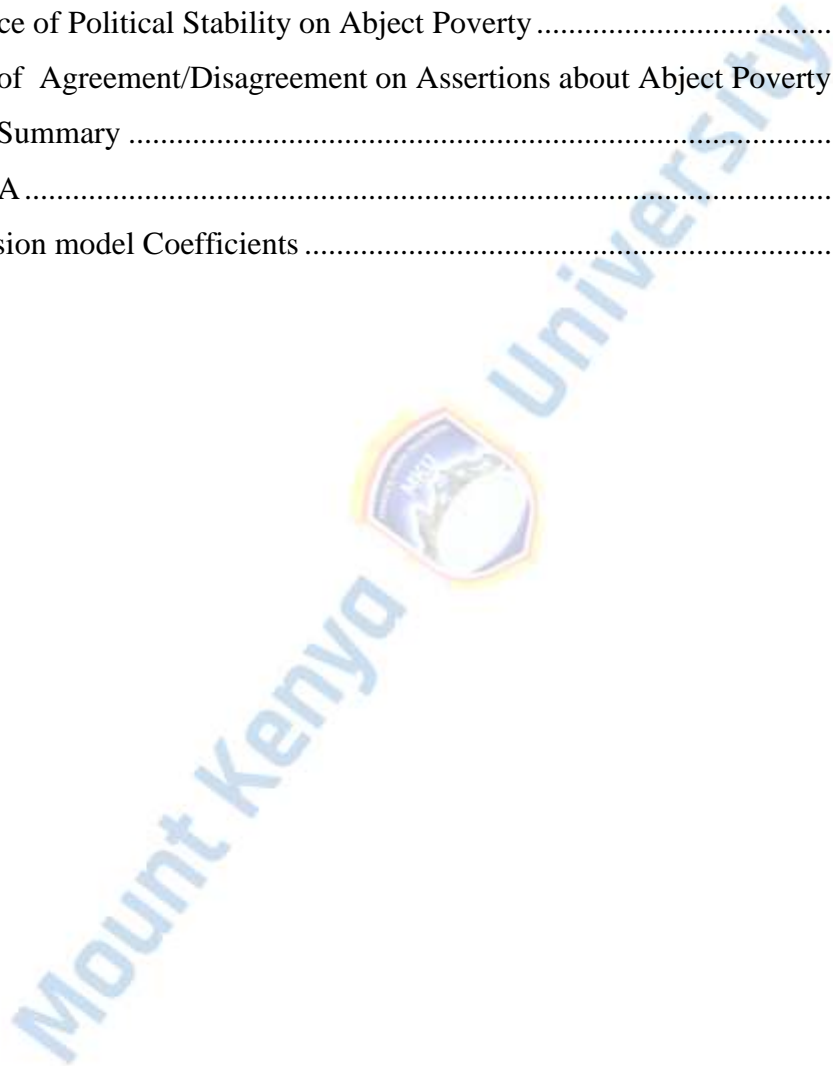
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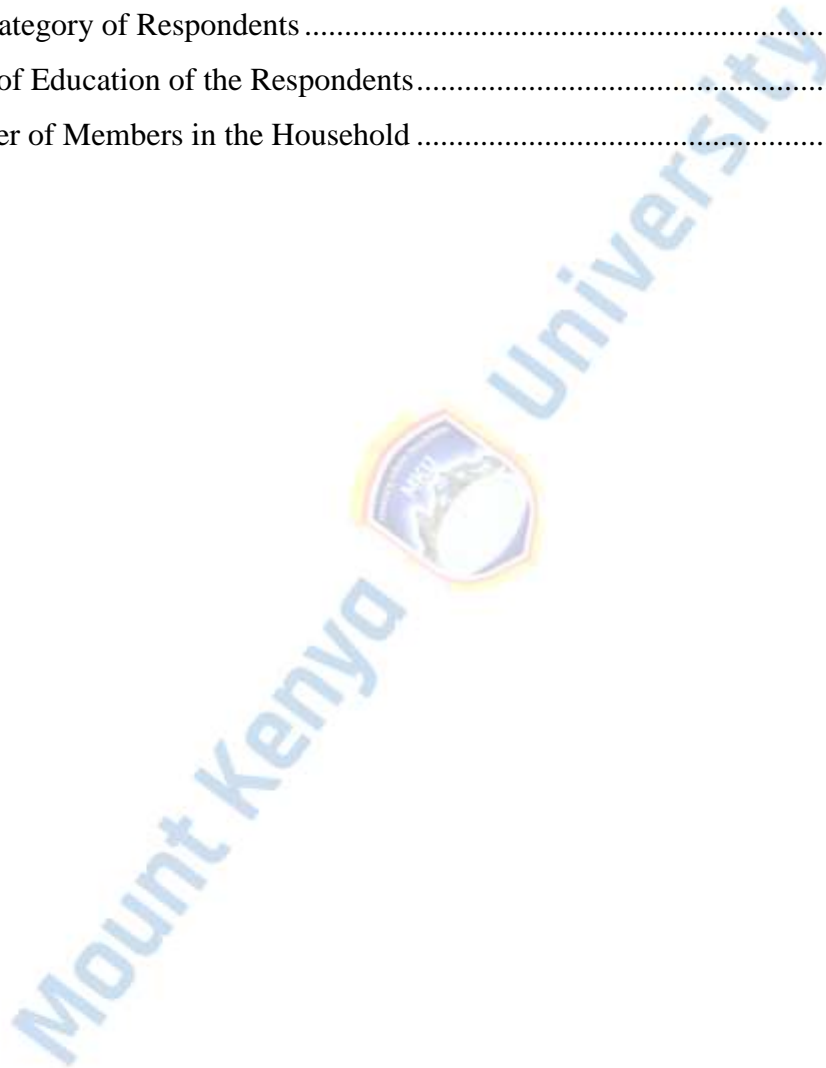
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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

To date, despite efforts by governments and development partners, poverty reduction is still one of the greatest global challenges. Although more than a billion people have been lifted out of extreme poverty since the year 2000, progress in poverty reduction has been achieved in only two waves. The first wave centered on China while the second wave centered on India. Due to progress in the two populous Asian countries, the geography of extreme poverty has changed greatly: extreme poverty is now concentrated in Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries particularly, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo. According to the World Bank, if the international community fails to prioritize poverty reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa then by 2050 the region will be home to more than 86% of the world's poorest (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, 2018).

One of the obstacles to poverty reduction in SSA is rapid population growth: Africa's youth population is booming while that of the rest of the world is shrinking. It is expected that by 2050 the population of the entire continent will have doubled in size; this means that even though the percentage of the poorest in the continent is halved, there is a possibility that the number of the poor will remain constant. It is worth noting that poverty in this region is tied to problems such as high rates of child mortality and malnutrition, political instability, violence, gender inequality and severe climate change. Consequently, there are fewer opportunities for the poor to escape extreme poverty (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, 2018).

The effects of poverty on people's lives, both financially and socially, total in the billions. There is a broad spectrum of potential manifestations. Hunger, homelessness, lack of durable goods, disease, lack of access to clean water, lack of education, short lifespan, social exclusion and discrimination, high unemployment rates, and high infant and maternal mortality rates are just some of the many unfavorable outcomes linked to low income and productive assets. Moral, political, and economic survival, according to Alkire, Roche, and Vaz (2017), depend on eliminating poverty. This is because studies have connected material and mental challenges with

low income. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were established by the United Nations General Assembly on January 1, 2016 (United Nations, 2016), following in the footsteps of the Millennium Development Goals. These objectives were initially put down on paper in September of 2000. A resolution passed by the United Nations gave the Millennium Development Goals its official stamp of approval.

Fewer chances, less say over one's own life, and uncertainty are all major contributors to poverty. According to Fiszbein, Kanbur, and Yemtsov (2014), those with little financial means have less incentive to participate in society. They are very vulnerable to sickness, violence, and death because they lack even the most basic types of protection (World Bank, 2018). Every day, 22,000 children and young adults die from preventable causes, according to UNICEF (2014). Individuals "die silently in some of the world's poorest settlements, far removed from the scrutiny and the conscience of the world as a whole." The weak and humble are often forgotten after death, even if they were well-liked in life. More than 28 percent of children in low-income countries are underweight or stunted, according to UNICEF (2014). Analysis and compilation of data from the United States Census Bureau in November 2013 revealed a poverty rate of 16.1%, according to the American Government Office of Commercial Policy. In that year, 13.2 percent of the population, or 39.8 million Americans, were classified as poor. Since the 1980s, the United States' relative poverty rate has been greater than that of other industrialized countries.

The poverty rate in California is the highest in the US, at 23.8%. When compared to the previous estimate provided in November 2012 (23.6%), this one represents an improvement. In 2009, the poverty rate was quite close to that of the 1960s, when the United States began its War on Poverty. The number of impoverished children in the United States rose from 1.5 million in 1996 to 2.8 million in 2011. Those who, even after taking into account tax credits and other forms of help, with a daily income of less than \$2 are deemed to be in severe poverty and more teenagers (18%) than elders (14%) were living in poverty. Increasing Social Security benefits has had a larger impact on alleviating poverty than any other legislative change. Half of all Americans had extremely low incomes or no earnings at all in 2015, according to the US Census Bureau.

Projections indicate that by 2020, more than half of China's impoverished and hungry will have been helped. The poverty rate in rural areas has decreased significantly because to the country's reform-driven economic progress and a nationally coordinated commitment to eliminating poverty. Nonetheless, China still faces substantial obstacles before it can successfully eradicate poverty (Liu, Feng, Wang, & Qiu, 2020). In recent years, the wealth gap between urban and rural regions and across provinces has expanded. Despite a pay disparity that is three times larger than it was in the 1980s, rural communities continue to struggle with poverty. Income in rural areas often comes from farming, logging, livestock farming, and fishing. The proportion of the population that meets this criteria ranges from around 50% to more than 50%. An estimated 40% of China's working population dwells in rural regions, as reported by Liu, Feng, Wang, and Qiu (2020).

Despite its low productivity and significantly lower net profits, agriculture is a substantial source of income for the poorest individuals living in rural regions. In rural China, those of reproductive age, young children, and the elderly, as well as members of ethnic minorities and those who live in remote mountain areas, are at a greater risk of contracting a communicable illness. Women are increasingly taking up farming and other forms of hard work as more males leave the countryside for the metropolis and the beaches. Compared to the western provinces, the eastern ones have seen more economic growth during the previous several decades. Nearly half of China's disadvantaged population lives in only seven provinces and areas with special autonomy. The 2008 poverty rate was 11% in these areas, higher than the national average of 4.2% (Page & Pande, 2018). These regions predominate in the Midwest and Western United States.

Using a threshold of half the national median income, the OECD determined whether or not a family was living in relative poverty in the year 2023. According to the OECD, the typical Japanese family takes home an adjusted annual income of \$23,458. This amount is more than the average income of an OECD member country (\$22,387). The poverty rate in Japan is calculated in the same way as in the UK. According to a proposal made by the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare, a portion of the country's 2012 national budget should be used to create a new poverty index. This was essential in order to include people's health, nutrition, and housing circumstances into the new index, all of which have a significant bearing on whether or not they

can get by on a very low salary. The newly introduced index is meant to provide light on the present poverty situation in Japan.

The poverty situation in Nigeria is dire, as it is across Africa. It's unfortunate that so many people can't get their hands on the basics they need to survive. It's incredible that some individuals are able to make do without the bare necessities of life. There are several negative effects of Nigeria's poverty, as pointed out by Monchuk (2013). Extreme poverty in Nigeria is directly correlated with the high infant mortality rate and poor life expectancy there. In Nigeria's poorest districts, both high-quality healthcare resources and skilled medical professionals are severely lacking. Most kids don't get shots, which puts some of them at risk for deadly diseases. They are forced to accept the food that is offered to them regardless of its nutritional value (Monchuk, 2013).

Arndt, McKay, and Tarp (2016) found that poverty is especially pervasive in Sub-Saharan Africa. Poor infrastructure, widespread use of antiquated agricultural technologies, political elites' exploitation of poor communities, a lack of public support for microenterprises, and a scarcity of access to markets and sustainable income-generating opportunities all contribute to the never-ending cycle of poverty that plagues these countries. While significant progress has been done over the previous two decades to reduce poverty overall, Beegle, Christensen, Dabalén, and Gaddis (2016) argue that more work is needed to decrease the rate of severe poverty and the number of persons who live in extreme poverty. Despite advances, poverty remains a problem in the world today. Although the total number of people living in poverty may increase, the poverty rate may decrease, making this an important factor in reducing poverty. Despite a decline in poverty rates throughout Africa (from 54% to 41%), the number of poor on the continent has increased from 278 million in 1990 to 413 million in 2015. Consequently, it's important to back initiatives that aim to boost not only GDP but also social harmony, ecological balance, and gender equality (Singh & Chudasama, 2020). In addition to promoting economic development, these goals must be prioritized in any such initiatives.

1.1.1 The Conceptualization and Measurement of Poverty

It is worth noting that in the past, the conceptualization and measurement of poverty was a strongly debated issue in international development forums. Traditionally, poverty was defined as monetary deprivation measured by metrics that focused on income and consumption. However, over the last few decades alternative perspectives have been developed to conceptualize poverty as deprivation from multiple aspects of life (Sanchez, 2014). According to the United Nations, poverty refers to: a denial of choices and opportunities; a violation of human dignity; lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society; not having enough to feed and clothe a family; not having a school or clinic to go to; lack of land on which to grow one's food and a job to earn one's living; not having access to credit; insecurity, powerlessness, exclusion of individuals, households and communities; susceptibility to violence; and living on marginal or fragile environments without access to clean water or sanitation (UN, Statement of Commitment for Action to Eradicate Poverty Adopted by Administrative Committee on Coordination, 1998).

The World Bank defines poverty in absolute terms. According to the bank, extreme poverty is living on less than US\$ 1.90 2011 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) per day (Zach, 2017). Amartya Sen a renowned development economist defines poverty as the deprivation of basic capabilities rather than just lowness of income which is viewed as the standard criterion for identifying poverty. Sen contends that poverty is not having the capability to realize one's full potential as a human being (Sen, 1983).

In 1995, at the World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen, the international community adopted a multidimensional definition of poverty. The present 188 heads of state and government agreed to define absolute poverty as 'a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs including food, safe water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education, and information. It depends not only on income, but also on access to social services' (UN, Report of The World Summit for Social Development, 1995).

Regardless of the conceptualization of poverty used, one can imagine that there must be a threshold under which poverty is totally unacceptable. When measured poverty may be absolute or relative. Relative poverty has been defined as a condition in which a person who lives in a given country does not enjoy a certain minimum standard of living as compared to the rest of the population in that country (Casazza, 2015). Considering the different definitions of poverty, it is evident that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon.

1.1.2 Kenya's Fight against Poverty

Kenya like other countries across the globe has demonstrated her commitment to fighting poverty. Shortly after independence, the newly formed government implemented Sessional Paper no. 10 on African Socialism and its Application to Planning in 1965 in order to achieve socio-economic development (UNDP, Sustainable Development in Kenya: Stocking in the run up to Rio+20, 2012). The key policy drivers of Sessional Paper no 10 of 1965 included: social justice; equal opportunities; political equality; human dignity, freedom of conscience; freedom from want, disease and exploitation; and high and growing per capita incomes, equitably distributed (Ochola, 2016).

The 1960s was a period of global economic expansion and stability: Kenya's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 6.6% (Rashid, 1994). However, in 1973, Kenya experienced the devastating effects of the oil crisis and the global recession that followed. The economy's growth rate declined to 6.5%; export prices fluctuated; public debt increased; and the standards of living declined. Furthermore, Kenya's economy also experienced fiscal imbalance at the time. In order to deal with these economic crises, the government responded by approaching the Bretton Woods institutions (World Bank and IMF) for support (Mutia, 2014).

The first round of support to Kenya came in the form of Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs): a set of economic policies prescribed to borrowing countries by the Bretton Woods 4 institutions as a condition for acquiring loans needed to resolve an economic crisis (Lensink, 1996). In 1980, Kenya received a Structural Adjustment Credit of \$55Million from the World Bank and as required, the government implemented the SAPs which were deemed necessary to adjust the national economy to long-term economic growth (Crittenden, 2012).

Kenya adopted SAPs such as eliminating trade restrictions; reducing government expenditure; eliminating food subsidies; liberalization of markets; reducing the civil service; and privatization of state owned enterprises (Gok, 1996). The SAPs were adopted in order to restore efficiency in all sectors of the economy and to increase economic growth. Through this strategic intervention, the idea was to transform Kenya's economy into a more market oriented economy by encouraging trade and production in order to increase economic growth and development (Rono, 2002).

Unfortunately, the implementation of the SAPs had devastating effects on Kenya. During the 1980s, there was stagnation in real per capita income growth; rampant unemployment which gave rise to violent crimes; low enrolment in educational institutions; and health care became unaffordable for the vast majority. In response to the crises, the government developed Sessional Paper No.1 of 1986 on Economic Management for Renewed Growth. In this policy document the government planned to revamp the economy through promoting the private sector; managing high budget deficits; and correcting restrictive or distortionary foreign trade policies (Omiti, 2002). The situation was so dire that in 1999, it is estimated that out of a total population of approximately 28 million citizens, 12.6 million of them lived in extreme poverty. In other words, about 43% of the entire population was subjected to absolute poverty (Ondego, 2017).

In 1999, the government launched the National Poverty Eradication Plan (NPEP), a strategy to reduce poverty incidence in the rural and urban areas by 50% by the year 2015. This 5 programme was formulated through extensive consultations and participatory action involving different government agencies, non-profit organizations and the civil society. Its aim was to provide a national policy and institutional framework to combat poverty and create income generating opportunities for the poor (Njeru, 2005).

In 2001, after a broad consultation process with stakeholders, development partners, the World Bank and the IMF, the Kenyan government adopted a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP): a major requirement for low-income countries to receive aid from major donors and lenders (David, 2003). This policy document was meant to enable Kenya to achieve the MDGs and the National Poverty Eradication Plan. The document outlined the following strategies to fight

poverty: facilitating sustained rapid economic growth; improving governance and security; increasing income generating opportunities; and improving the quality of life for all citizens (Omiti, 2002).

After the National Rainbow Coalition Government (NARC) was elected in 2002, the newly formed government adopted the Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth Creation and Employment Creation (ERS). The plan was a blueprint that guided Kenya's economic policies between 2003 and 2007. It was meant to reverse decades of slow and stagnant economic growth that had adversely undermined the well-being of Kenyans. The ERS harmonised strategies for accelerated economic growth with the country's poverty reduction strategies—and the ideals outlined in the NARC manifesto (KNBS, Economic Survey 2018, 2018).

The central focus of the plan was job creation through sound macroeconomic policies; improved governance; efficient public service delivery; and the creation of an enabling environment for the private sector to do business. The plan also included an equity and socioeconomic agenda focused on reducing inequalities in access to productive resources and basic goods and services (Gok, 2003). During the implementation of the ERS, Kenya's GDP growth rate increased from 2 % in 2003 to 7% in 2007. However, in 2008, growth slumped to 1% due to post-election violence (KNBS, Economic Survey 2018, 2018).

In June 2008, upon the expiry of the ERS, the Kenya Vision 2030 was launched as the new long-term development blueprint that is being implemented to date—through five year Medium-Term rolling Plans (MTP). The vision was established to transform Kenya into a newly industrialized middle-income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens in a clean and secure environment. The vision is a product of highly participatory and consultative processes carried out by relevant stakeholders from October 2006 to May 2007 (GoK, Kenya Vision 2030, 2007). The vision is anchored on three key pillars: economic, social and political. Through identified flagship projects in sectors such as agriculture, health, education, water and environment, the economic pillar aims to achieve an average economic growth rate of 10% per annum until 2030 in order to generate sufficient resources to meet the goals of the vision. The social pillar seeks to create a just and cohesive society enjoying equitable social development in a clean and secure

environment, while the political pillar aims to realize an issue based, people centered, result-oriented and accountable democratic political system (GoK, Kenya Vision 2030, 2007).

Different approaches have been adopted to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of poverty reduction strategies in Kenya. In an attempt to uncover the challenges that undermine the effectiveness of poverty reduction strategies in Kiandutu slum in Thika County, Kiarie (2013) discovered that inadequate community participation; poor coordination of activities and projects; lack of entrepreneurial skills; limited funds and lack of collaboration between governmental and non-governmental organizations were the main challenges (Kiarie, 2013). Wanyonyi (2016) sought to understand why poverty reduction strategies in Kanduyi constituency in Bungoma County were ineffective. He discovered that the poverty reduction 7 strategies implemented were not well formulated and that the beneficiaries (locals) failed to participate in constituency development fund (CDF) projects: they did not participate in project identification, prioritization and planning processes (Wanyonyi, 2016).

Omiti (2002) sought to find out why Kenya's poverty reduction strategies were ineffective by examining the policies and capacity of institutions responsible for the implementation processes. He discovered that a number of policies were not authentic: they were meant to appease the public at crucial times, especially during elections; collaboration among institutions was minimal and this caused duplication of efforts; and institutions had poor physical infrastructure, weak management structures, and unqualified personnel (Omiti, 2002).

Despite the credible studies done by previous researchers, none of them assessed the specific variables influencing abject poverty in Mandera county, Kenya. A substantial number of Mandera residents (over 80%) live below or in severe poverty, as shown by statistics from the 2015/16 Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS). Each and every home in Mandera county was surveyed. In the 2015/2016 fiscal year, 100% of Turkana and 98% of Mandera people were low-income or poor 2016 K.I.H.B.S. According to the KIHBS's findings from 2015–2016, young poverty is compounded by issues including unemployment, low incomes, historical marginalization and deprivation, and group based disparities. So, the purpose

of this research was to figure out what makes Mandera County so poor by assessing the specific variables influencing abject poverty in Mandera county, Kenya.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Compared to 2005/06, when the poverty rate in Kenya was 46.8%, it was only 36.1% in 2015/16. This is according to the country's most recent Economic Update. However, a lot more effort is required for Kenya to catch up to other growing economies. Rural areas have a substantially greater poverty rate than either peri-urban or core-urban areas (40%; Household Budget Survey, 2017) due to the higher cost of living in these areas. Since the turn of the century, the economy has boomed and most people's quality of living has improved, but this hasn't altered. By 2022, the world's poverty rate is expected to have fallen from a projected record high of 34.4% in 2019. The World Bank reports that despite some progress being made, Kenya still has one of the worst poverty rates among lower middle-income countries in 2018.

The reasons of poverty have been studied extensively in the academic literature. Why certain nations have substantially higher poverty rates than others has been a topic of study. As an example, consider the work of Garcia, Pabsdorf, and Alvarez (2019). They look into the current measures of poverty and assemble information on the causes of the varying degrees of destitution in 91 different countries. The results of the Rasch method meet the criteria for unidimensionality, reliability, validity, and sensitivity to change. The highest rates of poverty were reported in Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. In comparison, life is generally better in Europe and North Africa. This study studied data from a large number of countries to determine the root reasons of the worldwide poverty divide. To fill in some of the blanks in our knowledge of what leads to such widespread poverty in Kenya, this study focuses on one county Mandera. Hoda (2013) investigated poverty and economic disparity in modern-day Egypt, as well as the state of Egypt's economy as a whole. The impact of Egypt's recent democratic growth on the country's labor market was analyzed.

The study's main objective was to identify whether or not occupational status was a major predictor of financial strain. There is now a gap in the reasoning that needs filling. Important demographic parameters for this study include levels of education, family size, and political stability. Studies 1 & 2 were conducted in Egypt and the Mandera region of Kenya, respectively. The study described above found that inquiries into the root causes of extreme poverty in Kenya, and in particular Mandera County, are unusual. Therefore, information is restricted. To add to the existing research on the topic, this study set out to discover what factors contribute to the high rate of poverty in Mandera County.

The focus of this study was to investigate the root causes of the extreme poverty in Kenya's Mandera County. Despite the credible studies done by previous researchers, none of them assessed the specific variables influencing abject poverty in Mandera County, Kenya. A substantial number of Mandera residents (over 80%) live below or in severe poverty, as shown by statistics from the 2015/16 Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS). Each and every home in Mandera County was surveyed. In the 2015/2016 fiscal year, 100% of Turkana and 98% of Mandera people were low-income or poor 2016 K.I.H.B.S. According to the KIHBS's findings from 2015–2016, young poverty is compounded by issues including unemployment, low incomes, historical marginalization and deprivation, and group based disparities. So, the purpose of this research was to figure out what makes Mandera County so poor by assessing the specific variables influencing abject poverty in Mandera County, Kenya.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The purpose of this research was to examine the factors that contribute to extreme poverty in Kenya's Mandera County.

1.3.1 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives guiding the study were;

- i. To establish the influence of household size on abject poverty in Mandera County, Kenya.
- ii. To determine the influence of education level on abject poverty in Mandera County, Kenya.
- iii. To investigate the influence of employment status on abject poverty in Mandera County, Kenya.
- iv. To establish the influence of political stability on abject poverty in Mandera County, Kenya.

1.4 Research Questions

The research questions guiding this study included:

- i. What is the influence of household size on abject poverty in Mandera County, Kenya?
- ii. To what extent does education level influence abject poverty in Mandera County, Kenya?
- iii. What is the influence of employment status on abject poverty in Mandera County, Kenya?
- iv. To what extent does political stability influence abject poverty in Mandera County, Kenya?

1.5 Significance of the Study

Those in government or non-profits with policymaking responsibilities may benefit from this study's conclusions, particularly those that pertain to improving policy considerations. Possible policy improvement if the new direction inspires new approaches to reducing poverty in Kenya. It's likely that scholars in related fields may find this study to be a helpful springboard for their own investigations. Research is focused on social ramifications at the present. To effectively combat poverty, it is essential to first identify the causes of it. Knowledge on this subject might be expanded with the help of the results of this study. Professors and researchers who want to

learn more might benefit from reading this. Since it does not provide complete information on the subject of poverty, it might be used as a springboard for more research.

1.6 Scope of the Study

This study was carried out in Mandera County. Mandera County was divided into six sub-counties for the purpose of this study: Mandera South, Banissa, Mandera West, Mandera North, and Mandera East. All of the individual counties' secondary data was combined for this study. The study's authors narrowed down on what they saw as the fundamental causes of Kenya's severe poverty in Mandera County. The factors of family structure, education, employment, and political stability were analyzed in relation to Mandera County's extreme poverty rate. The research looked at data from February of 2023 through November of the same year. A total of 96 participants took part in the research.

1.7 Limitation of the Study

There were a number of problems with the research. Respondents were hesitant to cooperate and receptive to queries about why they were chosen out because they were suspicious of the study's intent and motive. Respondents were also prepared to submit information that did not fit the research standard but that they believed to be objective, dependable, and accurate. Secondary data, such as government statistics, also had a negative impact on the study. This data was slanted in favor of the powerful, but otherwise it was solid enough for widespread application.

1.8 Delimitations of the Study

Before diving into data analysis, the researcher ensured the data was trustworthy by doing a series of checks to ensure it aligned with the study's aims and hypotheses. To further reduce the possibility of skewed results, we had respondents sign a consent form before they filled out the questionnaire. The study relied exclusively on publicly available secondary sources.

1.9 Operational Definition of Key Terms

Education level- constitutes a considerable portion of the educational "ladder," which may be visualized as a progression from the most elementary to the most sophisticated levels of education. This rung of the educational "ladder" comprises all possible subject areas and program clusters that can be offered at that juncture in a student's educational journey.

Employment size- sets the stage for the financial and legal implications of a worker's classification as an employee or independent contractor. Specifically, the official statistics used to classify employment status distinguish between large corporations and small businesses, sole proprietors with no employees, unpaid family workers who contribute to the family farm or business, partners in a legally defined partnership, apprentices and supervisors, and ordinary employees. It's probable that in the near future, businesses may be ranked according to the number of workers they have.

Household size-the number of individuals for whom you claim a personal exemption on your annual tax return.

Political stability- establishes whether a person is an employee or independent contractor, each status having different legal and financial implications in the workplace. In most cases, the current system of governance's stability and reliability serves as the criterion for classification. This is measured in relation to the prevalence of terrorism and other forms of violence in the country and among its supporters. When most people in a society approve of the party in power and the way things are run, and when there is little interest in revolutionary or authoritarian doctrines, we say that society is stable.

Poverty- implies being unable to provide for one's basic requirements such as food, clothes, and shelter due to a lack of financial resources, but this is just one component of the issue; poverty encompasses a far wider variety of challenges.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

In this section, conceptual framework was described, after having reviewed the related literature and theory. Other authors' studies that are pertinent to the issue are discussed in the literature review. The theoretical framework was next discussed, along with the ideas that serve as the foundation for this investigation; finally, the chapter conceptualizes and operationalizes the research variables.

2.2 Theoretical Review

The theoretical review's goal was to lay out some of the meanings that had been given to poverty by various authors and scholars. These ideas had important implications for discussing poverty.

2.2.1 Individualistic Theory of Poverty

The right generally holds the view that persons in poverty are to blame for their predicament. According to this theory, people are unable to lift themselves out of poverty because they are lazy, stupid, illiterate, or inferior (David, 2019). If this theory holds, the number of people living in poverty shouldn't change much from one year to the next. If such were the case, ending poverty would just require assisting the current poor (15%) to escape their situation and into the middle class. David (2019) argues that one way to eradicate or significantly reduce poverty is to enact a program that uses strict paternalistic life contracts to help a specific underclass pull themselves up by the bootstraps. Poverty, according to individualists, is the result of people's own choices and behaviors that put them in a precarious financial position. We call this "victim-blaming" when we have this view. They are known as "work shy" because they choose to receive government assistance rather than work to support themselves. This theory posits that parents who themselves exhibit deviant behaviors become "deviant role-models" for their children, hence perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

2.2.2 Structural Theory of Poverty

Many advocates of progressive politics attribute the current economic crisis to long-standing systems of social injustice. According to this school of thought, the reason so many people are

poor is because the economy has forced them into employment that are too low-paying. Since people's lives are always evolving, such patterns tend to be short-lived. They experience financial hardship one year, but are able to pull themselves out of it the next year when they get gainful employment or a promotion. But they have made no progress since this time last year. As long as this flaw in the economy remains, others will unavoidably be placed in the same situation as you. Thus, the poor in any given year will not always consist of the same people who have been poor in previous years. In order to lessen economic inequality, the economy must be reorganized such that fewer low-wage workers are needed to replace positions that would otherwise be vacant (Brady & Bostic, 2015).

There are structural problems, such as a large number of people working in the manufacturing sector, an aging population, the prevalence of single-parent homes, and high employment rates among young people. Agricultural employment has a smaller effect on the headcount measure of poverty than the manufacturing sector, women's labor force participation, the elderly population, and single-parent families. When compared to the interval measure of poverty, none of the five structural factors plays a significant influence in determining poverty rates. Population growth is influenced more by structural causes than by the welfare state. Real GDP growth is the sole yardstick by which an economy can be evaluated.

Compared to the effects of economic development and other structural and economic concerns, the welfare state's influence on the interval measure is generally disregarded. Through the use of what-if scenarios, the implications of these results for the United States, Germany, and Sweden are stressed. The sensitivity analyses confirm that the main findings are valid across the board in the USA. Poverty in Western democracies is most easily explained by the welfare state, say Brady, Blome, and Kleider (2016). While structural determinants only have an impact on one of the two measures of poverty, this is nonetheless the case. An vital step in fighting poverty, this method shed light on the significance of one's educational and occupational background. Proponents of this view, which was considered in the research, argue that individuals are poor because they are constrained by a monetary system that provides them with inadequate resources. Therefore, this concept was very important to the findings of this investigation.

2.2.3 Culture of Poverty Theory

Many advocates of progressive politics attribute the current economic crisis to long-standing systems of social injustice. According to this school of thought, the reason so many people are poor is because the economy has forced them into employment that are too low-paying. Since people's lives are always evolving and changing, they seldom stay in such ruts for very long. They experience financial hardship one year, but are able to pull themselves out of it the next year when they get gainful employment or a promotion. But they have made no progress since this time last year. As long as this flaw in the economy remains, others will unavoidably be placed in the same situation as you. Thus, the poor in any given year will not always consist of the same people who have been poor in previous years. In order to lessen economic inequality, the economy must be reorganized such that fewer low-wage workers are needed to replace positions that would otherwise be vacant (Brady & Bostic, 2015).

The five structural parameters under consideration are the number of manufacturing jobs, the number of agricultural employment, the proportion of the population over 65, the percentage of children raised by single parents, and the number of children raised by two working parents. In contrast to the industrial sector, women's labor force participation, the elderly population, and single-parent households, agricultural work has a little impact on the headcount measure of poverty. None of the five structural components has a role in influencing poverty levels when compared to the interval measure of poverty. However, structural factors are more important in influencing population growth than the welfare state. The only true measure of economic performance is GDP growth. The impact of the welfare state on the interval measure is often accorded less weight than that of economic growth and other structural and economic issues. The ramifications of these effects for the United States, Germany, and Sweden are emphasized via the use of counterfactual simulations. The results of the sensitivity studies show that the primary conclusions apply to all situations in the United States. According to Brady, Blome, and Kleider (2016), the welfare state is the most crucial factor in explaining poverty in developed Western democracies. While structural determinants only have an impact on one of the two measures of poverty, this is nonetheless the case. A vital step in fighting poverty, this method shed light on the significance of one's educational and occupational background. Proponents of this view,

which was considered in the research, argue that individuals are poor because they are constrained by a monetary system that provides them with inadequate resources. Therefore, this concept was very important to the findings of this investigation.

2.3 Empirical Review

The following section looks at the empirical studies that were relevant to the current study.

2.3.1 Effect of Household Size on poverty

The economic impact of having children may extend beyond the labor supply and consumer expenditure, as shown by Browning (1992). Having children seems to increase a person's likelihood of poverty. This is because big families often have less money to spend (Musgrove, 1980; Schultz, 2006). Endogeneity associated with (i) reverse causality and (ii) different types of state dependency among the poor is taken into account. The data is reanalyzed to see whether the claim that more kids means lower poverty rates holds water.

Jenkins and Rigg (2001) showed that factors such as household size and composition significantly impacted poverty rates, with those living in bigger and (usually) younger families being more likely to be economically disadvantaged. This finding (Lanjouw & Ravallion, 1995) has been confirmed by several analyses of economic disadvantage. This study's findings provide credence to the idea that declining birthrates are associated with stagnant or declining levels of life. Large families with a high dependency ratio and low resources per person are more likely to be poor, as stated by Kuepie and Sadou (2013). In general, families with several breadwinners have more prosperity and fulfillment than those with fewer members. Datta Gupta and Dubey (2006) discovered that after having children, women's willingness to work and further their education typically falls. This may have a detrimental effect on the family's financial situation. According to research by Duncan and Brooks-Gunn (1997), kids from poor families have a greater chance of becoming poor themselves as adults. This was the norm no matter how well or poorly the family was doing financially. This might perhaps guarantee that low wages are passed down for even another generation.

Fusco and Islam (2020) looked into the effects of having children of different ages and the connection between big families and financial hardships. The effect of having several children on a family's financial stability was investigated. Multiple static and dynamic probit models were used to account for endogeneity of the dependent variables of interest, as well as unobserved heterogeneity, state dependency, and serially correlated error components. This was made possible by the models. According to our research on Luxembourg's historical poverty rates, the total number of children has a major impact on that metric. However, the extent of the effect might vary considerably depending on the specifics of the situation. Real poverty, which is the product of earlier experiences, was recognized as a different category from artificial poverty, which is the result of random, transient shocks to an individual's resources.

Meyer (2016) examines the impact of large families on economic hardship. More research will be conducted in South Africa's Northern Free State. From 11 areas with low-income housing, 1900 dwellings were chosen. It's likely that there are several of them scattered across the region. According to government guidelines, 74% of the homes were classified as low-income. In eleven of the twelve low-income zones, a positive link between household size and poverty was shown using Pearson's chi-square test. More children tend to be born into low-income households than into those of middle- and upper-class backgrounds. These findings run counter to those observed in more industrialized and land-constrained countries like South Africa. If we really care about supporting low-income families, we have to make sure they have access to enough food, clothing, housing, and community services. Low-income families need better job opportunities, and adults should have access to training in vital areas like financial literacy and sexual and reproductive health.

Marriage, family size, and economic hardship in Nigeria were all areas that were studied by Anyanwu (2014). The data used in this study came from the 2009-2010 Harmonized Nigeria Living Standard Survey (HNLSS). Logit analysis demonstrates that these occurrences significantly lessen one's chances of living in poverty. But monogamous marriage is Nigeria's best chance at solving its poverty problem. On a national basis, we also find that smaller families have a lower poverty rate. It was also shown that the correlation between age and economic difficulty is concave, or in the form of an inverted U. A bachelor's degree, non-household

employment, male gender, and location in the North Central or South East of the United States were all significantly correlated with a lower risk of poverty. Subsistence farming, living in the North West geopolitical zone of Nigeria and a lack of formal education all has strong correlations with one another.

Mba, Nwosu, and Orji (2021) looked on how families in Nigeria's low-income bracket were affected by their exposure to risk. This study analyzed the 2015 Nigeria General Household Survey to establish vulnerability as anticipated poverty using cross-sectional data and a three-stage generalized least squares technique. The findings demonstrate that households in both rural and urban settings are vulnerable to poverty for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to unemployment, crop failure, animal loss, home damage, price swings in inputs and outputs, and so on. These findings highlight the need of increasing access to existing social safety nets for families of diverse economic circumstances.

Bhattacharjee (2019) looked at how many people lived in poverty in proportion to the size of their household. This is a desk inquiry that used the 'narrative reviews' method to look at secondary sources. This research found that the current literature is split on the question of whether or not families with more members are more likely to struggle financially. There may be a number of correlations between household poverty and other economic indicators in global research. One area of poverty measurement that might demand more work is accounting for differences in equivalence scale and economies of scale based on family size and composition. Without this adjustment, the hypothesis that larger families are poorer is false.

2.3.2 Education Level and Poverty

Multiple studies have indicated that a lower socioeconomic status is associated with a lower level of education. According to Murphy and Tobin (2011), students from low-income backgrounds have a greater number of difficulties in the classroom. Some studies have shown that a person's health, stress levels, and mental and physical well-being all have a role in their academic performance. Children from low-income families have a significant challenge to their academic progress due to the negative effects of food insecurity on their brain development. Vocabulary and linguistic proficiency tend to be lower among those of lower socioeconomic level.

Researchers have found that students from low-income backgrounds have higher difficulties in the classroom (Jensen, 2013; Pungello, Iruka, Dotterer, Mills-Koonce, & Reznick, 2009).

In 2015, scientists Balamurali, Janflone, and Zhu studied the correlation between schooling and financial security. A regression model was developed, with education level serving as an independent variable. The model was put through its paces to determine the impact of varying levels of education on the salary gap. U.S. Census Bureau data was used in conjunction with a simple regression model to look at how education affected both income and poverty levels. This model was used in conjunction with others that split the data to determine the effect of schooling on certain demographic groups. Regression analysis reveals a favorable relationship between education and the income-to-poverty ratio (coefficient = 15.5). After high school, a person's income increases by \$15.50 per year compared to the poverty line for each additional year of education. The education coefficient may shift, sometimes dramatically, due to demographic differences such as race or socioeconomic status. They used several regression models and found more variables associated with low income, therefore they concluded that there are more.

The causes of low wages were investigated by Awan, Malik, Sarwar, and Waqas (2011). Factors such as age, gender, and education level were taken into account. The HIES (Household Integrated Economic Survey) data collected between 1998 and 1999 is a good source of insight. In 2001 and 2002, this happened again. Using this information, we construct a logistic regression model to analyze the correlation between poverty and these other variables. The goal of the model is to determine which factors are significantly associated with low income. In both years, the poverty rate rises in tandem with declining rates of education and employment. One's chances of becoming a middle-class citizen are improved with higher education as well. One benefit is that men are more likely to save money for retirement than women.

The impact of poverty on children's futures was studied by Greg (2008). The results of the research show that investing in children pays off handsomely. Meanwhile, the gap between the salaries of college graduates and those with just a high school education widened during the 1980s and 1990s. Those who have completed high school continue to have a substantial advantage over those who have not. Earnings for those with a high school diploma were 15.7%

higher in 1973 than those for those with a GED, 15.9% higher in 1989, 16.1% higher in 2000, and 15.5% higher in 2015. The performance of programs that help adults find work is varied, but recent efforts that prioritize locally relevant instruction have shown promise. More educated workers tend to be more productive. But education alone won't keep financial difficulty at bay. Expanding low-income students' access to higher education is critical, but so is fostering a thriving economy where they can put their newfound skills to work. The relationship between a person's skills and their salary has been deteriorating for decades, particularly for those without a four-year degree. Those working in lower-paying fields may find this to be particularly true. If the low-income people are going to take advantage of the new educational opportunities, it is essential that their dignity and respect be restored. One theory put up to explain low wages was a lack of knowledge. Their rational thought processes have been disrupted by their separation. Population density, labor force participation, and government stability were also included in this analysis.

Ersado (2005) looked into the relationship between child labor and access to school in urban and rural areas of Nepal, Peru, and Zimbabwe. The three countries of most concern are Zimbabwe, Peru, and Nepal. These findings indicate that interest in methods of population control remains high. Many people wrongly believe that the major reason a family would choose to reduce its reproductive capability is to avoid having additional children. They used the most recent three waves of the Nepal Living Standards Surveys to look at how different lifestyle choices have affected household income and spending over time. Their research indicates that larger families enjoy both better incomes and more purchasing power. Larger families are less likely to host guests than smaller ones, suggesting a negative relationship between family size and the tendency to socialize. Their data shows that there is no correlation between the number of people living in a home and whether or not there are children there. The birth of a child reduces the ratio of children to adults in the household, which has a small but noticeable impact on per capita consumption.

The shape of this effect varies depending on how much importance is given to the pros of reduced consumption and the cons of reduced income. In order to establish the nature of the relationship between these two elements, they compared the total number of children to the

gender of the first child born. Concerns concerning the effectiveness of worldwide initiatives to reduce the number of children born into poverty via improved awareness and education are warranted in light of these results. For this inquiry, Nepal was selected as the primary location. The result is more adaptability to physical space. They focused will be on Mandera County in western Kenya.

Korenman, Miller, and Sjaastad conducted research on the effects of prolonged poverty on American children in 2005. The study found that students from low-income families performed lower on standardized exams and were more likely to drop out of school than their higher-income peers. In general, those from lower socioeconomic origins are less likely to continue their education past high school. It may be more challenging for certain children from low-income families to adapt to school, making it more challenging for them to help themselves and their families escape poverty. Several US states are served by Child Fund. Some of these states are Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas. Investing in the future of a child via sponsorship is a great way to help a family out financially. A monthly gift of \$35 per child would go a long way toward paying the expenses of basics like health screenings, dental examinations, and preschool for low-income families in the United States. This is fantastic news for low-income families. Sponsoring a child now might have far-reaching effects in the future. A child's life will be forever changed because of your generosity. The United States was the primary target of interest. The result was more adaptability. This inquiry focused mostly on Kenya's Mandera County.

Wang, Cao, and Huang (2022) used data from the 2017, 2019 China Household Finance Survey (CHFS) to examine the influence of financial literacy on relative poverty from the perspectives of poverty psychology and market involvement. Relative household poverty may be reduced via increased financial literacy by influencing household involvement in entrepreneurship, commercial insurance, and credit channel selection. Learning to budget one's finances may enable families with working members continue providing care even if one of them loses their job. Families with high levels of financial literacy, members under the age of sixty, low levels of debt, and Eastern locations benefit the most from financial education's ability to alleviate poverty. The results of this research may aid policymakers in their efforts to reduce poverty in emerging countries by encouraging more market participation and financial literacy.

Hofmarcher (2021) found that poverty was directly correlated with students' levels of education. He achieved this by compiling a unique database that charts the history of mandatory schooling across 32 European nations. In my opinion, education may have a major impact on the financial front of the anti-poverty movement. This holds for any measure of poverty, whether it was absolute, relative, or even purely subjective. Getting even one more year of schooling reduces the odds of poverty classification and the subjective experience of poverty. Possible explanations for these patterns include the rise of both full- and part-time work and overall improvements in health. Particularly, Eastern European nations seem to provide the impetus.

Xie, Sarntisart, and Uddin (2023) examined how education investment helped poor counties in Yunnan. They looked at the dynamic constraints and marginal benefits of education input. This article covers the years 2007-2020 and focuses on the 30 lowest-income counties in Yunnan Province. We use a quantile regression model, a double fixed effect model, and a systematic generalized method of moments (GMM) model to examine the long- and short-term impacts of education investment on regional poverty rates. Spending on education has the potential to reduce regional poverty in the long and short term, as shown by the results. Spending on education has a variable impact on reducing poverty at various poverty levels, but the rule of diminishing marginal benefit holds true everywhere. There is a diminishing return on investment for the disadvantaged counties of Yunnan Province's educational spending. Now that extreme poverty has been alleviated, the ideas presented in this essay are more important than ever.

According to research by Bilenkisi, Gungor, and Tapsin (2015), poor families in Turkey are headed by people with lower levels of education. Household poverty risk was used as the dependent variable in the developed logistic regression models, with educational attainment levels serving as the explanatory factors. Whoever is the primary breadwinner in a family tends to be the male or female resident of the household. Household factors including gender, geography, job, age, and government benefits have been used to account for individual differences. Income and Living Conditions Survey (SILC) information was collected in 2011 by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT). One of the most important findings is that families with educated breadwinners tend to be more financially secure. Those who did not complete a program in vocational or technical education while in high school were also more

likely to be living in poverty than those who had. When women, rather than males, provide financially for their families, the dynamic shifts. Families in Istanbul and Southeast Anatolia are less likely to live in poverty if at least one member has a certificate of completion from a vocational or technical high school rather than a university.

Pogoy and Barrientos (2012) investigated the impact of higher education on the economic status of many student assistants at Cebu Normal University who, after earning degrees in teacher education, continued to struggle financially with their families. Tracer research looks into various individual, social, and demographic aspects to determine how much weight each element should be given in determining an outcome. You can boost the chances that a low-income student who believes in his own ability and wants to help his family will be able to do so if you invest in him.

Using a disaggregated method, Ngepah, Makgalemele, and Saba (2023) investigated the connection between schooling and susceptibility to poverty in South Africa. Between 2008 and 2017, 10,800 South African households participated in a study called the National Income Dynamics Study. Methods from the field of econometrics were put into play. A higher level of education decreases the likelihood of encountering food insecurity later in life. As a result, governments should utilize education as a tool to combat the risk of citizens falling into poverty, by increasing the bar for students to ensure they have an equal opportunity to succeed in the global job market.

To address this knowledge gap, Spada, Fiore, and Galati (2023) conducted an in-depth study of the connections between poverty, culture, and education utilizing data from 36 European nations and the years 2015-2019. After using principle components analysis to eliminate multicollinearity, the authors used a pooled-ordinary least squares model, a fixed effect model, and a random effect model to complete the task. The information required us to choose the fixed-effects estimator. Research shows that if cultural and educational possibilities were expanded in these nations, poverty would be reduced. This might pave the way for future studies and policies that aim to use this correlation to enhance scholastic and artistic endeavors.

2.3.3 Employment Status and Poverty

The employment status of families in Bophelong Township was studied by Dunga and Sekatane (2014), who looked at the factors and connections that influence this variable. Researchers studied education, age, gender, marital status, and labor force participation data to get a better understanding of the job climate in Bophelong Township. The second thing we did was look at the link between employment conditions and family financial stress. The percentage of each family's income that was below the US poverty threshold was determined. Logistic regression was used to examine the factors that can be used to predict whether or not a person is employed, and it was found that age, education, marital status, the number of earners in a household, and the total benefits received from the government have a significant impact on work chances. Evidence suggested that those who work had a better probability of escaping poverty.

Nikoloski (2020) analyzed the economic factors that lead to North Macedonia's low income people. The increasing divide between the unemployed and the impoverished was his main worry. We estimate a logit model using 2015 cross-sectional data to find characteristics that predict poverty risk after accounting for current employment status. Micro-data from the SILC survey's Selected Income and Expenditure Patterns (SIEP) module were utilized for this study. The SLIC's primary goal is to standardize the collection of data on poverty indicators and income distribution, both of which are useful in the investigation of social issues. It shows that low earnings are the main reason why people in the workforce are at danger of poverty, whereas low work intensity is the main reason why people in the labor force are at risk of poverty. Among the working population, low earnings seem to be the single most significant contributor to poverty. Furthermore, we found that the current social transfer programs fall short of meeting the requirements of these neighborhoods. This finding demonstrates the necessity for further comprehensive government measures aimed at eradicating poverty among economically disadvantaged areas of the labor market.

The effects of unemployment, financial strain, and health were studied by Renahy et al. (2018). Searching for relevant literature, selecting relevant studies, obtaining relevant data, and evaluating the quality of the data are the four phases that make up a systematic review. This was

carried out to guarantee reliable data gathering and boost uniformity amongst raters. We looked at all of the empirical research on the effects of UI on poverty and health that was published between 2000 and 2013. Only 12 of the 2,233 pieces of research we examined were really applicable to the end product. Health-related behaviors, self-reported health, well-being, and mental health were among the factors considered in selecting studies that shed light on the intersection between poverty and health. Numerous unemployment insurance systems, high-income nation jurisdictions, and various forms of research all lend credence to our underlying conceptual framework, which asserts that unemployment insurance mitigates the harmful consequences of unemployment on poverty and health.

Kim, Lee, and Choi (2014) investigated the employment and economic status of foreign nationals' spouses in South Korea. The economic status of foreign spouses now living in South Korea was investigated in this research. Using multilevel models, we looked at how different factors affect a person's neighborhood's prosperity. Economic performance and work happiness were shown to have a positive and statistically significant association with human and social capital as well as familial conditions. Assimilation factors influence labor force participation, which in turn affects poverty levels directly and indirectly. Social environmental factors have a distinguishable and substantial effect on economic status, as seen by the negative correlations between unemployment and rurality and employment. Even after controlling for criteria like work, married women who moved from the city to the country were more likely to be poor. The majority of the research was place in the Republic of Korea. As a consequence, the lab was able to expand its experimental space. Mandera County, Kenya was the primary target of this investigation.

Hamid investigated why Egypt has such a high unemployment rate in addition to economic inequality and poverty in his 2013 research. This research examined the development of the Egyptian labor market after the country's revolutionary change to a democratic form of government. The survey found that regardless of computer proficiency, level of education, or marital status, young women are more likely to be working full-time than young males of the same age. Men and women also sought jobs with varying degrees of initiative. A positive and statistically significant impact was identified when women were asked to assess the significance

of the income gap issue, but there was no correlation between employment and financial security. These statistics imply that compared to males, Egyptian women are less educated, less skilled, and more likely to be economically marginalized and poor. The planned changes to pension and unemployment insurance should be extended to all retirees, the elderly, caregivers, and the jobless. The team set out to investigate the connection between unemployment and financial hardship. The mind has been thrown off by the separation. Factors such as literacy rates, family sizes, and political stability were prioritized in this analysis. Despite the fact that the first inquiry took place in Egypt, this study was conducted in Mandera, Kenya.

Kundu and Sarangi (2007) examined the relationships between migration, labor market participation, and socioeconomic status. The most current wave of the National Sample Survey provided the most up-to-date information on migration. This study provides more evidence that the pursuit of financial gain is not the primary incentive for migration, especially among seasonal migrants. People from all walks of life and economic circumstances don't always uproot and go somewhere else in quest of better career prospects. The chance of poverty was lower for rural-to-urban migrants and greater for urban-to-rural migrants compared to the overall population. There is less likelihood of poverty for anybody living in a large city, regardless of age, immigrant status, or amount of extracurricular activities. The results demonstrate that migration has always been a viable means by which people might leave poverty behind them and raise their standard of living. Immigrants often have a lower poverty rate than locals do in large cities. They looked at how migration and employment both contribute to and alleviate poverty. Since it failed to take into account other elements that lead to poverty, there is a hole in our knowledge. Measures of illiteracy, family size, and political stability were prioritized in this analysis.

Nassar and Biltagy (2017) looked at the relationships between poverty, employment, investment, and educational opportunity in Egypt. This article presents research on a regional scale, with an eye on bottom-up strategies for boosting economies in economically challenged areas and rearranging economic activity for greater efficiency. The study begins with an overview of poverty in Egypt before delving into the macro investigation required to offer macro policies to address poverty. The results show that a decrease in personal earnings best explains the relationship between poverty and work. An improvement in the economy's general well-being is

typically linked to the enlargement of social programs and the creation of new employment to fight poverty.

New estimates of the correlation between broad shifts in female labor force participation and income inequality are provided by Nieuwenhuis, Van Lancker, and Collado (2020) using data from 15 OECD countries from 1971 to 2013. For this purpose, it employs Kitagawa-Blinder-Oaxaca (KBO) decompositions and more than 2 million data from the LIS Database at the household level. If more women in these nations entered the labor market, poverty may drop by around 1 percent, according to the findings. This uptick helped turn around a worrying downward trend in male work participation that has been linked to growing poverty. While female employment rates were consistently high throughout the Nordic countries over the study period, no association between poverty and work was discovered. After seeing rises in women's employment rates, several countries, including the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Canada, and the United States, saw periods of stability or modest growth. As a result, we conclude that efforts to advance gender parity in the workplace are related with decreased vulnerability to poverty. While encouraging, these findings also imply that the employment strategy has reached its limit in terms of its ability to (further) reduce poverty in OECD nations.

This essay, written in the spirit of Lauren's (2020) capabilities approach, investigates the relationships between poverty, disability, and the opportunities for employment and financial stability that are essential to reaching one's full potential. Statistics demonstrate that people with disabilities in South Africa are more likely to be poor and remain poor over time, but that government aid helps relieve this problem. Disability-related poverty is exacerbated by low employment rates and wide pay gaps. It is crucial to consider the role of disability in generating economic poverty alongside other factors such as race, gender, and geography.

Vaalavuo and Sirniö (2022) analyzed the impact of employment on poverty reduction on an individual level using EU-SILC pooled panel data for 30 European countries between 2010 and 2017. This is evaluated in a time-varying research setting by use of subject-level fixed effects, which allow us to account for time-invariant within-subjects variation. They looked at how people's ages, levels of education, and sexes affected the types and amounts of work they did and found that working raised people's chances of escaping poverty by 33% for men and 30% for

women. Working for shorter time periods or in part-time capacities made it more difficult to escape poverty, for individuals with more schooling but less money, working did not help alleviate poverty as much. There was a lot of variety across the countries. There was no correlation between the unemployment rate, the incidence of precarious work, or the amount of money spent by the government on active labor market policy and people's capacity to obtain productive employment and rise out of poverty. More study is needed to determine the institutional variables that help low-income people find work and how much such work improves family finances.

Gebel and Gundert (2023) examined the long- and short-term poverty risk of the unemployed, and they discovered that it differed according to the kind of occupation one had. The political promotion of permanent work contracts is typically characterized as a strategy of combatting chronic unemployment and persistent poverty, although both permanent and temporary work contracts are under review. Using a first difference estimator with asymmetric effects, they analyzed data from the German panel research 'Labour Market and Social Security' (PASS) 2010-18 to determine how returning to the workforce after unemployment affected the likelihood of poverty in the four years that followed. Both a permanent and a temporary contract would have the same initial benefits on alleviating poverty. It seems that unemployed people are as likely to fall into poverty whether they initially obtain permanent or temporary jobs. In doing so, they set the stage for this finding and investigate the ways in which differences in family composition, employment status, hours worked, and company size affect the extent to which career transitions reduce poverty.

Awan, Arif, Cheema, and Rahim (2019) computed the poverty rate in Pakistan and categorized it by employment status, industry/sectors of labor, and profession. We also use a logistic regression model to look at how the breadwinner's employment and industry relate to the poverty rate in the family. This research used the 2013-2014 PSLM data set from the Pakistan Social and Living Standard Measurement Survey to generate its empirical estimations. The same name Foster-Greer-Thorbecke (1984) method is used to evaluate the incidence and composition of poverty. As shown in the results, the poverty rate in Pakistan was 36% in 2013-2014. The findings of the poverty decomposition showed that poverty rates vary widely depending on whether or not one

is employed, the kind of industry one works in, and one's specific job title. Workers in the electricity, gas, and water sectors, as well as lawmakers, senior government officials, and managers, have the lowest poverty rate, while sharecroppers, wage workers in the construction industry, and school teachers have the highest. The Logit Model shows that a higher household head's age, education, and work status correlates with a lower poverty rate, whereas residing in a rural location, having a bigger family, and having more dependents correlate with a greater poverty rate. The dependence ratio, which is highly predictive of poverty, is negatively connected to the work status of the head of home. This implies that everyone should have access to many job opportunities in order to significantly reduce poverty and promote sustainable development in the nation. If the family breadwinner works as a share cropper, an employee, or raises livestock as their only source of income in the construction, transportation, storage, elementary, etc. industries, the household is more likely to be impoverished. To assist low-income workers escape poverty, the government must establish a minimum wage policy and provide social safety nets.

2.3.4 Political Stability and Poverty

The authors Hafiz, Majeed, and Iram (2019) investigated the impact of political instability on GDP growth, income inequality, and poverty. The data for 103 countries were estimated using an OLS model that accounts for heteroscedasticity. Years 1984-2011 were included in the analysis. Major causes of unrest, such military coups, are also taken into account. Official and informal political instability benefits both the high-income gap and the low-income gap, according to the data. It was also shown that coup d'états, although having a negligible direct effect on poverty and income inequality, had a substantial indirect effect (via economic progress) on these issues. Political upheaval stifled economic development, expanded income disparity, and deepened poverty, the study found.

To investigate the link between institutions and poverty, Tebaldi and Mohan (2010) used the instrumental variable method and eight distinct institutional measures. Good economic growth, reduced income inequality, and poverty reduction are possible because of the government's efficiency and the prevalence of anti-corruption measures. Market inefficiencies caused by corruption, poor governance, and unstable governments lead to decreased profitability and

increased poverty. According to the available data, the prevalence of poverty is influenced by regulatory system strength, rule of law, voice and accountability, and the risk of expropriation, but not by income distribution. This discrepancy has to be emphasized when discussing the research's implications.

Chogugudza (2008) argues that the continent's political unrest, economic difficulties, and environmental deterioration all have their roots in Africa's many ethnic groups. The results indicate that Sudan's cultural diversity is substantially to blame for the country's high poverty and population displacement rates. The majority Northerners in South Sudan have oppressed the country's inhabitants, who hail from a wide variety of ethnic groupings, for a very long time. Especially at the presidential and state levels, Nigeria's religious conflicts and North-South separation have had a profound impact on the country's politics. The article argues that politicians throughout Africa exploit ethnic divisions for personal gain since they have nothing better to offer in terms of policy proposals. The leaders of once-revered traditional institutions have been weakened by politicians' attempts to pay off or otherwise influence them. The root causes of violence and political instability throughout Africa may be traced back to ethnic disputes and the attendant worries. These racial tensions are exacerbated in certain nations by influential foreign organizations with an interest in Africa. In Somalia, for instance, the transitional government claims to have defeated what it calls Islamic militants with the help of Ethiopia and the United States. This allows the transitional government to assume power. It has become far more difficult to reconstruct the nation after the turmoil since ethnic warlords now control a large portion of it. All of Africa was included in the research. This meant that the space's potential uses were expanded. Mandera County, Kenya was the primary target of this investigation.

Rovolis (2008) looked at how poverty and anxiety go hand in hand. As a consequence of this inquiry, a link was found between safety and monetary gain. Protections against death, poverty, pain, fear, etc., are all essential components of basic human security. Human trafficking (whose victims frequently want to flee their own impoverished regions), regional and racial tensions, the manufacturing and sale of illegal substances, and other related activities all have an impact on the lives of the poor. The responsibility of dealing with emerging security concerns like terrorism

falls disproportionately on developing nations, according to a number of studies. Understanding the extensive knowledge on how poverty stunts economic growth is crucial. If pro-growth policies were successful in their mission to eradicate poverty, it is said, everyone would profit. This result conforms to what one would anticipate from growth-oriented tactics. This article takes a close look at how poverty and insecurity are connected. Due to our physical distance, we have found it challenging to work together. Researchers looked at how factors including education, family size, and work status relate to poverty.

Vu (2022) looked at the political obstacles to a more equitable distribution of income among countries. As a result, it shows that governments in the midst of significant political turmoil are less likely to enact radical measures to equalize incomes. By contrasting market and net income inequality for as many as 143 countries between 1996 and 2015, I demonstrate that political instability hinders the efficiency of fiscal redistribution. Studies have shown that non-democratic, low-income nations with a high degree of diversity are the ones where political instability has the most redistributive impact. Therefore, only in non-democratic, fragmented, and low-income states can political uncertainty be an obstacle to effective fiscal redistribution. Some evidence implies that less economic inequality may result from a more evenly distributed income if political stability is present.

Between 1990 and 2018, Jean (2021) analyzed 47 Sub-Saharan African nations to determine the effect of economic disparity on spi (Socio-Political Instability). This first part provides an overview of the academic and policy discussion around income disparity and poverty. This kind of literature study allows us to quantify correlations via the use of principal component analysis, hierarchical clustering, and partitioning to examine similarities and variations between nations on several dimensions. Then, the link between economic disparity and political participation was calculated. Coup d'états, whether successful or not, affect a government more than assassinations do. Results are determined by democracy 34 times more than by wealth disparity. Increases in GDP tend to bring down spi, whereas increases in spi need more formal education.

The political instability and economic development of Bangladesh were studied by Niemi (2016). There can be no economic progress, no integration of economic modes, and no

preservation of natural development without political stability. Slower economic growth is only one of many unintended consequences of political upheaval. If the delay is too long, it might affect commerce on a national or global scale. The logistics of receiving and transporting perishable items might be complicated for businesses in this case. Strikes lasting at least one full working day, known as hartals, are often organized by political parties and interest groups in opposition in Bangladesh. The "hartal" is a kind of civil disobedience against colonialism that has its origins in South Asia but has recently seen a notable increase in Bangladesh. Civil war, social unrest, coup d'états, and the shift toward or away from democracy are all examples of times when political instability causes a heightened focus on economic development. The implications for exports, prices, port operations, the tourism industry, human rights, etc. are all taken into account. This research provides strong evidence that firms experience considerable production loss when many hartals occur within a week's time. Despite political strikes, businesses may still be able to save money by re-optimizing their use of resources like labor and capital. Hartal has a greater impact on smaller businesses since it is more difficult for them to re-optimize particular components to cut expenses in the short-term. The economic repercussions of a hartal are significant and extensive. The result is a decline in Gross Domestic Product, tax revenue, and other essential economic indices. These results imply that the connection between economic expansion and political steadiness is more nuanced than was previously thought.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

Definition of a notion by Kombo and Tromp (2014): an overarching idea derived from more concrete experience. A conceptual framework is often used to help with the structure of a future presentation. This structure incorporates a wide variety of theories, concepts, and principles from related areas of study. According to Kothari (2019), the independent variable is the variable that is thought to be the cause of changes in the dependent variable. The independent variable is also known as the explanatory variable. The opposite of an independent variable is a dependent variable, which is the one about which the researcher is most curious. Multiple independent variables were employed in this investigation. Multiple factors, such as the number of people and the gender of the chief decision-maker in a home, were considered in the assessment of household size. The level of education within a household was measured by considering the

highest educational attainment of its members, as well as the educational achievements of those individuals who occupy leadership positions within the household. The measurement of employment status was assessed using many indicators, including the number of households that get wages or salaries, the average earnings per household, and the number of households with earnings of wages or salaries. The study considered political stability as the independent variable, which was evaluated based on the frequency of violent incidents and perceived political instability. The dependent variable, abject poverty, was assessed using indicators such as the poverty line, dependence ratio, and living standards. A metaphorical representation of the variables that was examined in this study was as shown in the following illustration.

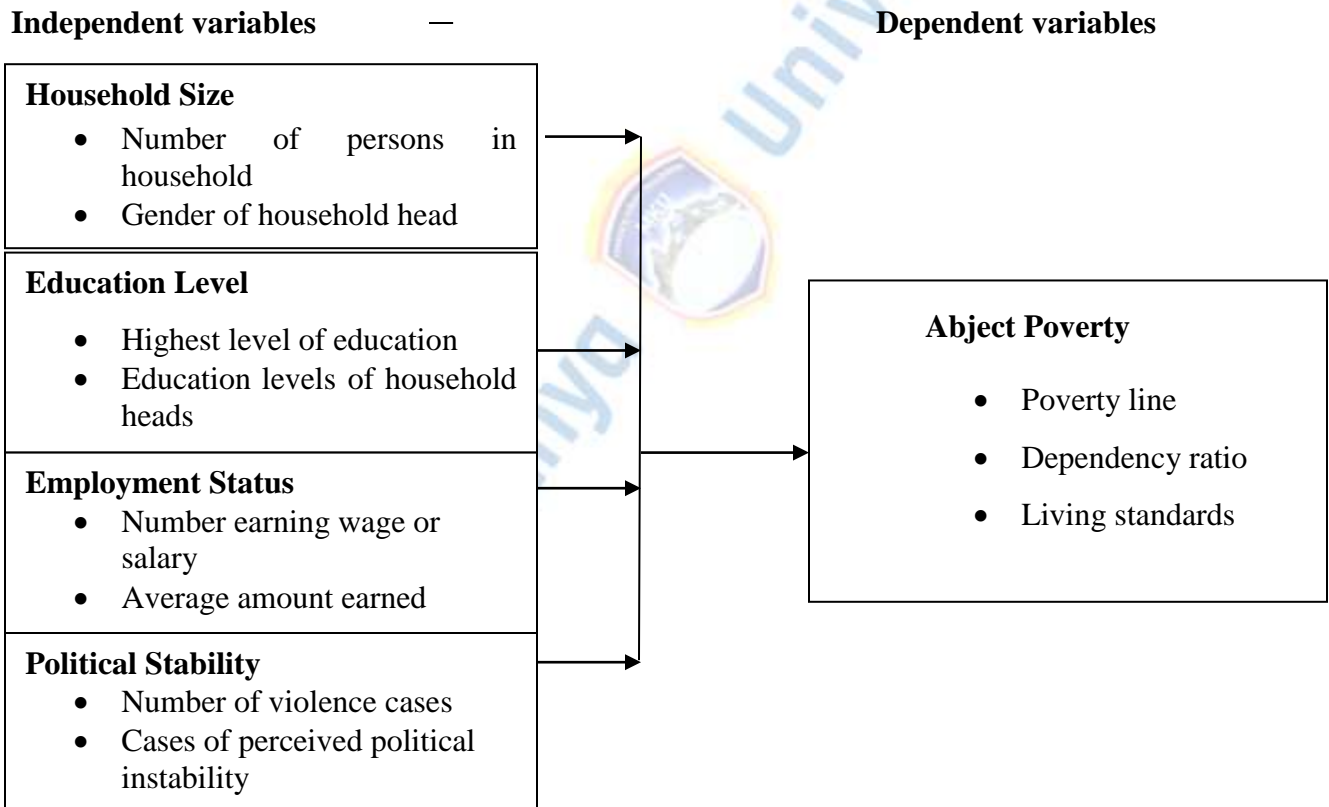


Figure 2.1 Conceptual Framework

Source: Author (2023)

2.5 Re-cap of the study

This study provides more evidence that the pursuit of financial gain is not the primary incentive for migration, especially among seasonal migrants. People from all walks of life and economic circumstances don't always uproot and go somewhere else in quest of better career prospects. The chance of poverty was lower for rural-to-urban migrants and greater for urban-to-rural migrants compared to the overall population. There is less likelihood of poverty for anybody living in a large city, regardless of age, immigrant status, or amount of extracurricular activities. The results demonstrate that migration has always been a viable means by which people might leave poverty behind them and raise their standard of living. Immigrants often have a lower poverty rate than locals do in large cities. They looked at how migration and employment both contribute to and alleviate poverty. Since it failed to take into account other elements that lead to poverty, there is a hole in our knowledge. Measures of illiteracy, family size, and political stability were prioritized in this analysis.

This research provides strong evidence that firms experience considerable production loss when many hartals occur within a week's time. Despite political strikes, businesses may still be able to save money by re-optimizing their use of resources like labor and capital. Hartal has a greater impact on smaller businesses since it is more difficult for them to re-optimize particular components to cut expenses in the short-term. The economic repercussions of a hartal are significant and extensive. The result is a decline in Gross Domestic Product, tax revenue, and other essential economic indices. These results imply that the connection between economic expansion and political steadiness is more nuanced than was previously thought. Relative household poverty may be reduced via increased financial literacy by influencing household involvement in entrepreneurship, commercial insurance, and credit channel selection. Learning to budget one's finances may enable families with working members continue providing care even if one of them loses their job. Families with high levels of financial literacy, members under the age of sixty, low levels of debt, and Eastern locations benefit the most from financial education's ability to alleviate poverty. The results of this research may aid policymakers in their efforts to reduce poverty in emerging countries by encouraging more market participation and financial literacy. To add to the existing research on the topic, this study set out to discover what

factors contribute to the high rate of poverty in Mandera County. The focus of this study was to investigate the root causes of the extreme poverty in Kenya's Mandera County. Despite the credible studies done by previous researches, none of them assessed the specific variables influencing abject poverty in Mandera County, Kenya. A substantial number of Mandera residents (over 80%) live below or in severe poverty, as shown by statistics from the 2015/16 Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS). Each and every home in Mandera County was surveyed. In the 2015/2016 fiscal year, 100% of Turkana and 98% of Mandera people were low-income or poor 2016 K.I.H.B.S. According to the KIHBS's findings from 2015–2016, young poverty is compounded by issues including unemployment, low incomes, historical marginalization and deprivation, and group based disparities. So, the purpose of this research was to figure out what makes Mandera County so poor by assessing the specific variables influencing abject poverty in Mandera County, Kenya.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

Methods for collecting the necessary information for the study are detailed in this section. It talks about how the research was set up, what people were included in the sample, and what methods were utilized to get accurate results.

3.2 Research Design

The methodology used in this study was a descriptive survey. It was decided that the ideal approach would be to use descriptive research, since this provides a more accurate depiction of the subjects and allows for data collection with little interference to the natural environment (Kombo & Tromp, 2014). Since the purpose of the research was to gather actual data on the variables that lead to severe poverty in Mandera County, the methodology used was acceptable. The benefits of both qualitative and quantitative research were taken into account while deciding on this technique. The best approach for social scientists to acquire trustworthy data from a large population, say Mugenda and Mugenda (2013), is via the use of a descriptive survey design.

3.3 Target Population

In their definition of the term, Pyrczak and Tcherni-Buzzeo (2018) state that a population is "a well-defined collection of households in Mandera county, services, components or events, groups of objects or homes that are the subject of investigation." This idea emphasizes the significance of a homogenous, randomly selected target group. All of this study's investigation happened in Mandera County. The 1,200,890 figure is based on data from the 2019 census conducted by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS).

3.4 Sample Design

Researchers used a sampling strategy to choose participants and analyze their responses (Kothari, 2019). Sampling is the process of selecting a sample that is statistically and reliably indicative of a larger population. It was always the intention to generalize about people. The gold standard for assessing sample designs is the extent to which they capture features of the population the sample was intended to represent. In order to save time and money, researchers

turned to sampling to acquire data from the study population. This approach allowed for an increase in accuracy, and the sample design may be selected at will (Kothari, 2019). The method developed by Onwuegbuzie and his colleagues was used to choose a representative sample from a huge population and,

Leech (2017) as;

$$n = \frac{Z^2 * p * (1-p)}{d^2}$$

Where;

n = sample size

z = level of confidence according to the standard normal distribution (for a level of confidence of 95%, z = 1.96)

p = estimated proportion of the population that presents the characteristic (p = 0.5)

d = tolerated margin of error (10%)

$$n = \frac{(1.96)^2 * (0.5) (0.5)}{(0.10)^2} = 96$$

The sample size based on the formula was 96 people in Mandera County.

3.5 Data Collection Instruments

To collect primary information, questionnaires were distributed. Written replies were recorded by respondents, who often had to choose from a small set of prepared possibilities. A Likert scale with five choices was used. The Likert scale was an interval measure with five possible responses (strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, and highly agree). A Likert scale was used to measure the extent to which respondents agreed or disagreed. Likert scales worked very well for rating subjective concepts including perception, attitude, value, and conduct. Subscales of the Likert scale were used to convert free-form responses to numerical grades (Saunders, Lewis, & Thornhill, 2016). There was a requirement for both a global evaluation of poverty determination and specifics about its components (level of education, family size, employment status, and political stability), hence a likert scale was appropriate for this study. The data collected from open ended questions may be meaningless since respondents were not restricted to a particular technique of answering the questions. Also, many people who fill out surveys don't bother filling

in the blanks when asked to answer open-ended questions. Due to the aforementioned considerations, a likert scale was used for this study's data collection.

3.6 Pilot Testing

Pilot testing was crucial to improving research instruments, as stated by Ngechu (2004). The piloting data led to adjustments being made to the research tool. The purpose of the piloting in this research was to determine whether or not the questions were easily comprehended and whether or not they yielded the desired results. Twenty participants who met the criteria were carefully chosen and excluded from the study. In order to catch mistakes before collecting data, pilot testing was crucial.

3.6.1 Instrument Reliability

Survey dependability may be measured in part by counting how frequently respondents provide the same responses in subsequent surveys (Bougie & Sekaran, 2016). The internal consistency of the surveys was determined using Cronbach's alpha (Cronbach, 1995). Twenty locals from the area around Wajir County were chosen at random to assist determine the survey's credibility and validity. The data from this group was excluded from the final tally because it was not representative of the research population as a whole. Cronbach's alpha was calculated using data from a survey fed into SPSS, a statistical program used in the social sciences. A high Cronbach's alpha or an alpha close to 1 suggested a high degree of internal consistency. It is suggested that a reliability coefficient of at least 0.7 be obtained while creating a new questionnaire.

3.6.2 Instrument Validity

A proper questionnaire would accurately measure the targeted components (Schindler & Cooper, 2014). The extent to which an explanation matches the available evidence was what this definition meant by "validity." It was difficult to demonstrate absolute validity, yet doing so was essential for validating a novel research instrument (Das & Imon, 2016). This study employed both concept and content validity. To ensure that enough data was obtained for each stage of the study, the questionnaire was divided into several portions; this helped to increase its construct validity. The questionnaire's content validity was verified by a thorough assessment by two

external experts in the subject. Participants were asked to rate the questionnaire responses for overall relevance, clarity, and offensiveness. Before collecting the final data set, the instrument underwent final adjustments based on the evaluation's findings. The credibility of the final product was enhanced thanks to their comments on the draft. Experts were engaged to help streamline the questionnaire and determine which questions would provide the most reliable results.

3.7 Data Analysis and Presentation

A proper questionnaire would accurately measure the targeted components (Schindler & Cooper, 2014). The extent to which an explanation matches the available evidence was what this definition meant by "validity." It was difficult to demonstrate absolute validity, yet doing so was essential for validating a novel research instrument (Das & Imon, 2016). This study employed both concept and content validity. To ensure that enough data was obtained for each stage of the study, the questionnaire was divided into several portions; this helped to increase its construct validity. The questionnaire's content validity was verified by a thorough assessment by two external experts in the subject. Participants were asked to rate the questionnaire responses for overall relevance, clarity, and offensiveness. Before collecting the final data set, the instrument underwent final adjustments based on the evaluation's findings. The credibility of the final product was enhanced thanks to their comments on the draft. Experts were engaged to help streamline the questionnaire and determine which questions would provide the most reliable results. Whether or if the individual factors predicted a certain research gap was established using multivariate regression. The regression model adopted took the form of:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta x$$

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + e$$

Depending on the no of variables in the study

Where:

Y= Abject poverty

X1= Household size

X2= Education level

X3=Employment status

X4= Political stability

β_0 = constant /intercept point of the regression line and the y- axis

β = the slope / gradient of the regression line

e= (error term) any other variable that was a determinant of poverty and has not been captured in the model.

The regression model, the ANOVA test to examine the statistical significance of the model, the F test to evaluate the model's applicability, and R square to quantify the variability of the variables will all be used to test the hypotheses. The significance of the association between the independent components and the dependent variable was predicted using a model developed by regression analysis.

3.8 Ethical Issues

The researcher followed all ethical guidelines, protecting the confidentiality of the participants' identity and using the data collected for research purposes alone. Participants in this study were assured that their privacy would be respected and that their names would not appear in any reports; participants were also instructed to utilize just the study questionnaire and were free to withdraw from the study at any time. They are free to alter their minds about participating at any moment. Everyone who responded shared what they knew, and the appropriate authorities were notified. In order to collect this information, we approached Mount Kenya University and NACOSTI for permission to do so.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Introduction

The purpose of this research was to examine the factors that contribute to extreme poverty in Kenya's Mandera County. Findings, including demographic information, data analysis by aims, and comments from respondents, are presented in this chapter. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to a data set describing the causes and severity of extreme poverty.

4.2 Response Rate

A total of 96 participants filled out the study's questionnaire. There was a return rate of 76.04% (73 out of a possible 100). According to Mugenda & Mugenda (2013), a response rate of 50% is acceptable for analysis and reporting, a rate of 60% is good, and a response rate of 70% or more is great. This response rate was sufficient and indicative of the genuine population.

4.3 Demographic Information

Demographic variables examined included: respondent gender, marital status, age, education, occupation, and household size.

4.3.1 Gender of the Respondents

In the wake of gender mainstreaming, an inquiry was made into the gender of the respondents. The findings are depicted in Figure 4.1.

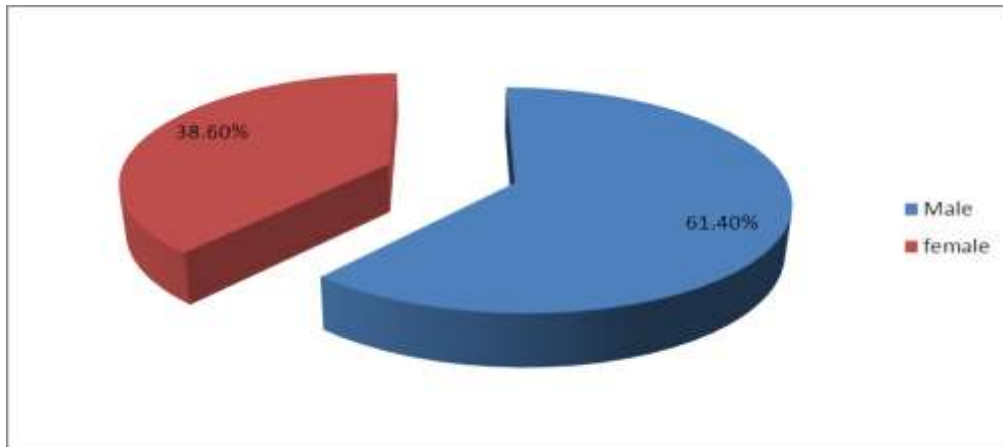


Figure 4.1 Gender of the Respondents

Source: Survey (2023)

Figure 4.1 shows that men made up 61.4% of responses, while women made up 38.6%. Male respondents outnumbered female respondents; however the discrepancy may be explained by the fact that most men in Mandera County now live and work elsewhere.

4.3.2 Marital Status of the Respondents

Marital status of the respondents was crucial in understanding the determinants of abject poverty in Mandera County. Cognizant of the above the study sought to investigate the marital status of the respondents. The results are presented in Figure 4.2.

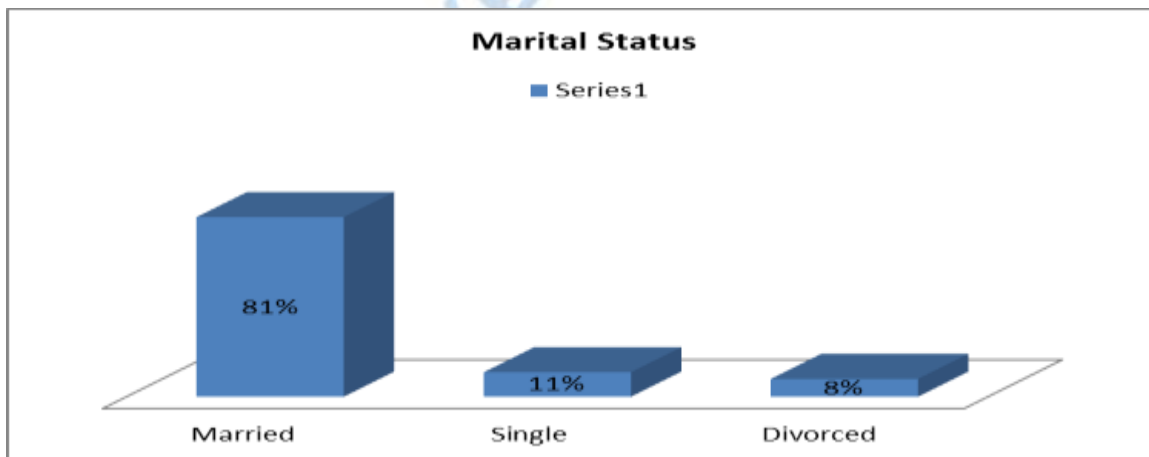


Figure 4.2 Marital Status of the Respondents

Source: Survey (2023)

81 percent of respondents identified as married, whereas 11 percent identified as single, as seen in Figure 4.2. Eight percent of those polled in the survey were previously married but now divorced. According to the results, most of the people who took part in the survey were married with children, suggesting that they had some insight into the causes of extreme poverty in Mandera County.

4.3.3 Age of the Respondents

The study sought to find out the age of the respondents. The respondents were required to indicate their age category. The study results are as illustrated in Figure 4.3.

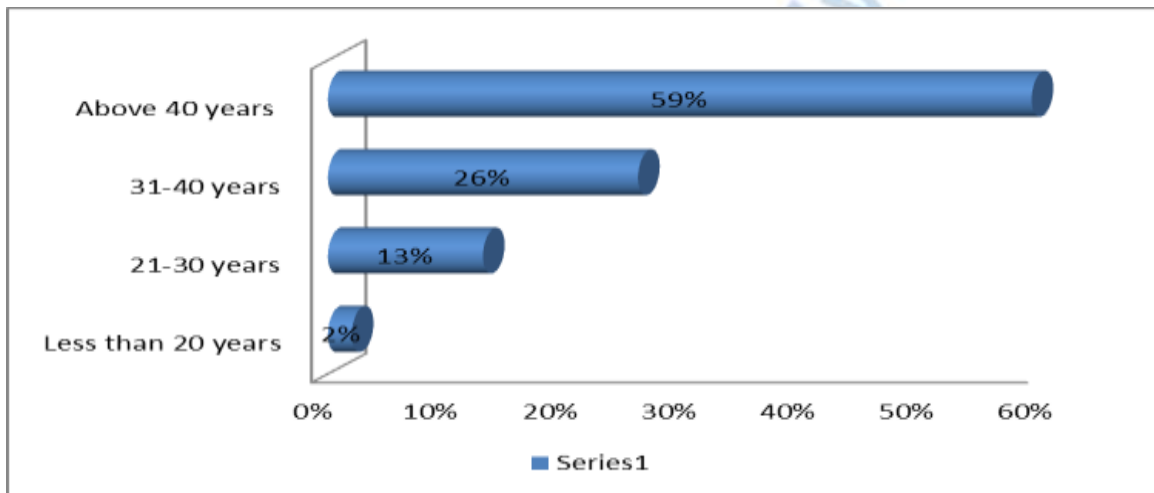


Figure 4.3 Age Category of Respondents

Source: Survey (2023)

According to the data shown in Figure 4.3, the oldest group of respondents was composed of those aged 41 and over (59%), with the next largest group being aged 31-40 (12%). The results showed that 13% of respondents were between the ages of 21 and 30, while just 2% were younger than 20.

4.3.4 Level of Education

In a bid to investigate the competency of the respondents, an inquiry was made into the level of education obtained by the respondents. The results are shown in Figure 4.4.

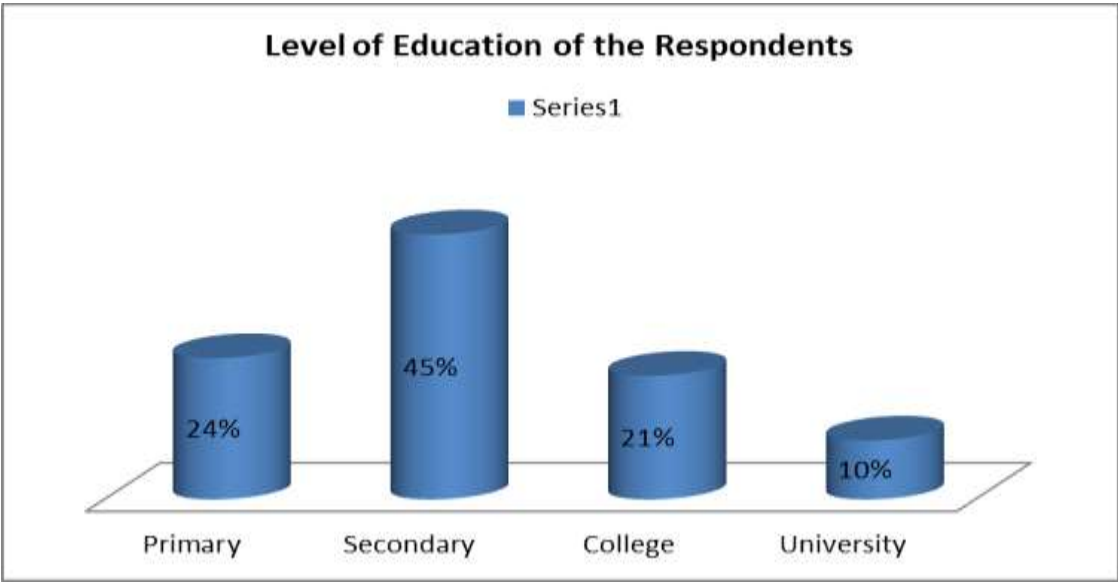


Figure 4.4 Level of Education of the Respondents

Source: Survey (2023)

Figure 4.4 shows that among the respondents, 45% had completed at least some secondary education, with 24% having completed just elementary school. The research found that 21% of respondents had completed some level of higher education, with 10% having completed university-level work. The results shown above suggest that the data was collected from well-informed people who have a solid grasp of the factors that contribute to extreme poverty in Mandera County.

4.3.5 Employment Status of the Respondents

Moreover, an inquiry was made into the employment status of the respondents. Table 4.1 presents the results on employment status of the respondents.

Table 4.1 Employment Status of the Respondents

Employment Status	Frequency	Percent
Self employed	24	32.9
Employed	32	43.8
Unemployed	17	23.3
Total	73	100

Source: Survey (2023)

Going by the results in Table 4.1, 43.8% of the respondents were employed while 32.9% of the respondents were self-employed. The study findings show that 23.3% of the respondents were unemployed.

4.3.6 Number of Members in the Household

Conscious of the role the number of members in the household as a determinant of abject poverty the study sought to find out the number of members in the household. The study results are as shown in Figure 4.5.

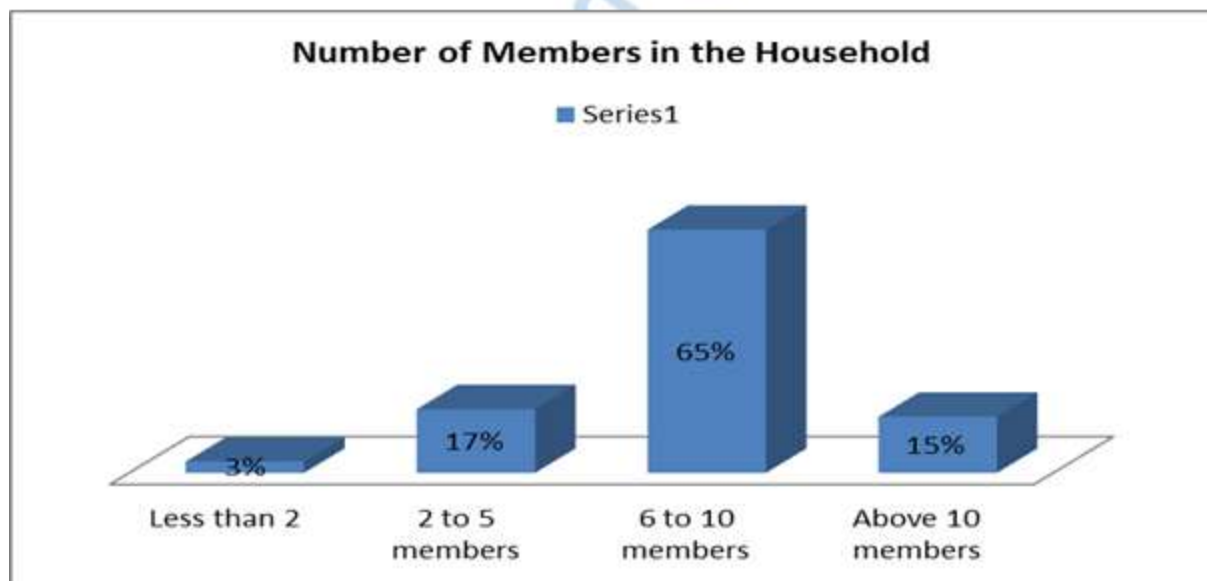


Figure 4.5 Number of Members in the Household

Source: Survey (2023)

Figure 4.5 shows that of the respondents that indicated the size of their family, 65% said that there were between six and ten people, while 17% said that there were between two and five. The findings of the survey showed that 15% of participants had children older than 10, while 3% reported having children younger than 2. It seems from the data that most families in Mandera consist of more than two people.

4.4 Analysis by Objectives

This research set out to learn what factors led to such extreme poverty in Kenya's Mandera County. The study set out to answer several specific questions about what factors affect people's chances of living in poverty in Mandera County, Kenya. These included the following: what effect does household size have on poverty rates; what effect does education level have on poverty rates; what effect does employment status have on poverty rates; and what effect does political stability have on poverty rates in Mandera County, Kenya.

4.4.1 Influence of Household Size on Abject Poverty

The first objective of the study was to establish the influence of household size on abject poverty in Mandera County, Kenya. Respondents were asked questions on the extent to which they agreed or disagreed that the household size factors influence abject poverty on a Likert scale of 1-5 where: 5=strongly agree, agree 4= Agree, 3 =Neutral, 2=Disagree, 1 =Strongly disagree. The findings of the study are presented in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2 Influence of Household Size on Abject Poverty

	N Statistic	Mean Statistic	Std. Deviation Statistic
Some of the families in Mandera are large and thus causing high population which may reduce the employment opportunities thus may lead to poverty	73	4.291	.9686
There is an increase in number of births in Mandera and this may have led to most families not to be able to afford the basic needs	73	4.236	.9125
There is high dependence ratio since most people in Mandera are young thus may lead to poverty	73	3.984	.9171
Due to lack of knowledge about family planning there may be increased family size and thus most parents cannot be able to cater for their children and this may lead to poverty	73	4.204	.9287
Most people see children as a source of labor and this led to increase in family sizes which may result to most families to be unable to provide for their big families	73	4.228	1.0015

Source: Survey (2023)

Table 4.2 shows that respondents were most likely to agree, by a mean of 4.291 to 1., that the statement that some families in Mandera are large and thus causing high population which may reduce the employment opportunities thus may lead to poverty was the factor with the most influence. The next most important reason, with a mean value of 4.236, said that the rising birthrate in Mandera was likely responsible for the inability of many families to provide for their members' basic requirements. Most people see children as a source of labor, which led to an

increase in family sizes, which may result in most families being unable to provide for their big families; lack of knowledge about family planning may cause increased family sizes, which may result in most parents being unable to cater to their children, which may result in poverty; and a high dependence ratio, which may result in poverty.

4.4.2 Influence of Education Level on Abject Poverty

The second objective of the study was to determine the influence of education level on abject poverty in Mandera County, Kenya. Respondents were asked to rate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed that education level factors influence abject poverty on a Likert scale of 1-5 where: 5=strongly agree, agree 4= Agree, 3 =Neutral, 2=Disagree, 1 =Strongly disagree. The results are as illustrated in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3 Influence of Education Level on Abject Poverty

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic
Most girls are married off when barely into their teens, forcing them to drop out of school and this may contribute to poverty	73	4.228	.9855
Most families in Mandera do not afford to pay school fees for their children and this may translate to poverty	73	4.149	.9602
Those who complete high school are less likely to attend college thus may remain poor	73	4.221	.8443
There is increased child labor and this may have led to increased school drop outs thus may contribute to poverty	73	4.173	.9685
Most people may not be educated thus have no skills to be employed and this may remain unemployed thus may lead to poverty	73	4.158	.9630

Source: Survey (2023)

As shown in Table 4.3 the majority of respondents felt that the most influential reason is that most girls are married off before they reach adulthood, which causes them to stop attending school and may lead to poverty. The next component, with a mean of 4.221, suggests that high school graduates may continue to live in poverty since they are less likely to continue their education after high school. The fact that most families in Mandera cannot afford to pay school fees for their children and this may translate to pov 4.173, the fact that most people may not be educated and thus have no skills to be employed and this may remain unemployed and this may pov 4.158, and the fact that there is increased child labor and this may have led to increased school drop outs thus may contribute to poverty.

4.4.3 Influence of Employment Status on Abject Poverty

The third objective of the study was to investigate the influence of employment status on abject poverty in Mandera County, Kenya. Respondents were asked to rate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed that employment status factors influence abject poverty on a Likert scale of 1-5 where: 5=strongly agree, agree 4= Agree, 3 =Neutral, 2=Disagree, 1 =Strongly disagree. The findings are depicted in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4 Influence of Employment Status on Abject Poverty

	N Statistic	Mean Statistic	Std. Deviation Statistic
Most people are unemployed and this may lead to poverty	73	4.347	.8763
Less people are engaged in well-paying jobs because they are less educated thus are poor	73	4.259	.9016
Increase of rural-urban migrants who are likely to have a greater risk of being below the poverty line	73	4.142	.9061
There are less agricultural activities in Mandera due to unfavorable weather conditions which may lead to poor production of farm produce thus leading to poverty	73	4.284	.8155
There are few companies and industries in Mandera that people can be employed and this may lead to poverty.	73	4.291	.8552

Source: Survey (2023)

Based on the results presented in Table 4.4, it can be concluded that the majority of respondents agree that the most influential factor is that most people are unemployed and this may lead to poverty, with a mean value of 4.347. This is followed by those who agree that there are few companies and industries in Mandera that people can be employed by, with a mean value of 4.291. According to the results, the majority of respondents (mean = 4.284) believe that the harsh weather conditions in Mandera have contributed to a decrease in agricultural operations, which in turn may have contributed to a decrease in farm products and, ultimately, poverty. The study found that respondents were more likely to agree (mean = 4.259) that fewer people are working in well-paying jobs due to lower levels of education and thus are poor, and more likely to agree

(mean = 4.14) that an increase in rural-urban migrants will have a greater risk of living in poverty.

4.4.4 Influence of Political Stability on Abject Poverty

The fourth objective of the study was to establish the influence of political stability on abject poverty in Mandera County, Kenya Respondents were asked to rate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed that employment status factors influence abject poverty on a Likert scale of 1-5 where: 5=strongly agree, agree 4= Agree, 3 =Neutral, 2=Disagree, 1 =Strongly disagree. The results are as illustrated in Table 4.5.

Table 4.5 Influence of Political Stability on Abject Poverty

	N Statistic	Mean Statistic	Std. Deviation Statistic
There are political conflicts in Mandera which has led to economic instability thus contributing to poverty	73	4.269	.8769
There is increased tribal clashes in Mandera and thus most people may keep migrating thus not able to work to earn a living	73	4.378	.7759
There may be increase in insecurity in Mandera thus most people may have lost their wealth thus contributing to poverty	73	4.331	.7874
Terrorism may be rampant in Mandera thus most people may live in fear and thus cannot be effective in workplaces thus may contribute to poverty	73	4.247	.9382
The county government of Mandera may be corrupt and thus the CDF funds may not have been used well and thus the poor may remain poor	73	4.244	.9060

Source: Survey (2023)

According to Table 4.5, the majority of respondents (mean = 4.378) believe that increased tribal clashes in Mandera may cause most people to keep migrating, which in turn contributes to poverty (mean = 4.331) and that people may have lost their wealth as a result of these clashes (mean = 4.331). Those who agreed that terrorism may be rampant in Mandera, causing most

people to live in fear and preventing them from being effective in their workplaces, gave a mean score of 4.247, while those who disagreed gave a mean score of 4.269, establishing that political conflicts in Mandera have led to economic instability and contributed to poverty. With a mean score of 4.244, respondents speculated that CDF monies may not have been utilized effectively by the county administration of Mandera, leaving the poor in poverty.

4.4.5 Extent of Agreement/Disagreement on Assertions about Abject Poverty

The study sought to find out from the respondents their agreement or disagreement in relation to the assertions provided relating to poverty in Mandera. Respondents were asked to rate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the assertions about abject poverty on a Likert scale of 1-5 where: 5=strongly agree, agree 4= Agree, 3 =Neutral, 2=Disagree, 1 =Strongly disagree. The results are as shown in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6 Extent of Agreement/Disagreement on Assertions about Abject Poverty

	N Statistic	Mean Statistic	Std. Deviation Statistic
There is high dependency ratio in Mandera	73	4.284	.8155
Majority of the residents in Mandera receive less than dollar per day	73	4.228	1.0015
Majority of the residents in Mandera live below the poverty line	73	4.173	.9436
Majority of the families in Mandera cannot afford the basic needs	73	4.291	.8555
Majority of the families in Mandera cannot afford to pay school fees for their children	73	4.370	.7746

Source: Survey (2023)

Table 4.6 shows that the vast majority of respondents (mean = 4.37) agree that most families in Mandera cannot afford to pay school fees for their children, and a similar proportion (mean = 4.291) agree that most families in Mandera cannot afford the basic needs. The results showed that most respondents (4.284 on average) agreed that Mandera has a high dependence ratio, and that most Mandera people (4.228 on average) live on less than a dollar a day. The survey also found that the median income in Mandera is just \$4,173, indicating that the vast majority of the population is poor.

4.5 Establishing the Relationship between Determinants of Abject Poverty

An empirical model linking different factors to extreme poverty was developed using multivariate analysis. The direction and strength of the association have been interpreted using the regression coefficients calculated using SPSS version 21. Table 4.7 displays the results of the regression analysis.

Table 4.7 Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics					Durbin-Watson
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change	
1	.945 ^a	.893	.888	.28218	.893	201.424	4	69	.000	.314

a. Predictors: (Constant), Household Size, Education Level, Employment Status, Political Stability

b. Dependent Variable: Abject Poverty

Source: Survey (2023)

From the results in Table 4.7, the Coefficient of Multiple Determination (R^2) is 0.893 implying that the regression line is of “*high goodness of fit*” explaining up to 89.3% of the variation in abject poverty. The p-value of 0.000 indicates that the relationship between the determinants and abject poverty is statistically significant at 5% confidence level.

The Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was applied to determine the combined effects of the independent variables on the dependent variable. The results are presented in Table 4.8.

Table 4.8 ANOVA

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	80.192	4	16.038	201.424	.000 ^a
	Residual	9.635	69	.080		
	Total	89.827	73			

a. Predictors: (Constant), Household Size, Education Level, Employment Status, Political Stability

b. Dependent Variable: Abject Poverty

Going by the findings in Table 4.8, the F static is 201.424 with a p-value of 0.000. This implies that the combined impact of determinants is significant given the fact that the p-value is less than the alpha value.

Table 4.9 Regression model Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
	B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1 (Constant)	.313	.165		1.891	.001	.015	.640
Household Size	.602	.155	.691	3.889	.000	.908	.295
Education Level	.613	.112	.715	5.461	.000	.391	.835
Employment Status	.846	.147	.878	5.739	.000	.554	1.138
Political Stability	.189	.316	.174	.598	.001	.816	.437

a. Dependent Variable: Abject Poverty

Source: Survey (2023)

As per the model coefficients in Table 4.9, the equation $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \dots + \beta_5X_5$ becomes;

$$Y = 0.313 + 0.602X_1(\pm 0.155) + 0.613X_2(\pm 0.112) + 0.846X_3(\pm 0.147) + 0.189X_4(\pm 0.316) + 0.241X_5(\pm 0.34)$$

The above-established regression line predicts that the rate of extreme poverty in Mandera County, with all other factors held constant, will be 0.313. The data also demonstrates that an increase of one unit in household size results in a 0.602 rise in extreme poverty in Mandera County, assuming no other changes are made. Keeping all other factors the same, the regression line shows that a 0.613 percentage point rise in extreme poverty is associated with each additional unit of schooling in Mandera County. However, if we hold all other factors constant, a change of one unit in job status would result in a change of 0.846% in extreme poverty in Mandera County. Results from the same analysis show that a one-unit rise in political stability is associated with a 0.189-unit increase in extreme poverty in Mandera County.

Table 4.9 shows that there is a significant relationship between predictor variables and extreme poverty in Mandera County at the 95% confidence level, with all p-values for these variables falling below 0.05% (less than the alpha level of 0.05).

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The results of the research are summarized and a final verdict is reached in this chapter. Both suggestions for further study and applications are discussed in this chapter.

5.2 Summary of the findings

This research set out to learn what factors led to such extreme poverty in Kenya's Mandera County. Specifically, this research set out to establish the following: the impact of household size on extreme poverty in Mandera County, Kenya; the impact of education on extreme poverty in Mandera County, Kenya; the impact of employment status on extreme poverty in Mandera County, Kenya; and the impact of political stability on extreme poverty in Mandera County, Kenya.

According to the study findings, most of the respondents were in agreement, by a mean of 4.291 to 1 on the statement that some families in Mandera are large and thus causing high population which may reduce the employment opportunities thus may lead to poverty and this was the factor with the most influence. The next most important reason, with a mean value of 4.236, said that the rising birthrate in Mandera was likely responsible for the inability of many families to provide for their members' basic requirements. Most people see children as a source of labor, which led to an increase in family sizes, which may result in most families being unable to provide for their big families; lack of knowledge about family planning may cause increased family sizes, which may result in most parents being unable to cater to their children, which may result in poverty; and a high dependence ratio, which may result in poverty.

On the second variable, majority of the respondents felt that the most influential reason is that most girls are married off before they reach adulthood, which causes them to stop attending school and may lead to poverty. The next component, with a mean of 4.221, suggested that high school graduates may continue to live in poverty since they are less likely to continue their education after high school. The fact that most families in Mandera cannot afford to pay school

fees for their children and this may translate to poverty had a mean of 4.173, also on the fact that most people may not be educated and thus have no skills to be employed and this may remain unemployed and this may lead to poverty had a mean of 4.158, and the fact that there is increased child labor and this may have led to increased school drop outs thus may contribute to poverty.

Most of the respondents agreed on the third variable according to the factors that the most influential factor is that most people are unemployed and this may lead to poverty, with a mean value of 4.347. This is followed by those who agree that there are few companies and industries in Mandera that people can be employed by, with a mean value of 4.291. According to the results, the majority of respondents (mean = 4.284) believe that the harsh weather conditions in Mandera have contributed to a decrease in agricultural operations, which in turn may have contributed to a decrease in farm products and, ultimately, poverty. The study found that respondents were more likely to agree (mean = 4.259) that fewer people are working in well-paying jobs due to lower levels of education and thus are poor, and more likely to agree (mean = 4.14) that an increase in rural-urban migrants will have a greater risk of living in poverty.

The results of the research showed that the majority of participants were male. Most of the participants were above the age of 40 and married. According to the results, the vast majorities of respondents have at least a secondary education and are now gainfully employed. The results indicated that families with six to ten members were the most common.

Third, the research wanted to learn how economic factors in Mandera County contributed to the extreme poverty there. It was determined that the majority of respondents agreed that the lack of employment opportunities is a major contributor to poverty in Mandera, followed by the belief that there are not enough businesses and industries in the region to support the local population. According to the results, the majority of respondents in Mandera believe that the low output of farm food is a direct result of the terrible weather conditions. The majority of respondents agreed that a lack of education is a major contributor to people's inability to find well-paying employment, and they also agreed that the likelihood of poverty is higher for rural-urban migrants than for native-born city dwellers.

Most respondents agreed that most Mandera households are so poor that they cannot afford to send their children to school, and a close second was those who agreed that most Mandera families are so poor that they cannot afford the basics. The survey found that the vast majority of Mandera's population lives on less than a dollar a day, and that most respondents agreed that the city had a high dependence ratio. The survey also found that the vast majority of Mandera's population is impoverished.

5.3 Conclusion

The results of the research show that the severity of poverty in Mandera County is related to the number of people living there. Large families may have a harder time finding work, and having more children often results in financial hardship since families can't afford food and other necessities.

The results of the research show that the degree of poverty in Mandera County is related to the amount of education of its residents. When girls are married off at young ages, they often have to stop attending school as a result. Also, it's possible that more kids dropping out of school because they have to work has exacerbated poverty. They may be living in poverty because they cannot afford to send their children to school.

According to the results, having a job may make a difference in whether or not you end up poor in Mandera County. Due to a lack of economic agency, the unemployed often fall into desperate poverty. Poverty and joblessness have risen as a result of a decline in area industry and business. If farming is reduced because of bad weather, less food will be produced, which might increase poverty levels.

Mandera County's extreme poverty is related to the region's lack of governmental stability. Most people in Mandera have had their money eroded due to insecurity incidents, which has exacerbated poverty in the region. Poverty in Mandera has been exacerbated by political instability and terrorism.

5.4 The Recommendations for Practice

Since most people in Mandera view children as a source of labor, the study suggests that reducing the number of family members is necessary to alleviate extreme poverty in the region. Currently, the average family size in Mandera is higher than in any other region of the country. Since most people in Mandera area lack understanding about family planning, greater family size has resulted. Since most parents cannot provide adequately for their children, poverty is a real possibility in the area. This is as a result of the findings from a study done by Jenkins and Rigg (2001) who showed that factors such as household size and composition significantly impacted poverty rates, with those living in bigger and (usually) younger families being more likely to be economically disadvantaged.

The study found that early marriage was a problem in Mandera County and suggested that the county and national governments work together to find solutions. Most girls in the county were married off before they turned 18, which led them to drop out of school and into poverty. To ensure the majority of its citizens, if not all, attend school and gain the knowledge and skills necessary to improve the region and reduce extreme poverty, the county government of Mandera must devise strategies such as paying school fees to those who cannot afford to do so. Therefore, this can be linked to a study on Children from low-income families have a significant challenge to their academic progress due to the negative effects of food insecurity on their brain development. Vocabulary and linguistic proficiency tend to be lower among those of lower socioeconomic level by Researchers who have found that students from low-income backgrounds have higher difficulties in the classroom (Jensen, 2013; Pungello, Iruka, Dotterer, Mills-Koonce, & Reznick, 2009).

According to the findings, the Mandera county administration should collaborate with investors to establish factories and other businesses that may employ locals. In the event of inclement weather that reduces crop yields, the county might encourage the populace to adopt innovative farming technology and practices that will increase the quality and quantity of agricultural products for human consumption and commercial sale. The locals need to get more out of their massive farmland holdings. This can be linked to a study on the employment status of families in

Bophelong Township which was studied by Dunga and Sekatane (2014), who looked at the factors and connections that influence this variable.

The report concludes that the people of Mandera have suffered because of the country's lack of political stability and makes the case that national and county governments should work to remedy this situation. Terrorism has always been a problem in Mandera County due to its proximity to Somalia; as a result, securing the county's porous border will benefit its residents by making the area safer for commerce. Since political corruption is so pervasive, the organizations tasked with monitoring how tax dollars are spent in a specific county need to step up their game. Therefore, this can be linked to a study by Chogugudza (2008) who argues that the continent's political unrest, economic difficulties, and environmental deterioration all have their roots in Africa's many ethnic groups.

5.5 Recommendation for Further Research

The study's author suggests that comparable studies be conducted in all of Kenya's counties. This report proposes more research on factors including the impact of bad infrastructure, investor apprehension, a lack of regional commerce, and a decline in tourism on extreme poverty.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: CONSENT FORM

Title: [To assess the variable that influences abject poverty in Mandera County, Kenya]

Sponsor: [Mount Kenya University]

Principal Investigator: [Jamal Abdi]

Contact: [0720545005]

1. Introduction

This Consent Form describes the above-mentioned study. We need you to read this Consent Form (or have it read to you) so that we know you understand what is involved in participating in this study. You'll need to put your name on it, too. We'll provide you with a duplicate of this sheet. Some of the terms used in this authorization form may be foreign to you. If there is anything you don't understand, don't hesitate to ask.

2. Reason for the Research

We need your help with a study that aims to uncover the factors that contribute to extreme poverty in Mandera County, Kenya. The specific goals are as follows: to ascertain the impact of family composition on extreme poverty in Kenya's Mandera County; to ascertain the impact of education level on poverty in that region; to inquire into the role of employment in shaping poverty in Mandera County; and to ascertain the role of political stability in shaping poverty in that region.

3. General Information about Research

This research is collecting information using a questionnaire with closed ended questions.

4. Your Part in the Research

If you agree to be in the research, you will take part in answering questions provided in a questionnaire. Your part in the research will last 10 minutes. About 96 men/women will take part in this research.

5. Possible Risks

There will be no risks for any participant of this study

6. If You Decide Not to Be in the Research

You are free to decide if you want to be in this research.

7. Confidentiality

We will protect information about you and your taking part in this research to the best of our ability. You will not be named in any reports.

8. Staying in the Research

When applicable: If you decide to take part in this research, we ask you to use only the research questionnaire that we provide.

9. Leaving the Research

You may leave the research at any time. If you choose to take part, you can change your mind at any time and withdraw.

10. If You Have a Problem or Have Other Questions

Please call (Jamal Abdi-0720545005)

VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

The above document describing the benefits, risks and procedures for the research titled (To investigate the determinants influencing abject poverty in Mandera County, Kenya) has been read and explained to me. I have been given an opportunity to have any questions about the research answered to my satisfaction. I agree to participate as a volunteer.

Date

Signature or mark of volunteer

I certify that the nature and purpose, the potential benefits, and possible risks associated with participating in this research have been explained to the above individual.

Date

Signature of Person Who Obtained Consent

APPENDIX II: QUESTIONNAIRE

Instructions

Please tick in the space provided

SECTION 1: BASIC INFORMATION

1. Gender of respondents

Male

Female

2. What is your marital status?

Married

Single

Divorced

3. How old are you? (Years)

Less than 20:

21-30:

31-40:

Above 40:

4. What is your level of education?

Primary

Secondary

College

University

5. What is your employment status

Self employed

Employed

Unemployed

5. How many members in the household?

- a) less than 2
- b) 2 to 5 members
- c) 6 to 10 members
- d) Above 10 members

SECTION 2: DETERMINANTS OF POVERTY

SECTION A: HOUSEHOLD SIZE

The purpose of this section is to analyze the influence between household size and poverty. For each of the following, please indicate by checking the box whether you agree or disagree. 5=strongly agree, agree 4= Agree , 3 =Neutral, 2=Disagree, 1 =Strongly disagree

Statement	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
	1	2	3	4	5
Some of the families in Mandera are large and thus causing high population which may reduce the employment opportunities thus may lead to poverty					
There is an increase in number of births in Mandera and this may have led to most families not to be able to afford the basic needs					
There is high dependence ratio since most people in Mandera are young thus may lead to poverty					
Due to lack of knowledge about family planning there may be increased family size and thus most parents cannot be able to cater for their children and this may lead to poverty					
Most people see children as a source					

Statement	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
	1	2	3	4	5
of labor and this led to increase in family sizes which may result to most families to be unable to provide for their big families					

SECTION B: EDUCATION LEVEL

In this section, we will analyze the effects that a person's degree of education has on their level of poverty. To indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following assertions, please put a "x" in the box that most accurately expresses your stance. 5=strongly agree, agree 4= Agree, 3 =Neutral, 2= Disagree, 1 =Strongly disagree

Statement	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
	1	2	3	4	5
Most girls are married off when barely into their teens, forcing them to drop out of school and this may contribute to poverty					
Most families in Mandera do not afford to pay school fees for their children and this may translate to poverty					
Those who complete high school are less likely to attend college thus may remain poor					
There is increased child labor and this may have led to increased school drop outs thus may contribute to poverty					
Most people may not be educated thus have no skills to be employed and this may remain unemployed thus may lead to poverty					

SECTION C: EMPLOYMENT STATUS

The purpose of this section is to investigate the impact that a person's work position has on their level of poverty. To indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following assertions, please put a "x" in the box that most accurately expresses your stance. 5=strongly agree, agree 4= Agree , 3 =Neutral, 2=Disagree, 1 =Strongly disagree

Statement	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
	1	2	3	4	5
Most people are unemployed and this may lead to poverty					
less people are engaged in well paying jobs because they are less educated thus are poor					
Increase of rural-urban migrants who are likely to have a greater risk of being below the poverty line					
There are less agricultural activities in Mandera due to unfavorable weather conditions which may lead to poor production of farm produce thus leading to poverty					
There are few companies and industries in Mandera that people can be employed and this may lead to poverty.					

SECTION D: POLITICAL STABILITY

The purpose of this section is to investigate the relationship between political stability and levels of poverty. To indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following assertions, please put a "x" in the box that most accurately expresses your stance. 5=strongly agree, agree 4= Agree , 3 =Neutral, 2=Disagree , 1 =Strongly disagree

Statement	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
	1	2	3	4	5
There are political conflicts in Mandera which has led to economic					

Statement	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
	1	2	3	4	5
instability thus contributing to poverty					
There is increased tribal clashes in Mandera and thus most people may keep migrating thus not able to work to earn a living					
There may be increase in insecurity in Mandera thus most people may have lost their wealth thus contributing to poverty					
Terrorism may be rampant in Mandera thus most people may live in fear and thus cannot be effective in workplaces thus may contribute to poverty					
The county government of Mandera may be corrupt and thus the CDF funds may not have been used well and thus the poor may remain poor					

SECTION E: POVERTY

The issue of poverty will be discussed in this section. To indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following assertions, please put a "x" in the box that most accurately expresses your stance. 5=strongly agree, agree 4= Agree , 3 =Neutral, 2=Disagree , 1 =Strongly disagree

Statement	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
	1	2	3	4	5
There is high dependency ratio in Mandera					
Majority of the residents in Mandera receive less than dollar per day					
Majority of the residents in Mandera live below the poverty line					

Statement	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
	1	2	3	4	5
Majority of the families in Mandera cannot afford the basic needs					
Majority of the families in Mandera cannot afford to pay school fees for their children					



APPENDIX III: TIME FRAME

	Task/Activity Details	TASK DURATION				
		April 2023	May-June 2023	June-Aug 2023	Sep-Oct 2023	Nov 2023
1	Problem Identification					
2	Proposal Development					
4	Proposal Defense and Collection of Data					
5	Processing of the Data Collected					
6	Analyzing of collected Data					
7	Writing of the final Report					
8	Submitting the Final Report					

APPENDIX IV: BUDGET ESTIMATE

Element description	Per item costs (Ksh)	Cost Totals Ksh
1. Stationery	7 rims of fullscaps @ 700 each	4,900
	2 biro packets @ 250 each	500
	2 printer cartridges @ 4500 each	9,000
	3 notebooks @ 800 each	2,400
2. Proposal writing and research	Internet research	32,000
	Fare	50,500
	Data collection	75,000
3. The project	Analysis and Report writing	45,000
4. Miscellaneous		17,000
	Total	236, 300

APPENDIX V: ERC CERTIFICATE



REF: MKU/ISERC/3213
TO: JAMAL ABDI

Date: 30 September 2023

REG: MSCPM/2021/77279

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: FACTORS INFLUENCING ABJECT POVERTY IN MANDERA COUNTY, KENYA

This is to inform you that **Mount Kenya University** has reviewed and approved your above research proposal. Your application approval number is **2257**. The approval period is **30/09/2023 - 29/09/2024**.

This approval is subject to compliance with the following requirements;

- i. Only approved documents including informed consents, study instruments, MTA will be used
- ii. All changes including amendments, deviations and violations are submitted for review and approval by **Mount Kenya University**
- iii. Death and life-threatening problems and serious adverse events or unexpected adverse events whether related or unrelated to the study must be reported to **Mount Kenya University** within 72 hours of notification
- iv. Any changes, anticipated or otherwise that may increase the risks or affect the safety or welfare of study participants and others or affect the integrity of the research must be reported to **Mount Kenya University** within 72 hours
- v. Clearance for export of biological specimens must be obtained from relevant institutions
- vi. Submission of a request for renewal of approval at least 60 days prior to expiry of the approval period. Attach a comprehensive progress report to support the renewal
- vii. Submission of an executive summary report within 90 days upon completion of the study to **Mount Kenya University**

Prior to commencing your study, you will be expected to obtain a research license from National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) <https://research-portal.nacosti.go.ke> and also obtain other clearances needed.

Yours sincerely,

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

Dr. Alfred Owino, PhD
Chairman, Mount Kenya University ISERC

APPENDIX VI: INTRODUCTION LETTER



Mount Kenya University

DIRECTORATE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MSCPM/2021/77279

3rd October, 2023

*National Commission for Science Technology & Innovation (NACOSTI)
Off Waiyaki Way, Upper Kabete,
P.O Box 30623- 00100
NAIROBI, KENYA*

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: JAMAL ABDI - REGISTRATION NO. MSCPM/2021/77279

The purpose of this letter is to introduce the above named student who is pursuing **Master of Science in Project Planning and Management** in the department of **Management** in the school of **Business and Economics**

The title of the research is **"Factors Influencing Abject Poverty in Mandera County, Kenya."** It has been cleared by the University's Ethics Review Committee (Certificate attached) and now has to proceed to the field to collect data between **October, 2023 and December, 2023.**

Any assistance accorded to the student will be highly appreciated.






Thank you.



Dr. Samuel M. Karenga, Ph.D
Director, Graduate Studies
Enc.

Main Campus, General Kago Road, P.O. Box 342-01000 Thika.
Tel: 020-2878 000, Cell: +254 709 153 000
Email: info@mku.ac.ke, Web: www.mku.ac.ke
Chartered and ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified Institution.
Unlocking Infinite Possibilities

APPENDIX VII: RESEARCH PERMIT

 REPUBLIC OF KENYA	 NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
Ref No: 635043	Date of Issue: 25/October/2023
RESEARCH LICENSE	
	
<p>This is to Certify that Mr.. JAMAL Abdi samow of Mount Kenya University, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Mandera on the topic: FACTORS INFLUENCING ABJECT POVERTY IN MANDERA COUNTY, KENYA for the period ending : 25/October/2024.</p>	
License No: NACOSTI/P/23/30534	
635043 Applicant Identification Number	 Director General NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
	Verification QR Code 
<p>NOTE: This is a computer generated License. To verify the authenticity of this document, Scan the QR Code using QR scanner application.</p>	
See overleaf for conditions	

THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ACT, 2013 (Rev. 2014)
Legal Notice No. 108: The Science, Technology and Innovation (Research Licensing) Regulations, 2014

The National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation, hereafter referred to as the Commission, was established under the Science, Technology and Innovation Act 2013 (Revised 2014) herein after referred to as the Act. The objective of the Commission shall be to regulate and assure quality in the science, technology and innovation sector and advise the Government in matters related thereto.

CONDITIONS OF THE RESEARCH LICENSE

1. The License is granted subject to provisions of the Constitution of Kenya, the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, and other relevant laws, policies and regulations. Accordingly, the licensee shall adhere to such procedures, standards, code of ethics and guidelines as may be prescribed by regulations made under the Act, or prescribed by provisions of International treaties of which Kenya is a signatory to
2. The research and its related activities as well as outcomes shall be beneficial to the country and shall not in any way;
 - i. Endanger national security
 - ii. Adversely affect the lives of Kenyans
 - iii. Be in contravention of Kenya's international obligations including Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN).
 - iv. Result in exploitation of intellectual property rights of communities in Kenya
 - v. Adversely affect the environment
 - vi. Adversely affect the rights of communities
 - vii. Endanger public safety and national cohesion
 - viii. Plagiarize someone else's work
3. The License is valid for the proposed research, location and specified period.
4. The license any rights thereunder are non-transferable
5. The Commission reserves the right to cancel the research at any time during the research period if in the opinion of the Commission the research is not implemented in conformity with the provisions of the Act or any other written law.
6. The Licensee shall inform the relevant County Director of Education, County Commissioner and County Governor before commencement of the research.
7. Excavation, filming, movement, and collection of specimens are subject to further necessary clearance from relevant Government Agencies.
8. The License does not give authority to transfer research materials.
9. The Commission may monitor and evaluate the licensed research project for the purpose of assessing and evaluating compliance with the conditions of the License.
10. The Licensee shall submit one hard copy, and upload a soft copy of their final report (thesis) onto a platform designated by the Commission within one year of completion of the research.
11. The Commission reserves the right to modify the conditions of the License including cancellation without prior notice.
12. Research, findings and information regarding research systems shall be stored or disseminated, utilized or applied in such a manner as may be prescribed by the Commission from time to time.
13. The Licensee shall disclose to the Commission, the relevant Institutional Scientific and Ethical Review Committee, and the relevant national agencies any inventions and discoveries that are of National strategic importance.
14. The Commission shall have powers to acquire from any person the right in, or to, any scientific innovation, invention or patent of strategic importance to the country.
15. Relevant Institutional Scientific and Ethical Review Committee shall monitor and evaluate the research periodically, and make a report of its findings to the Commission for necessary action.

National Commission for Science, Technology and
Innovation(NACOSTI),
Off Waiyaki Way, Upper Kabete,
P. O. Box 30623 - 00100 Nairobi, KENYA
Telephone: 020 4007000, 0713788787, 0735404245
E-mail: dg@nacosti.go.ke
Website: www.nacosti.go.ke

APPENDIX VIII: TURNITIN REPORT

jamal

ORIGINALITY REPORT

15%	14%	5%	7%
SIMILARITY INDEX	INTERNET SOURCES	PUBLICATIONS	STUDENT PAPERS

PRIMARY SOURCES

1	ir-library.ku.ac.ke Internet Source	2%
2	www.researchgate.net Internet Source	1%
3	Submitted to Kenyatta University Student Paper	1%
4	erepository.uonbi.ac.ke Internet Source	1%
5	Submitted to Mount Kenya University Student Paper	1%
6	ugspace.ug.edu.gh Internet Source	1%
7	Submitted to Mesa State College Student Paper	<1%
8	Submitted to University of Leicester Student Paper	<1%
9	Submitted to University of Bradford Student Paper	<1%
