

CAUSES OF SOCIAL-POLITICAL TRAGEDIES; A CASE OF 2007-2008 POST-ELECTION
VIOLENCE VICTIMS IN KIAMBAA VILLAGE, ELDORET SUB-COUNTY-UASIN GISHU
COUNTY-KENYA

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ABSTRACT.

The main objectives of carrying out this special study were to establish the factors behind the rise of violence in Kiambaa village in the aftermath of the 2007-2008 presidential elections, results of the violence and how they affected the victims and also assess the current situation in the IDP camps i.e. the challenges facing PEV victims and more so, establish if these victims have received any help from either the government or any NGO.

During the process of carrying out the research, the researcher identified very important factors that were used in the study i.e. the organization of IDPs in the camps where they have eventually shared responsibilities in the areas and apparently most of them did not appear to be dwelling so much on the events that resulted to their eviction from homes into the IDP camps. This was very important in the study as it enabled the individuals to feel free to give any information during interviews and therefore the target population reduced the researchers much work.

The fact that IDP camps had chairpersons appointed among those PEV victims and acted as their representatives was significantly as important, this was because the researcher could be able to obtain firsthand information from them concerning the situations in the IDP camps i.e. the exact number of IDPs, the challenges they were facing in the areas and any motivating factors for the victims.

With the aid of these and many other factors, findings of the study revealed that violence that was witnessed in 2008 was not just instigated by the 2007 disputed election results but many other factors like poverty, negative ethnicity, unequal distribution of resources in the country, ignorance, unstable politics, corruption and impunity, political differences among people in society and not just ideological differences about certain aspects.

It was established that issues like long standing disputes over land rights in the Rift Valley, recurrent violence, and persistent impunity in the country not forgetting the pre-existing violations of economic and social rights. The study further found that, formation and the existence of vigilante groups were the major contributing factors that led to the violence.

Consequently, the study recommends that in order to deal with future socio-political tragedies, the government should deal with the issues at hand like the land problems in the Rift Valley and then educate the society on the importance eradicating negative ethnicity and maintaining National unity. The study further recommends that, the government should deploy enough security forces across the country and develop more efficient modern means of dealing with the violation of social, political and economic rights of people in times of need.