

**AN INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE THE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POLICE PRACTICES AND
CRIME IN RURAL AREAS. A CASE OF TESO SOUTH
CONSTITUENCY.**

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ABSTRACT

Crime and police might not be the same from one country or community to another. A study on crime & police practices in rural areas is important in giving an insight to police behavior in different communities. Most people do not give attention to crime and police practices in rural areas partly because of the involvement of fewer victims and incapability of media to reach these rural areas to report the various crimes. A good experience are areas affected by cattle rustling like Pokot bordering neighbors where these fellows walk or carry guns throughout like walking sticks while the police officers are on the ground; this practice by the officers has encouraged the cattle rustling rate to be high in those areas. The crimes that were earlier deemed to be urban are becoming common in rural areas. It's true that rural and urban societies differ in matters regarding police practices and crime, therefore it's important to understand the difference and similarities between rural and urban police practices, most of these similarities are caused by urban-rural migration. The research study was carried in the rural part of Teso South Constituency in Busia County. The targeted population was members of rural part of Teso South Constituency above 18 years of age, police officers, the administrators, community policing members, clan elders, who were required to answer closed or open ended questionnaire, or be interviewed relating to the specific objectives which were to investigate and determine the relationship between rural crimes and rural police practices, to find out how community policing assist the community, to find out the police practices in rural areas and how they are related to rural crimes in Teso South Constituency. Data was compiled and analyzed using computer software package for social sciences. Descriptive statistics such as frequency, charts, graphs, percentages and were used to present the data. The study findings were discussed, interpreted to determine the relationship between rural crime and rural police practices in Teso South Constituency. The study established that poor police practices which included accepting bribes, laxity and misuse of the available resources for combating crime as a closely related factor that contributed to higher levels of crime in the rural areas. It was recommended that the police allow a cultural change of attitude and embrace ethical behavior and commitment to work. NGOs and the government would also essentially help alleviate the situation by improving working conditions for the police including improved wages and conducting fact based research to address any underlying social problems.