Assessment of Variables Influencing Abject Poverty in Mandera County, Kenya

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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.

KEY WORDS: Educational level, Employment size, Household size, Political stability, Poverty

I INTRODUCTION

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).

Statement of the problem

To figure out what makes Mandera County so poor by assessing the specific variables influencing abject poverty in Mandera County, Kenya.

Research Objectives

Specific objectives

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.

II LITERATURE REVIEW

Empirical Literature

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' 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.

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.

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.

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.

Theoretical Framework

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.

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.

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.

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework of the study was based on four independent variables namely household size, educational level, employment status, and political stability. The dependent variable of the study is based on object poverty.
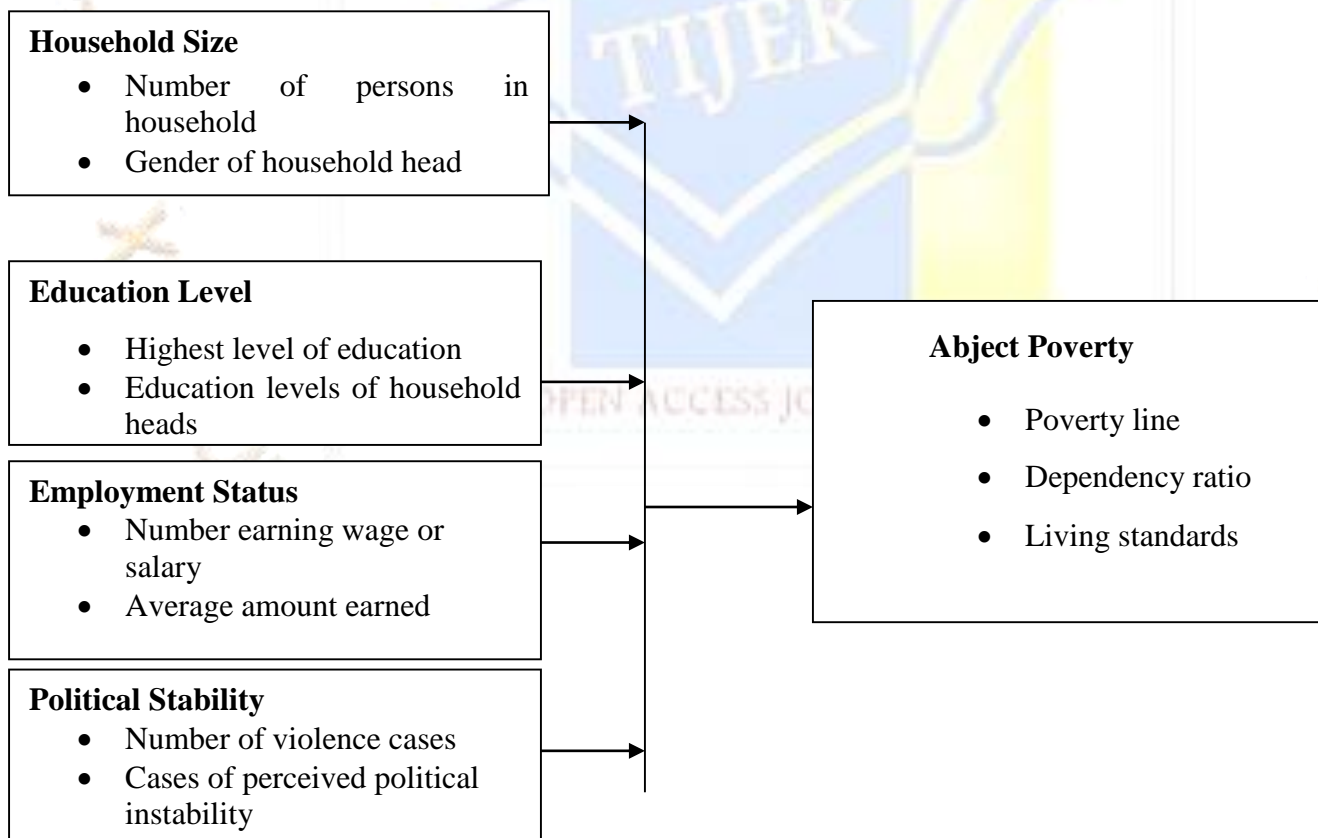

Figure 1 Conceptual Framework

Source: Author (2023)

III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

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.

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).

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).

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.

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, 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.

IV RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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.

V CONCLUTION

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.

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