

**FACTORS LEADING TO INCREASED POVERTY LEVELS IN KAJIADO
DISTRICT KENYA: CASE STUDY OF ILBISIL DIVISION.**

BY

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**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
FOR PARTIAL FULFILLMENT FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELORS
DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION
OF KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

AUGUST, 2008

DECLARATION


I, LESIAMON SIMON, do hereby declare that this dissertation is my original work and has never been submitted to any university or college for any award. Where the works of others have been cited, acknowledgement has been made.


Signature.....

Date.....

APPROVAL

I, certify that the dissertation entitled ‘factors leading to increased poverty levels in Kajiado District in Kenya’ (case study of Ilbisil division) submitted by the candidate was done under my supervision. His work is ready for submission for the award of Bachelors degree in Social work and social administration of Kampala International University.

Supervisor.....

Date

DEDICATION

I dedicate this project to my parents; Mr. and Mrs. Joshua P Mutunkei who have been my fountain of strength and pillars of my firm virtues and all my friends who gave me a helping hand in writing this dissertation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to acknowledge the participation, assistance and support I received wholly or partially from time to time from different people during the time I was writing this project.

To begin with, I would like to thank my project supervisor, Mrs. Sidonia Angom for her tireless, unreserved guidance and intellectual support she granted me during the time of writing this dissertation.

My sincere gratitude goes to the people of Ilbisil division, NGOs practitioners and government employees in the department of social services in kajiado district from where I collected data.

I would also like to send my heartfelt congratulations to my family and friends for their emotional back up that saw the successful completion of this project.

Thank you,

God bless you all.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

NGOs	-	Non-governmental organizations
HIV	-	Human immunodeficiency virus
AIDS	-	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
FGDs	-	Focus group discussions
GOV'T	-	Government
ARVs	-	Anti-retro viral drugs

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to examine the causes of increased poverty levels in Kajiado district in Kenya. The study was carried out upon the background that about 60% of the households of Kajiado district are living below the poverty line and this was according to the analysis of the NGOs operating in Kajiado district. The findings of the study revealed that; the households of Kajiado district are in poverty because they are ignorant of change due to their cultural rigidity, unfavorable climatic conditions, lack of education among most these households which limits their employment capacity and also due to the presence of HIV/AIDS epidemic which creates a dependency syndrome among these households

The research design of the study was based on sample survey and cross sectional study design where primary and secondary data described and analyzed to give the magnitude of the study. Data was collected using primary data designs where qualitative data was sought using interviews, observation and focus group discussion methods and quantitative data sought through questionnaires. Secondary data was gathered through documentary review from different libraries. A sample size of eighty respondents was used where by ten NGOs representatives and ten government representatives from the ministry of special planning and disaster preparedness were involved and also ten household representatives per every location participated in the study.

Community should be sensitized and empowered to abandon negative practices in their culture such as polygamous marriage, discrimination against women and cultural rigidity, which has dragged them back in issues to do with development.

The community should also be informed about the importance of trimming their large herds of indigenous breed of cattle and replace them with manageable number of cattle given the conditions of the area. This community should also be helped to engage in other means of income generating activities that can withstand the dry conditions of the area such as drought resistant crops and any other economic activities apart from solely depending on livestock keeping.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

This chapter bears the background of the study, the historical background of the problem, statement of the problem, significance of the study, scope of the study, research hypothesis and the limitations of the study.

1.1 Background of the study

Kajiado district is geographically located in rift valley province in Kenya. It is one of the driest areas in Kenya bordered by Machakos district to the east by Taita to the south, Tanzania to the west and Narok district to the north.

Kajiado district is densely populated mainly inhabited by the Maasai community who are well known for their rich culture and pastoralists in their way of life.

The main source of income for the Maasai community is livestock keeping but due to the dry condition of the area it has limited the ability of this source to be effective in catering for the needs of households of Kajiado district. Other source of income for this community is selling their culturally made attires like the ornaments and shukas.

Poverty is the situation where by most of the households fails to meet their daily basic needs on their own without an external hand. The problem is brought by variety of complex causes which are both natural and man made such as cultural rigidity, unfavorable climatic conditions, illiteracy, unemployment, and lack of resources / knowledge on how to exploit the available resources and others like the influence of HIV/AIDS. Poverty phenomena have become an issue in the world today especially in the developing countries where there is a lot unemployment due to high population growth and other factors which make most of the African countries dependent to humanitarian agencies and other organizations to feed their large populations.

However, in Kenya particularly this problem highly affects people living in rural areas who are characterized by unemployment, lack representation in the government and who in most cases inhabit areas which are unfavorable for agricultural activities and other economic

activities. In Kajiado District the rate of poverty is very high and this is evident in that, according to the information available in the district office of special planning and disaster preparedness, nearly sixty percent (60%) of the entire population of Kajiado district are living in absolute poverty and they are totally dependent to humanitarian agencies for their survival. This area hardly receives rainfall making it difficult for the inhabitants who are pastoralist and solely depend on these animals for their source of living withstand such unfavorable dry conditions hence hiking their cost of living.

Many of the households of Kajiado district are affected by this problem since most of them are illiterate and therefore lack relevant skills to be employed in the job market and are also ignorant of change thus remain fatalists in their despair situation, this society also value their culture which discriminates women and sidelines them as objects which should neither be heard nor participate in any role regarding family issues. In addition poverty in this area is particularly perpetuated by lack of rainfall that makes farming unsuccessful.

The major solution anticipated by this research study to the above problem in Kajiado District is to sensitize the community on the importance of education as a source of development, the need to adopt other economic activities as an alternative way of coping with unfavorable conditions of the area and encourage them to participate in development issues that affect their lives directly or indirectly.

1.2 Statement of the problem

According to NGOs data collected and published in the district poverty eradication plan report in 2006 the rate of poverty in Kajiado district has been rising with a recommendable rate in the past five years and percentage rising from sixty percent (60% to 68%) a situation that is threatening to increase further if un attended to.

Based on the above facts, the rate of poverty seemed to be very high and this is attributed to a number of factors such as social, economic and environmental minor and major together contributing to poor conditions for the households of this particular area thus making them to be vulnerable to subsequent pathetic and undesirable conditions of living.

Each household is expected to meet the needs of its members and ensure that they sustain a living but it has failed due to limited capacity and resources. The government also has an

obligation to ensure provision of resources and services, which are basic for life but are not adequately met. However the government has been ineffective in providing such needs therefore leaving most of its citizens languishing in absolute poverty.

1.3 General objectives

The study aimed at examining the major causes of poverty among the households of Kajiado district.

1.3.1 Specific objectives

The study findings focused on;

- i) Examining the impacts of culture in perpetuating poverty
- ii) Examining the impacts of education levels in influencing poverty levels,
- iii) Examining the impacts of climatic conditions in determining poverty levels
- iv) Examining the impacts of HIV/AIDS in influencing poverty levels among the people of Kajiado district.

1.4 Hypotheses of the study

The study was based on the following assumptions that were proved right in the field of the study; Ignorance and cultural rigidity among the people of Kajiado district contributes a lot to the state of poverty, lack of education, sensitization and empowerment about social and economic issues among people of Kajiado district is another great obstacle to self support, influence of HIV/AIDS is also heavily felt and has created dependency syndrome among people of Kajiado who are affected, also unfavorable climatic conditions for example, lack of rainfall, dry conditions of the area has made it difficult for the people of Kajiado to succeed in maintaining cattle keeping which is their source of living and has also made it hard for them to adjust to other agricultural activities to earn themselves a living.

1.5 Significance of the study

The proposed study will be useful in providing relevant information on the causes of poverty among the households of Kajiado district and also help in devising relevant solutions to this problem.

The proposed study will be useful to the societies as they read it and know what causes poverty and how to control the situation in Kajiado District and Kenya as a whole.

The proposed study will also be beneficial to the Government through its policy maker in proposing and formulating policies aimed at eradicating poverty.

The proposed study will benefit the ministry of special planning and disaster preparedness in budgeting and this is helpful in allocating enough resources in poverty eradication programs.

The proposed study will benefit donors and other humanitarian agencies who want to give a helping hand in the fight against poverty in Kajiado district.

The proposed study will also benefit theoreticians, as they will use the findings of the problem to formulate/construct theories that may help to control and reduces or eliminate the problem of poverty in Kajiado district and in Kenya as whole.

The proposed study will also benefit the researchers to develop concrete knowledge on poverty and consequently use it to develop more advanced studies about the causes of poverty in the society.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the related literature to this study where different citations and ideas about this topic are analyzed. This data is derived from acknowledged books of different authors, editors and publishers.

The literature review focused on the following themes as indicated in the study which included:

An overview of the cultural, economic, social and environmental factors causing an increase in poverty among different societies, the impact of poverty in these societies, interventions/solutions to this problem and government or non governmental agencies' policy towards the problem of poverty in the society.

2.1 An overview of World poverty and its causes

Poverty is not necessarily caused by rapid population growth although fertility rates and poverty are related. Many of the world's most population countries, India and China, for instance, have large segments of their population that are poor.

Poverty is also caused by changes in the world economic system. Increases in poverty and starvation in African and Latin American can be attributed to the changes in world markets that favored Asia economically but put Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America at a disadvantage. As the price of products declined with more industrialization in places like China, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia and Thailand, commodity producing nations in Africa and Latin America suffered. Many governments collapsed or found themselves in such great debt that they were unable to help their own people, creating massive amounts of poverty and starvation.

In many countries with high proportions of poverty, the economies have collapsed and the governments have borrowed heavily to remain operational. As a condition of these international loans, lenders, including the World Bank and the international Monetary Fund,

have demanded harsh economic restructuring to increase capital markets and industrial efficiency. These economic reforms may make good sense for some and may lead these countries out of economic ruin overtime, but in the short run, these imposed reforms have placed the poor in a precarious position because the reforms also called for drastically reduced government spending.

Because of their lack of political power, the poor often absorb the costs of social change. Under the policy of deinstitutionalization, released mental patients have been “dumped” primarily into low-income communities and neighborhoods. Similarly, half way houses for rehabilitated drug abusers are often rejected by more affluent communities and are placed in poorer neighborhoods.

2.2. Poverty and illiteracy

There is a strong condition between poverty and illiteracy throughout the world. The poor nations of the Saleh, such as Mali, Chad, Niger, Ethiopia and the Sudan suffer from some of the highest rates of illiteracy in the world. High rates of illiteracy are also evident in much of South Asia, especially on the Indian Sub continent.

Sociological theories of modernization stress the need for populations to be come literate so that their members will better informed voters more highly skilled workers, more careful parents, and generally better able to realize their potential. Reduction in the level of ignorance yields improvements in every aspect of a nation’s social and civil life.

Researchers indicate clearly that there is a correlation between poverty and illiteracy in India and other poor countries especially African countries where education level is low. In India particularly researchers argue that as the level of illiteracy decreases, there is an increase in the amount of money a household spend each month increases (about 90% illiterate in the high population). The argument also extends the men are far more likely than women to become literate in India as a reflection of the immense gap in prestige between the sexes in the society men are considered far more worthy of education than women.

Research on the effects of literacy on vital measures of social change such as reduced fertility clearly show the importance of educating women. Data from research conducted in Thailand and other South East Asian nations suggest that until women access to at least minimal educational opportunities, fertility rates in those nations will remain high. This research

confirms the hypothesis that “demographic change is unlikely if the movement towards mass schooling is confirmed largely to males” (London, 1992, p.306).

The absence of classes helps account for the relative invisibility of the poor, for the poor tend to be conscious of their situation only as individuals. They do not identify as members of a group that shares similar characteristics. Consequently, they do not act as a group politically, thereby making their individuals in society fail to recognize the existence of any distinct group of poverty – stricken individuals. Part of this is due to the lack of action on the part of the poor, and part is a result of the fact that others do not identify as members of some group with similar economic interests. (Bernard S. Phillips, 1990).

2.3 Poverty and gender issues

In the world over culture perpetuates poverty syndrome in many societies where men dominance and gender inequalities are at stake. There is no country in the world in which women are treated as well as men. As with poverty in the US, women bear a larger share of the burden of world poverty, some theories call this double deprivation- woman in poor countries suffer of their gender and they disproportionately carry the burden of poverty. In the poorest areas of the world, the poverty falls particularly hard on women. For instance in situations of extreme poverty, women have the burden much of the manual labor because in many cases the men have left to find work or food. According to the United Nations Commission on the status of women, 1996) estimates that women constitutes almost 60% of the world's population, perform two thirds of all working hours, receive only one tenth of the world's income, and own less than 1% of the world's (UN Commission on the status of women, 1996).

In many societies poverty has become a vicious cycle. For example, in poor countries, families feel they must have more children as a way of feeling wealthy but having more children has perpetuated their poverty (International Labor organization, 2002). In societies where women voices do not count for much tend to have high fertility rates along with social and economic hardships for women thus high rates of poverty levels due to lack of capacity to meet their needs (Sen, 2000)

2.4 Culture of poverty perspective

This perspective suggests that the poor are socialized in childhood by their parents and peers to accept a distinctive way of looking at the world. In particular, they do not learn deferred gratification, the ability to forgo immediate pleasure in order to save money, study, and work towards long-range goals (Lewis, 1966, Benfield, 1974).

Middle-class people, the argument goes, learn to save money study, and work hard in order to attain future success. None of these activities is much fun, but in the end they pay off on the other hand; the culture of poverty is radically present oriented. Thus short-run hedonism locks the poor into poverty.

In cultural patterns poor societies are typically very traditional. Kinship groups pass folkways and more from generation to generation. Adhering to long established ways of life, people resist innovation even if it promises a richer material life.

Poor Societies are vulnerable to a host of related problems; hunger, illiteracy, warfare and slavery. Anti-slavery International (ASI) is an organization that helped bring an end to slavery in the British Empire in 1833; the US banned in 1864. According to ASI as many as 400 million men, women and children (almost 7 percent of humanity) currently live in conditions that amount to poverty (Janus, 1996).

2.5 Changes in the market as a cause of poverty.

Karl Max (1818 – 1883), provides a complex and profound analysis of the class system under capitalism. Marx argues that under capitalism there is two classes in the society that is the haves and don't have. The haves (dominants) who are the owners of factors of production tends to exploit the don't haves (dominated). This state has oppressed the low class thus making them poor and poorer.

Economic change has hit particular parts of the country at different times leading to regional unemployment and poverty. Unemployment hit the North, Scotland, Wales, the Midlands and Northern Ireland in the early 1980s, but the South East experienced particularly problems at the end of that decade and at the start of the 1990s (Hartley Dean, 1990).

According to the conflict perspective on inequality different groups struggle over societal resources and for social advantage, conflict theorists argue that those who control society's resources also hold power over others. The powerful are also likely to act to produce their

privileges appear to be legitimate and fair. These theorists emphasize on the friction in the society as the major cause of poverty.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the research design, area and the population of the study, sample selection and size, data collection methods, data analysis, research procedure and testing for the reliability and validity of data collection methods.

The research used cross sectional study that dealt with only part of the population which examined factors causing increased poverty levels in Kajiado district, a case study of ilbisil division.

3.1 Research design

The methodology described under research design used cross sectional study based on qualitative together with qualitative which gathered information from the selected households and humanitarian agencies in Kajiado district. In addition, the research study used qualitative as it was interested with the depth detailed information and the experiences of the respondents.

Interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs) were the major sources of qualitative data. The questionnaires formed the basis for gathering quantitative data that was presented in a descriptive and statistical manner using percentages, ratio and mean in tables, charts and graphs. The population sample was derived using purposive and random sampling given the similar characteristics of the population.

Data collection procedure sought permission from purposive respondents first after observing and evaluating their potential to give reliable and valid data, then trained them and after assigned them tasks relevant to derive data for this study.

Data analysis involved the generation of percentages, mean and ratios and their description. The results were integrated into table, charts and graphs for analytical description.

3.2 Area/population of the study

The area of study was Kajiado district in Kenya geographically located in rift valley province. Kajiado district is one of the driest areas in Kenya bordered by Machakos district to the east by Taita to the south, Tanzania to the west and Narok district to the north.

This study was conducted among the people of Ilbisil division of Kajiado district. Ilbisil division was purposely chosen because of the high levels of poverty among its households who are living in absolute poverty. The respondents were households of Ilbisil division, government employees in the department of social services in Kajiado district and humanitarian agencies practitioners in that particular area.

3.3 Sample selection and size

A sample is a small proportion of a target population selected for comprehensive analysis to represent the whole population. The study involved purposive and random sampling. The first stage involved the purposive selection of ten key informants from several NGOs in Kajiado district and ten government employees in the department of social services in the district since they are considered to have vital information on the causes of poverty in that area. The second stage involved a random selection of forty local inhabitants from different locations (ten household's representatives per location) in the division area of study and that is Namanga, Meto, Ilpartimaro and Torosei. This made a total of eighty (80) respondents who constituted the sample size.

3.4 Methods of data collection

The study used two methods to collect data. First data was collected using qualitative research designs based on interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs). Secondly data was collected using quantitative research design based on administered questionnaires to the respondents. And thirdly data was sought through documentary review from different libraries reviewing literature related to the study.

3.4.1 Interviews

In this part structured and in-depth/unstructured interviews were held with the target population. Interviews were held with twenty (20) respondents (NGOs practitioners and government employees) from different organizations within Kajiado district and government

employees from the department of social services because this number was presumed manageable given the limited time and resources. The interviews were guided by an interview schedule/guide that consisted of open-ended questions to make the study fast. These interview guides were developed to guide the interview in order to facilitate data collection and the results will help to improve quality of the final results for the purposive technique. The interviews sought data on; cultural influence, illiteracy, poor climatic conditions, unemployment, and other factors causing poverty among the households of Kajiado district, the influence of HIV/AIDS in creating high dependency rate thus resulting to poverty, how poor governance/leadership perpetuates the state of poverty among the people of Kajiado district.

3.4.2 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) methods

In this session four (4) groups with ten (10) respondents of both key informants and local inhabitants from different locations in the division area of study in Kajiado district participated in the research. The research study used focus group discussion guide to collect data for focus group discussion from the knowledgeable respondents. This guided and controlled the interview in order to facilitate data collection. Moreover a tape recorder was used for further clarification after the discussion. FGDs performed the following functions; they examined the data derived from other data collection methods, devised the appropriate data presentation techniques, assessed the relevant data included in the final study findings and advised the researcher on the proper ways of conclusion, recommendation of study findings and the general report writing procedure.

3.4.3 Questionnaire method

Here a set of well purposively selected questions examined topics related to the study were used. Both open ended and close-ended questions were set and distributed to thirty-five respondents. These were presumed manageable due to limited resources and time. Questionnaires were employed because of the following reason; the different views held by different respondents were known and integrated into the study. These gave what really happened in the field of study.

3.4.4 Documentary review

In this, the researcher made a research from different libraries reviews literature related to the study basing on the objectives of the study. This data was of the following importance;

readers of this study who would have become suspicious of the data findings were always referred to the literature review especially in chapter two. This was the basis for further studies in the same field by acting as a reference book.

3.5 Data analysis

The quantitative data generated through the questionnaires was analyzed and transcribed during and after data collection manually to generate mean, ratios and percentage according to the theme and code categories. This would be used to establish the magnitude of the study problem. Further, the quantitative and qualitative data was presented in a descriptive form that involved diagrams like charts, graphs and tables. Qualitative data generated through the description of emerging issues are analyzed carefully to make respondent's opinion and views represented during report writing. The researcher did this by reviewing the notes written during the discussion. The data from questionnaires were first inspected and edited in order to discover items misunderstood, detect gaps and discard off data that never generated enough information. The responses from the questionnaires were also coded; the total, mean, ratios and percentages were also generated.

3.6 Limitations of the study

The study faced the following challenges;

The Maasai people who are the occupants of the district of study were hostile to the researcher and this undermined cooperation with the researcher and therefore failing to get the right information about poverty within their households.

Obtaining the real scenario of the study requirements from households was a bit difficult. Getting the real/true data from different respondents became difficult to the researcher as some of them gave false information and this distorted the process.

There was also a limitation of resources to facilitate the study, due to the size of the population covered and the size of the district and there was also scarcity of time in carrying out the research.

Poor infrastructure was another great challenge faced by the researcher and this was because of the physical conditions of the area that is mountainous characterized by poor roads.

Poor communication was experienced by the researcher due to lack important social amenities like electricity in most parts of the district and this therefore hindered the process of quick and fast communication between the researcher and other people he was working together.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION, AND DISCUSSION OF THE STUDY FINDINGS.

Introduction.

This chapter bears the different views given by the different respondents who participated in the study. These are related to the literature reviewed. The study aimed at examining the causes of increased poverty levels in Kajiado district with a case study of Ilbisil division.

The respondents of the study were NGOs practitioners in Kajiado district, government employees from the ministry of special planning and disaster preparedness and also selected households of Ilbisil division.

The study findings were based on the study objectives which involved examining the causes of increased poverty levels in Kajiado district, the impacts of culture in perpetuating poverty, the influence of education levels in causing poverty, the impacts of unfavorable climatic conditions on poverty levels, and the impacts of HIV/AIDS in influencing the state of poverty in Kajiado. This was upon the background that there was rampant poverty in most of the households of Kajiado district.

Presentation in this chapter is given in tables showing frequencies and percentages of different variables in the study. The first table represents the type/category of the respondents in the study and other four represents the social economic background of the respondents that is the age, marital status, religious affiliation and employment status.

TABLE 1: Showing Categories of Respondents

CATEGORY	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
NGOs PRACTITIONERS	20	25
GOV'T EMPLOYEES	20	25
HOUSEHOLD REPRESENTATIVES	40	50
TOTAL	80	100

Source: primary data

Table 4.1 indicates the different categories of respondents who participated in the study whereby the biggest percentage is the households' representatives from the four locations within Ilbisil divisions that are Namanga, Ilpartimaro, Meto and Torosei who constituted 50% (40/80) of the sample size used.

The other proportion of the respondents constitutes the NGOs practitioners who were 25% (20/80) and GOV'T employees who had the same percentage of 25% (20/80). These two categories were purposely chosen since they are considered to be having vital information on the poverty levels in Kajiado district and this is because they are involved in issues relating to poverty in the same district.

TABLE 2: Showing the Respondents Ages

AGE CATEGORY	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
10 - 15	6	7.5
15 - 20	5	6.25
20 - 25	8	10
25 - 30	5	6.25
30 - 35	12	15
35 - 40	15	18.75
40 - 45	8	10
45 - 50	10	12.5
50 - 55	6	7.5
55 - 60	5	6.25
TOTAL	80	100

Source: primary data

Table 2 above shows the ages of the respondents who participated in the study and this indicates that the majority of the respondents ranged between the ages of thirty to fifty (30-50) and these are the working and the majority of the key informants who were the NGOs practitioners and Gov't employees

Other respondents indicated ranged from the age of twenty to thirty (20-30) who are the young people in the area of study and the other percentage included old people of age (50-60) who constituted the smallest percentage (13%) of the respondent's population.

TABLE 3 Showing Religious Affiliations among the Respondents

RELIGION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
PROTESTANTS	40	50
CATHOLICS	15	18.75
MUSLIMS	10	12.5
OTHER RELIGIONS	15	18.75
TOTAL	80	100

Source: primary data

According to the table above the biggest percentage of the respondents were Protestants who constituted 50% (40/80) of the respondent's population who participated in the study, the Catholics constituted 18.75% (15/80), Muslims in the respondent's population were 12.5% (10/80) and others religions represented constituted 18.75% (15/80) of the sample size.

TABLE 4: Showing Marital Status of the Respondents

MARITAL STATUS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
UNMARRIED	30	37.5
MARRIED	30	37.5
DIVORCED	5	6.25
WIDOW/WIDOWER	15	18.75
TOTAL	80	100

Source: primary data

Table 4, above indicates the number of married people among the respondents which is 30/80 equivalent to 37.5% of the sample size, unmarried people were 30/80 which constituted 37.5%, the divorced respondents constituted 5/80 equivalent to 6.25% and the number of widows/widowers in the sample size was 15/80 which is 18.75% of the respondents who participated in the study.

After the research completion it was established that the community in the area of study (Masaai) is firmly rooted in their culture and is ignorant of change thus fails to adjust to changes that cause development. This view supports (Benfield 1996) noted that in cultural patterns poor societies are typically very traditional. Kinship groups pass folkways and more

from generation to generation. Adhering to Long established ways of life, people resist innovation even if it promises a richer material life.

The researcher found out that some cultural practices and believes tends to influence poverty by prohibiting some of the developmental programs that can improve the economic standards of the people,

This community believes solely in cattle keeping as the only source of living and that they are rigid of change to other income generating activities like growing of crops for survival.

The researcher further found out that the Maasai culture tends to create gender discrimination and that is another great cause responsible for poverty among the people of kajiado district. This is evident in the fact that men dominance is rampant in this community whereby women are not involved in any developmental issue regarding their families.

Culturally men are encouraged to marry more than one wife that is polygamous kind of marriage and this necessitates big sized families which out weighs the scarce resources thus causing them to live in poor living conditions which is cross generation or inherited kind of poverty. This concurs with (Sen, 2000) noted that in societies where women voices do not count for much tend to have high fertility rates along with social and economic hardships for women thus high rates of poverty levels due to lack of capacity to meet their needs.

TABLE 5 Showing the respondent's views on the impacts of Culture in increasing Poverty levels in Kajiado District.

Causes	NGOs practitioners	Government employees	H/holds representative s	Percentage (%)	Mean	Ratio	Total
polygamy	5	6	14	31.25%	3.2	5:16	25
Gender	7	5	15	33.75%	2.96	27:80	27
Rigidity/Ignorance	8	9	11	35%	2.86	7:20	28
Total	20	20	40	100			80

Source: primary data

Basing on the above findings regarding the impacts of cultural issues on poverty levels in Kajiado district the respondents gave their views as follows;

Those who supported polygamous marriage as a cause of poverty among the households of Kajiado district were twenty five people among them were five NGOs practitioners, six government employees and fourteen household representatives.

A total number of twenty seven respondents gave their opinions regarding gender inequality in facilitating poverty, seven of them being the NGOs representatives, five of them being government employees and fifteen of them constituting the number of household representatives.

Cultural rigidity was also cited as another form in which culture deprives the community a chance to accept and embrace dynamic changes which brings development. A total number of twenty-eight respondents supported the view whereby eight of them were NGOs practitioners, nine of them being government employees and eleven of them were household representatives.

In the field all respondents reported that high level of illiteracy is largely responsible for the increased level of poverty in Kajiado district. This is evident in the statistics showing that the majority of the households have a basic education which can only enable to read and write. This education cannot help them fight the challenges of poverty since they have not attained the level of science and technology, which encompasses modern ways of animal husbandry and other global developmental changes that can help to reduce poverty levels.

The research findings indicated that a total number of thirty four respondents mentioned high illiteracy levels among the households of Kajiado district, eighteen respondents reported discrimination of the girl child in education as another cause of poverty, another cause of poverty reported by people was low level of technology which constituted a number of twelve respondents and a total number of sixteen respondents reported unemployment as another cause of increased level of poverty. The above information on the views of respondents is summarized in the table below;

TABLE 6 Showing respondents' views on the impacts of Education levels in increasing Poverty levels among the Households of Kajiado District.

Causes	NGOs practitioners	Government employees	Households representatives	Percentage	Mean	Ratio	Total
High illiteracy levels	7	6	21	42.5	2.35	17:40	34
Discrimination of Girl child in education	5	4	9	22.5	4.44	9:40	18
Low level, of technology	5	3	4	15	6.66	3:20	12
Unemployment	3	7	6	20	5	1:5	16
Total	20	20	40	100			80

Source: primary data

In table 6 above respondents gave their different views on how low levels of education increases poverty among the people of Kajiado. They gave their views as follows;

Those who supported high illiteracy levels among the house holds of Kajiado were thirty four and this constituted seven NGOs practitioners, six government employees and twenty one house hold representatives from the area of study. They argued that most of the people in Kajiado are illiterate and this has limited their capacity to face the challenges imposed to them by poverty.

Eighteen respondents five of them being NGOs practitioners also reported discrimination of girl child in education; four government employees and nine house hold representatives from they are of the study. They supported their views by saying that the community of Kajiado district fails to recognize the importance of the women and thus tends to discriminate the girl child in education and this has lead to long term poverty resulting to life time suffering.

A total number of twelve respondents cited low level of technology as also being responsible for increased poverty levels in this area, where by five of the respondents were NGOs practitioners, three government employees and four house holds representatives. These

respondents reported that Kajiado district is faced with absolute poverty resulting from lack of experts to give advice and alternative measures to eradicate poverty.

High unemployment levels was also reported by sixteen respondents, three of them being NGOs practitioners, seven government employees and six households representatives whereby they all supported low levels of employment as a result of inadequate knowledge and skills to apply in the job market and this is a consequence of illiteracy in this area.

While in the field the respondents gave their opinions on the impacts of climatic conditions in increasing poverty levels in the study area. They argued that the area is characterized by unfavorable climatic condition that does not support healthy rearing of animals and other agricultural activities.

The respondents gave their views on this climatic condition whereby twenty three respondents reported low rainfall in the area as one of the causes of poverty where as thirteen respondents mentioned the presence of parasites, others reported prolonged drought and other respondents reported geographical location of the area as the cause of poverty in Kajiado district. The table below illustrates the above information as reported by the respondents.

TABLE 7 Showing respondents' views on the influence of climatic conditions in Poverty levels in Kajiado District.

Causes	NGOs practitioners	Government employees	Households representatives	Percentage	Mean	Ratio	Total
Low rainfall	6	5	12	28.75	3.47	23:80	23
Parasites	4	4	5	16.25	6.15	13:80	13
Geographical location	7	6	4	21.25	4.7	17:80	17
Prolonged drought	3	5	19	33.75	2.96	27:80	27
Total	20	20	40	100			80

Source: primary data

In table 7 respondents gave their views on the influence of climatic conditions in poverty levels in this area as follows;

Low rainfall in the area was reported by twenty-three respondents whereby six of them were NGOs practitioners, five of them being government employees and twelve of them being household representatives. They based their argument on the facts that the area hardly receives rainfall in a year and this has highly contributed to the rampant poverty levels in the area.

Presence of parasites was also reported by thirteen respondents as another cause of poverty and this is because the area has different types of parasites which affect animals by causing diseases to them thus resulting to animal deaths; among the respondents four of them were NGOs representatives, other four were government employees and five households' representatives.

In the field seventeen respondents reported that geographical location of the area necessitates increased poverty level and this is because the area is within rift valley region which is characterized by semi-arid conditions; seven of them were NGOs representatives, six of them being government employees and four of them were households' representatives.

The respondents also reported prolonged drought as another cause of increased poverty in the area and this is brought about by persistent high temperature due to hot sunny conditions which dries animal pastures leading to starvation; three of the respondents were NGOs representatives five of them were government employees and nineteen household representatives.

HIV/AIDS has also been mentioned by all respondents in the field arguing that the scourge has contributed to the increased level of poverty in the area. The epidemic has caused high morbidity and mortality rates where by both results to high poverty levels. The statistics show that in the area the some young people who are the working age group are affected hence this decreases the manpower in this particular district.

In the field dependency syndrome was reported by twenty two respondents out of the eighty respondents who participate in the study, other twenty respondents reported burden of orphans resulting from death of their parents due to the disease, decrease in manpower was also reported by sixteen respondents and depletion of resources has also been reported as the cause of poverty due to consequences of HIV/AIDS by twenty two respondents. The table below represents the above information.

TABLE 8 Showing the respondents' views on the impacts of HIV/AIDS in increasing Poverty levels in Kajiado District.

Causes	NGOs practitioners	Government employees	Households representatives	Percentage	Mean	Ratio	Total
Dependency syndrome	6	5	11	28.75	3.47	23:80	22
Burden of orphans	5	6	9	28.75	3.47	23:80	20
Decreased man power	3	3	10	20	5	1:5	16
Depletion of resources	6	6	10	27.5	36.36	11:40	22
Total	20	20	40	100			80

Source: primary data

Basing on the above-tabulated information here follows the analysis of the respondents' views on the impact of HIV/AIDS in increasing poverty level in Kajiado district. Twenty-two respondents reported high dependency syndrome due to morbidity as a result of HIV/AIDS, which leads to increased poverty level; six of the respondents were NGOs practitioners, five others were government employees and eleven households' representatives.

Many orphaned children have been reported by twenty respondents who argued that there are families headed by children due to the consequences of HIV/AIDS which might have taken away their bread winners leaving them totally dependent on external help such as government, relatives, NGOs or other community members in meeting basic needs. Five of the respondents were NGOs practitioners, six government employees and nine households' representatives.

The respondents also reported high decrease in manpower due to increase in mortality rates of the working group resulting from HIV/AIDS scourge hence hiking poverty levels in the

area. The total number of respondents who supported the influence of HIV/AIDS was sixteen whereby three of them were NGOs practitioners, other three were government employees and ten of them were households' representatives.

Depletion of resources as a result of HIV/AIDS has also been cited by twenty two respondents as another cause of poverty whereby a lot of resources are diverted from developmental activities to care for those who are infected by the disease; six of the respondents were NGOs practitioners, other six government employees and ten households' representatives.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction.

This chapter presents the summary of the study and the suggestions on the study findings. The appendices are also included.

5.2 Summary of the study

The study examined the causes of increased poverty levels in Kajiado district in Kenya, a cases study of Ilbisil division. The study aimed at examining the causes of poverty among the households of Ilbisil division. The study was upon the background that many households of Kajiado district are living below the poverty line and that they are dependent to the humanitarian agencies for their living. It was found that the people of Kajiado are poor because of social, economic and environmental issues undermining their capacity to meet their daily needs.

This study was carried out guided by the following objectives, examining the impacts of culture in perpetuating poverty, the influence of education levels in increasing poverty levels, examining the impacts of climatic conditions in increasing poverty levels and examining the role of HIV/AIDS in perpetuating poverty levels.

The study established that, cultural factors perpetuate poverty among the people of Kajiado. *This is caused by cultural rigidity among the people and ignorance to changes that enhances development, polygamous families also experiences poverty as a result of strong belief of having many children as a sign of wealth, gender inequalities is also attributed to the increased poverty levels among the households of Kajiado district.*

The study also established that their high levels of illiteracy levels in majority households of Kajiado district. This is manifested in discriminating the girl child in education, high levels of unemployment, poor leadership due to illiterate leaders, and lack of information about current development issues.

The study further noted that Kajiado district have majority of its population being illiterate while some have low level of education and this has made this area suffer the consequences of poverty since they have no literate people to give alternative measures that can help them explore the available resources so as to reduce the level of poverty in Kajiado district. The researcher also indicated that these people experiences unemployment and some low income that cannot support them fully and sustain a living.

The researcher also witnessed a state of unfavorable climatic conditions of Kajiado district which is evident in the dryness of the area and it said that the district rarely receives rainfall and this has made it difficult for these people to successfully carry out their

In view of these findings, the study concluded that, cultural factors such as; polygamous marriages, ignorance, cultural rigidity, gender discrimination among others are responsible for the poverty state in Kajiado district. Illiteracy has also played a key role in enhancing these poor living conditions among the people of Kajiado district.

Other factors like unfavorable climatic conditions for example, dryness of the area and *infertility of the land* also contributes to this state of poverty in this area. HIV/AIDS has also been cited as another key cause of poverty and the researcher has found out that the spread of this epidemic has reduced the level of manpower of this community whereby most of the *educated people have been affected by this disease thus limiting their capacity to work.*

The study also established that most of the affected families are living in absolute poverty bearing the burden of orphans or widows left behind by the deceased. According to the research findings a lot of money is also used in treating the infected members of the community thus depleting the scarce resource of the affected families. All of the above *factors lead to the increased poverty conditions in Kajiado district.*

5.3 Conclusion to study

After the study on the causes of poverty in Kajiado district the researcher concluded the following;

According to the researcher the most pressing factors which is responsible for the high levels of poverty in Kajiado district is lack of education evident in high illiterate levels among the

households, it is hardly to find a graduate beyond secondary school level of education thus limiting the capacity of the area to develop.

The researcher also observed high levels of cultural rigidity among the households that has made them ignorant of changes thus continues to languish in poverty.

In addition most of the people in Kajiado district are poor but surprisingly most of them do not know that they are poor and this makes them “comfortable” in this state of poverty.

The researcher also concluded that the rates of gender discrimination is high in this community and especially in education thus making women dependent on their male counterparts who also have the elementary level of education.

The researcher further concluded that prolonged draught are also responsible for the poverty state of the area and this is so because the area hardly receives rainfall in a year making the conditions of poverty very high.

Geographically located in rift valley part of Kenya the area is typically dry and is characterized by rocky and sandy soil which supports no agricultural activities

5.4 Recommendations

Basing on the above findings made by the researcher, the following recommendations are proposed;

Community should be sensitized and empowered to abandon negative practices in their culture such as polygamous marriage, discrimination against women and cultural rigidity, which has dragged them back in issues to do wit development.

The community should also be informed about the importance of trimming their large herds of indigenous breed of cattle and replace them with manageable number of cattle given the conditions of the area.

This community should also be helped to engage in other means of income generating activities, which can withstand the dry conditions of the area such as drought resistant crops, and any other economic activities apart from solely depending on livestock keeping.

The community should be sensitized on the importance of quality and equal education for all people regardless of sex and age. The government should combine efforts/resources with other NGOs to ensure that all parents take their children to school.

The government also should increase the number of schools in the district so as to ensure accessibility of education facilities to all children and this will help increase the number of learned people in this particular area thus ensuring skills and knowledge to apply in the job markets.

The community should be helped to keep rational number of cattle manageable given the dry conditions of the area and the modern ways of protecting these animals from diseases causing parasites, and these methods may include using of plunge dip to kill parasites like ticks and tsetse flies.

Government and NGOs should assist the community in drilling and construction of water wells and dams that will help to solve the problem of animal drinking water and water for irrigation purposes.

The community should be sensitized on presence HIV/AIDS, the mode of transmission and the fact that it kills any one regardless of sex, age and residential location.

The government should also ensure availability and accessibility of ARVs to all those who are infected so as to prolong the life span hence reducing the dependency syndrome.

The government and NGOs should give a helping hand to the orphans left as a result of HIV/AIDS by ensuring that these children have access to the basic needs of life and education in order to reduce the burden imposed to their relatives and community members.

5.3 Recommendations to further researches

The researcher recommends the following for other subsequent researches;

The coming researchers should investigate on other alternatives of income generating activities and their viability in the area

Veterinary officers should do further research on how to reduce or eliminate common parasites in the area so as to decrease animal diseases and also deaths.

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APPENDIX B: INTRODUCTORY LETTER

Dear sir/madam,

I am a student of Kampala International University pursuing a Bachelors' Degree in Social Work and Social Administration carrying out a study on the **"FACTORS CAUSING INCREASED POVERTY LEVELS IN KAJIADO DISTRICT"**.

A case study of Ilbisil division.

You are humbly requested to extend your assistance in order to make this research study successful. I pledge that the information given will be treated with total confidentiality. This research study will benefit the people of Kajiado district, policy maker who want to give/provide any help towards this problem and Kenya as a whole by giving valid data to be used in drafting policies regarding poverty issues. Your cooperation is highly appreciated.

Thank you.

Yours truly

.....

LESIAMON SIMON.

APPENDIX A: QUESTIONNAIRES

The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather information regarding the increased poverty levels in Kajiado district. You are therefore requested to fill this questionnaire precisely and honestly because the information given will be used to help reduce the levels of poverty in Kajiado district. Your response will be treated confidentially.

Do not write your name unless you so wish.

Tick in the appropriate box or write in the space provided for each question.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

SECTION A: Social background

1. Age

Between 15 – 30

☐

Between 30 – 40

☐

Between 45 – 60

☐

Others specify.....

2. Sex

Male

☐

Female

☐

3. Religion

Catholic

☐

Muslim

☐

Protestant

☐

Others specify.....

4. Level of education

Never went to school

☐

Secondary level

☐

Post secondary level

☐

5. Marital status

Single

☐

Married

☐

Widow / widower ☐

Others specify

6. Do you work? If yes which job and how much do you earn per;

Month ☐
Day ☐
Week ☐

7. Occupation

Farmer ☐
Business ☐
Professional ☐
Technical ☐
Others

specify.....
.....
.....

8. Do you have children and / or dependants?

Yes ☐
No ☐

If yes how many are;

Below 18 years ☐
Above 18 years ☐

9. Do you understand what poverty means?

Yes ☐
No ☐

If yes support your answer

.....
.....

10. Do you know the factors that has resulted increase of poverty

Yes ☐
No ☐

If yes support your answer

.....
.....

11. What problems have you ever experienced as a result of increased poverty

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

If yes support your answer

.....
.....

12. Does culture result to increased poverty

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. Do you think government policies contribute to malnutrition?

.....
.....

14. Do you think political interference by politicians has also led to increased poverty in the any?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

If yes, support your answer

.....
.....

15. As a result of poverty are you able to have domestic savings and other investments

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

16. How many of the following do you have?

Cattle	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cars	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goats	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sheep	<input type="checkbox"/>

17. Do you have children?

Yes ☐
No ☐

18. How many of your children are in school?

1 - 2 ☐
3 - 5 ☐
6 - 10 ☐

If none explain

.....
.....

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR KEY INFORMANTS

Age

Sex

Rank

Number of years in District

Number of years in service

1. Do you understand what poverty is?

Yes ☐
No ☐

If yes support your answer

.....
.....

2. What is your opinion on the increased levels of poverty in Kajiado district?

.....
.....

3. Have you ever organized workshops or seminars on poverty?

Yes ☐
No ☐

4. Do you think the increase in unemployment has resulted to increase in poverty levels?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, support your answer

.....
.....

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Date..30/05/08.....

To..THE DIRECTOR.....

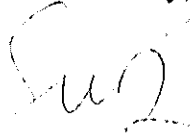
..AMREF INTERNATIONAL.....

..P.O BOX 020883114 KATIAO.....

This is to introduce to you LESIAMON SIMON.....
who is a bonafide student of Kampala International University. He/she is
working on a research project for a dissertation, which is a partial requirement
for the award of a degree. I here by request you, in the name of the University,
to accord him/her all the necessary assistance he/she may require for this
work..

I have the pleasure of thanking you in advance for your cooperation!

Yours sincerely,



Ms. Sidonia Angom
Associate Dean