Cattle Rustling and Economic Sustainability in El-Barta Ward in Samburu County, Kenya

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Abstract: The purpose of this study was to investigate the influence of cattle rustling on economic sustainability of Samburu Community a case study of El-barta Ward, Samburu County, Kenya. Mixed research design of descriptive-survey and explanatory research design was adopted in the study. The target population comprised of 427 households found in El-barta Ward and two security agencies (private rangers and government security agency) and one social and youth offices. The sample size was 203 respondents. A simple random and stratified sampling technique was used since members of El-barta Ward are sparcely populated. Data was collected using questionnaire and review of secondary sources which collected both qualitative and quantitative data. Data collected was keyed and analysed using the latest version of SPSS. From the analysis, it was established that the main economic activities in El-barta ward include pastoralism and trading. The causes of cattle rustling include illiteracy, unemployment, cultural beliefs, proliferation of firearms, and political influence. The effects of cattle rustling include underdevelopment, loss of manpower, increased deaths, closure of business and markets, destruction of infrastructure among others. The study recommends that there is need for empowerment programs to be put in place, development of infrastructure for the accessibility of markets and open up the area to new business, encouraging diversification of sources of income such as adoption of agri-business and small scale farming and the government to work together with the locals in order to boost security in the ward.

Keywords: Cattle, Rustling, Conflict, Community, Economic factors, Sustainability

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1. Introduction

Conflicts when viewed as a process of adjustment can be a subject to procedures to contain and regularize conflict behavior and assure a fair outcome (Kabelo & Gakuu, 2019). Notably, conflicts can be managed, transformed, resolved or settled, depending on the approach adopted. If not properly managed, however, such conflicts destroy society's social fabric and coping mechanisms when civilians are the direct targets or affected bystanders, returning to normal community life can take years following the deliberate destruction of social institutions and ways of life (Stavenhagen, 2016).

According to figures from the insurance company NFU Mutual, which insures around three-quarters of the farmers in the UK, around 90,000 animals were stolen in 2013.Northern Ireland on the other hand had almost 10,000 cattle being stolen in the farms from 2013 to 2015, with the vast majority never being recovered at all (McCullough, 2015).

Conflict over alleged rustling was a major issue in the Johnson County War in the U.S. state of Wyoming UIS Fact Sheet, 2011. The transition from open range to fenced grazing gradually reduced the practice of rustling in North America. In Australia, such stealing is often referred to as duffing, and the perpetrator as a Duffer. In North America, especially in Cowboy culture, cattle theft is duped rustling and an individual who engages in it is a rustler.

Africa continues to have the greatest number of conflicts in the world. These conflicts are as a result of complex factors, including dispute over power relations, ethnic and cultural values, wealth, or natural/environmental resources (Kabelo & Gakuu, 2019). It was reported in Madagascar that in 2012 nearly 100 cattle thieves were killed in a wave of weekend attacks in Southern areas of the Indian Ocean Island plagued by rustling (100 killed in Madagascar cattle rustling unrest, 2012. In East Africa, the majority of those living in the border regions of Kenya, Sudan, Somali and Uganda are pastoralists, made up of a variety of ethnic and clan groupings whose livelihoods are dictated by the upkeep and size of their herds. They have a history of competition for pasture and grazing land, which has sometimes led to violence in the form of cattle rustling, ethnic violence, displacements, and massacres (Sharamo, 2015).

In Kenya, cattle rustling is predominant in Eastern, Northeastern and North rift regions (West Pokot, Elgeyo-Marakwet, Tana River, Lamu, Wajir, Garisa Baringo, Samburu, Isiolo, West Pokot, Turkana and Marsabit) (Opongo, 2019). These regions cover more than half of Kenya's territory and straddles 12 out of Kenya's 47 counties. These areas have long been neglected by the state (Rohwerder, 2015). Traditionally, Cattle rustling, was a cultural practice among the pastoral communities carried out using traditional weapons like spears and arrows. It often involved some level of violence, was redistributive, and only involved the theft of cattle to replenish herds after death from drought or pay bride price or a show of wealth (Opongo, 2019). This kind of raiding was carried out to replenish lost herds, as a game and for the purpose of dowry payment. Young men were also required to show their strength by raiding as many animals as one could. Moreover, raiding was deemed preparation for transition to manhood. This stolen livestock was used for conflict resolution, currency, celebrations, and rituals. In addition, the livestock was considered a source of wealth. This wealth bestowed prestige and influence on an individual and was measured in terms of number of livestock one possesses. For young men who had no assets, cattle rustling was important since it helped them start the process of accumulation and thus a lot of importance was (and is still) attached to livestock and thus cattle rustling (Kabelo & Gakuu, 2019; Leff, 2009).

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Cattle rustling is one of the causes of conflicts in pastoral communities in Kenya. Traditionally, it was a cultural practice among the pastoral communities carried out using traditional weapons like spears and arrows (Opongo, 2019). Nowadays, cattle rustling is undertaken for economic benefits in the pastoral borders of East Africa; (Opongo, 2019). Livestock has today been revolutionized to be seen as a valuable commodity that has attracted business people from within and outside the pastoral communities (Kabelo & Gakuu, 2019). According to the Diocese of Maralal (D.o.M) data gathered between January and December 2011, and corroborated by the police records, a total of 28 incidents involving cattle raids, armed conflicts, banditry attacks, abductions, assaults, protests and riots were reported in El- Barta Ward, Samburu County. Of these, 23 injuries, 47 deaths and 8,452 lost livestock. The biggest testimony to the escalating violence of livestock conflict is the event which occurred in Suguta Valley, Samburu in November 2012 when forty-two Kenyan police officers were killed in conflict with suspected rustlers (Greiner & Clemens, 2013). Reasons for the continuation of this vice, its effects to the general livelihood and system and solution to the same, thus sustainability of the affected societies has been an area of continuous academic study.

The National Council of Churches indicated that cattle rustling is an old practice among cattle rearing communities in Kenya and was regularized by cultural customs and thus required an in depth understanding (Triche, 2019). Kabelo and Gakuu (2019) and Oguda (2012) in different studies focused on reasons for continued cattle rustling in which they singled out proliferation of small arms, commercialization of cattle rustling, protracted conflicts and weak government. Oguge (2011) in his study among the Pokots of Kenya focused on the harsh environmental conditions that force pastoralists to migrate in search of water and pasturelands, limited access to water and competing rights to land, inter-tribal conflicts as causes of cattle rustling.

Cattle rustling have various stimuli on economic sustainability of the Samburu community. Anyango (2017), in her study on effects of Cattle rustling in the Kenya's pastoral communities, brought out the violation of right to life by the raiders who steal, kill people and destroy property. Furthermore, in a study carried out by (Cheromoi, 2019) on effect of cattle rustling on education sector in Baringo revealed that cattle rustling has led to low performance of the few primary schools and dilapidated infrastructure. Also, the teachers indicated in the same study that insecurity created by cattle rustling reduce their level of preparedness and delivery in schools, hence syllabus coverage never being achieved (Cheromoi, 2019).

Cattle rustling has affected economic sustainability of the Samburu community. In El- barta ward, it has led to disruption of the communities' livelihood systems by reducing economic activities with frequent cattle rustling incidents. These economic activities are interrupted both in the short and long run. The above studies have been very instrumental in unraveling the causes of cattle rustling and their effect on the general lives of the affected communities and economies. However, none of the studies directly looked at the effect of cattle rustling on the economic sustainability of the involved community. Furthermore, the studies above, though focused on pastoral communities, these are foreign to Samburu community of El- barta Ward in Samburu County, Kenya who up to date are still experiencing cattle rustling. This study thus aimed at filling the gap by exploring the influence of cattle rustling on economic sustainability of the Samburu Community a case study of El-barta Ward in Samburu County Kenya.

1.3. Research Questions

This study was guided by the following two research questions:

1. What are the causes of cattle rustling in El-barta Ward in Samburu - County?
2. What are the main economic activities carried out in El-barta Ward?

2. Literature Review

2.1. Theoretical Review

This study anchors itself on two theories namely, Needs-Based Partial Theory of Human Injustices and Relative Deprivation Theory.

2.1.1 Needs-Based Partial Theory of Human Injustice

The Needs-Based Partial Theory of Human Injustice is a theory that contends that human injustice is produced when oppression, mechanistic dehumanization, and exploitation create systematic inequalities in opportunities to address human needs, leading to wrongful need deprivation and resulting serious harm (Dover, 2019). The affected will always propagate the injustice to others as a way of survival in the system. The theory was developed by Michael Dover in his understanding of original typology of three social structural sources of human injustice, a partial theorization of the mechanisms of human injustice, and the needs-based theorization of the nature of human injustice as experienced by individuals (Dover, 2019). The theory borrows from the universal needs as spelled out by two well-established and compatible theories; a philosophically constructed theory of human needs (Doyal, Len and Ian Gough;, 1991) and a post-Maslowian humanistic psychological theory: self-determination theory (Richard, Edward Deci and Ryan, 2017).

This Needs-based Partial Theory of Human Injustice draws on theories of human need that stress absolute biological(existence) needs, welfare needs (basic needs of the kind required for avoidance of serious harm) and those perfectionist needs required to flourish (McLeod, 2014). The hash climatic condition of the pastoral life, poor economic and social conditions experienced, all supplemented by the long period of being abandoned by progressive governments in Kenya has left the pastoral communities living in El-barta Ward to face economic and social injustices. As a source of economic empowerment, they fully depend on nomadic pastoralism which does not provide enough, especially due to sporadic drought. This has resorted to cattle rustling as a way of supplementing their basic needs. However, in so doing, they cause human injustice on the other communities neighboring them and the vicious cycle of injustices continues. Since pastoralism is the main economic source of livelihood and cattle rustling being an economic activity, this theory was imperative in explaining this study.

2.1.2 Relative Deprivation Theory

Relative deprivation theory owes its origin to the field of psychology and sociology pioneered by psychologists like Sigmund Freud, William James, William McDougall, Samuel Stouffer and Naomi Ellemers (Dougherty, 2001; Walker, & Smith, 2002). The principal assumption of the theory is that people and societies faced with an imminent threat tend to develop a collective instinct to challenge their aggressor, which in some cases, people or society collectively responded by finding ways to cope or confront the perceived threat. Saleh, (2013) defined relative deprivation as an experience or feeling of being denied something to which one and/or society believes is entitled. The intensity of relative deprivation depends on one's or society's perception of value expectations, resource deprivation, and value capabilities. Therefore, the escalation of relative deprivation with respect to political involvement, economic inequality and intergroup negative perception lead to a social tension, which eventually leads to people's frustration and consequentially into violence.

Looking at the cattle rustling and Economic Sustainability in El-barta Ward among the Samburu community, there is relative deprivation. This depreciation comes from harsh environmental conditions due to sporadic droughts and famine, long period of economic and social neglect by successive governments against the Northern part of Samburu County and the consequent political instability. This has led community members and their neighbors to harbor strong resentment against each other, which they manifest through forms of cattle rustling, revenge attacks

and inter-ethnic clashes. By using a relative deprivation frame of analysis, one can better understand how ethnic relationships and perceptions among Samburu community have evolved over time as well as how these communities respond to tribal aggression. The theory was of paramount importance in the study, especially in the context of cattle rustling and revenge attacks.

2.2. Empirical Literatures

2.2.1 Causes of Cattle Rustling

Cattle rustling in pastoral communities has been a topic of discussion over and over. In Kenya, cattle rustling has been a traditional activity among the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities, especially in Northeastern and Rift Valley regions of the country (Kiprono, 2018). The National Council of Churches indicated that cattle rustling is an old practice among cattle rearing communities in Kenya and was regularized by cultural customs. However, in modern Kenya, cattle rustling has transformed from being a customary means of livestock restocking where traditional weapons such as bows, arrows and spears were used, to large scale economic practice where sophisticated weapons like guns are used (Kabelo & Gakuu, 2019; Kiprono, 2018). The basic understanding of contemporary cattle rustling is that it's a form of livelihood crime, motivated by the criminal intent to expropriate grazing cattle for meat or sale (Gueye, 2017).

Various studies have been carried out to underscore the causes of cattle rustling. Viajar (2016), in a study on cattle rustling, posits that cattle rustling in the Philippines stems from the presence of conflict caused by the breakdown of governance, high poverty and proliferation of firearms. Furthermore, intense political rivalries sometimes result into cattle rustling after elections, whereby cattle raids are directed against the communities of wining political leaders to show ineffective governance and control of the area (Viajar, 2016). The striking similarity between cattle rustling in Philippines and Kenya are the factors that promote cattle rustling, especially proliferation of small arms. However, the environment of Kenya and Philippines is quite different and hence a gap in underscoring the causes of cattle rustling in El-barta Ward being the gap to be filled by the current study.

Bad politics has also been blamed for the spread of the practice of livestock theft or cattle rustling. Most of the political leaders are anointed by their respective ethnic spiritual leaders and as a result, the communities that they represent follow and obey what their leaders tell them faithfully. Some of the political leaders abuse the hallowed positions they occupy in their communities to mislead their people and or incite them against other communities, thereby contributing to an increase in tension among the different communities (Awuodo, 1992).

According to Cheromoi (2019) in a study on effect of cattle rustling on access and participation in primary education in Alale division, West Pokot County, Kenya, the main cause of cattle rustling between the Pokot of Alale Division and its neighbors, notably the Turkana, is to acquire more cattle for economic independence and prestige. Cattle is also needed for payments of dowry and other cultural activities. This has thus left the communities with the intention of laying down their lives in either defending their cattle or attacking to get more of the same. The study however focused on only two tribes: The Turkana and Pokots. Though the two are pastoralists living in the area of current study, the study did not include the Samburu. This study sought to fill this gap.

A study was carried out to examine the changing context of cattle rustling and understanding its effects on the inhabitants of the three communities (Dinka, Murle, and Nuer) living in Jonglei State of South Sudan, (Manyok., 2017). It was underscored that among the causes of cattle rustling are changes in leadership system, availability of SALWs, political influences, poverty levels, illiteracy, cattle rustling commercialization, form of ethnic conflicts, increase in bride prices, continuous cultural practice of cattle rustling and migration patterns. The study however focused on the Dinka, Murle and Nuer, who, though are pastoralist communities like the Samburu community, are in very diverse geographical areas. The region in which the Turkana and Pokot reside is Semi-Arid, receiving little overall rainfall. Thus the groups must jostle for access to limited watering holes that are available to graze their cattle. Quantitative analysis suggest that violent raids increase during rainy seasons, as actors compete over newly discovered aquifers. Data over time indicate that the frequency of raids and their level of violence increase with rainy seasons and recede with drought-like conditions (Witsenburg, 2009). This study thus aimed at filling the geographical gap.

A significant issue which has led to further deterioration of stability within the pastoralist's region has been the influx of modern weaponry. Most of the illegal weaponry originates from border areas of Uganda, Ethiopia and Somalia. It then reaches these pastoralist communities through criminal gangs and these further fuel the regional violence (Commission, 2010). Thus, cattle rustling becomes profitable for these illegal arms traders, and leads to an extension of conflict throughout the region. The interconnected nature of Turkana-Pokot conflict can thus be exhibited with the nature of profiteering through illegal weapon. This the current study only focused on conflict between two communities on the Kenyan border with Uganda-Turkana and Pokot. This study aimed at expanding the communities involved to Samburu Community who live in El-barta Ward of Samburu County Kenya.

2.2.2. Economic Sustainability of El-Barta Ward

The livelihood and economic sustainability of the pastoral communities revolve around the availability of pasture and water for their livestock (Oguge, 2011). The harsh physical environment in the dry lands directly support the livelihoods of close to 25% of Kenya's population and slightly more than 70% of the livestock population (Eriksen, Francis. Gachathi & Siri, 2011). The pastoral economic livelihood sustainability is thus vital for progress of Kenya. Although many dry-land communities in Kenya continue to rely largely on livestock for their livelihood, there has been a process of marginalization of pastoralism and a related sedentarization that has augmented the vulnerability of these populations (Mkutu, 2007).

The rains are not only low but erratic, and typically short duration but often of high intensity, therefore, highly erosive. This limits serious agricultural activities. The soils are generally poor, with high sand content, poor surface structure due to erosion and often saline with low organic matter (Eriksen, Gachathi & Siri, 2011). The pastoral production system operates by independent family units exploiting a common resource (water, grazing land) through privately owned and managed herds. Frequent movement of the herds between pastures helps prevent overuse of a single area's biomass and helps avoid disease in their livestock. Herd diversification (cattle, camels, sheep, goats, and donkeys) ensures that both browsers and grazers are present and that an extended dry spell or a single disease is less likely to wipe out an entire herd (Oguda, 2012; Eriksen, Gachathi & Siri, 2011; Cheserek, Omondi, and Odenyo, 2012).

Climate change has also increased vulnerability of the area. This has led to unpredictable weather conditions resulting in seasonal shifts in rainfall and higher temperatures leading to growing uncertainty and incidences of prolonged droughts.

El-barta Ward, falls directly under this economic niche with primary economic activity being nomadic pastoralism with parts of it practicing agro-pastoralism and immigrants focusing on trading. The severe lack of rain across the area since August 2018 has led to a steep decline in access to water, alarming rates of food insecurity and heavy strain on livelihood (https://reliefweb.int/report/kenya/kenya-vulnerability-and-needs-analysis-samburu-county-march-2020).
Trading is currently taking root as an economic activity in the pastoralists in general and El-barta Ward. The main commodity in the retail shops are food stuffs to compliment the animal products from animal herding, utensils, clothes and shoes (USAID, 2020). They however lack of enough capital to invest in their business, uncertainty due to constant conflicts and have few customers to buy their goods and services while the few customers have failed to pay debts owned due to their nomadic nature (USAID, 2020). Some community members, according to a survey done in 2020, are formally employed as soldiers, nurses, county government officers and conservancy staff, accounting for almos3.5% of the households (USAID, 2020).

This fragile economy was further hit in 2020 by the locust infestation. The locust destroyed community land pasture, crops and general vegetation. The infestation caused livestock diseases after the livestock fed on pasture that had been sprayed with chemicals to kill the locust (USAID, 2020). Due to such conditions, human survival in such dry areas is continuously faced with multiple challenges, including frequent droughts and unpredictable cattle rustling and violence. According to Eriksen (2011), droughts affect the quality and quantity of water and grazing resources, reduces income, and aggravate poverty. They trigger conflicts, cattle raids, loss of life in both humans and livestock and accelerate the rate of land degradation. Conflicts, including banditry and raids, increase pastoralists' vulnerability and hinder human and animal movement. (Eriksen, Francis N. Gachathi & Siri, 2011). According to (USAID, 2020) a high population of Samburu North (67%) perceived their security to be poor or very poor. This was reported to have livestock conflicts (95%), attacks by armed groups (12%) and attacks by other community members (10%).

3.1. Research Design

The study adopted a mixed research design of descriptive-survey and explanatory research design. Carminati, (2018) supported a mixed research design arguing that it enhances validity of results. Descriptive research design was adopted because it enables the researcher to describe the phenomenon accurately and systematically as it exists among the subjects (Yeomans, 2017). The study used descriptive statistics to identify characteristics, frequencies and patterns to answer what, when, where and how of the study variables. On the other hand, explanatory design was used to test the cause and effect of the study variables and form a decision in hypothesis testing. Regression model was employed to establish the effect of the independent variables on the dependent variable (Leavy, 2017).

3.2. Description of the Area or Location of the Study

The study concentrated in El - barta Ward of Samburu North in Samburu County Kenya. The Ward lies north of Maralal and East of Suguta valley. El – Barta ward is inhabited majorly by the Nomadic Pastoral communities such as the Samburu community. However there are also other communities such as the Turkana, Kikuyu, Kamba,

Luo and Meru mostly found in Baragoi town for purposes of trade and commerce. The majority of the population are pastoralists who mainly depend on livestock as their source of livelihood (Development-NCPD, 2017).

Demographically, the population of Samburu constitutes 0.6% of the national population with Samburu North dominating 26.7 % (El-barta Ward constituting 59.9% of Samburu North population and its economic hub (USAID-Kenya, 2020; KNBS, 2019). The primary economic activity of El-barta Ward is nomadic pastoralism with parts of the area practicing agro-pastoralism. The severe lack of rains across the county since August 2018 led to decline in access to water. Livestock contributes 85% of income in the Pastoral livelihood zones and 60% in Agro-pastoral zones. According to National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), El-barta ward is one of the most affected wards t by drought in Samburu County (USAID, 2020).

The ward faces starvation with a poverty rate of 73.5% higher than the national poverty rate of 45.9% (KNBS, 2019) . The entire ward is food insecure and is classified on the stressed phase of food insecurity (IPC Phase 2) with improvements on the Agro- pastoral Zones. Children under the age of 5 years are at a risk of malnutrition including acute and severe malnutrition. Economic coping mechanisms employed across all livelihood zones include borrowing from friends, sharing food, reduction in number of meals and buying food on credit with a coping strategy index of 23.4 (KNBS, 2019). El-barta Ward has Baragoi as its economic hub surrounded by pastoralist six villages mainly consisting of pastoralist (four villages) and two agro-pastoralists.

3.3. Target Population

Target population is a collection of the elements, items, or objects on which a researcher considers making inference on the study variables (Carminati, 2018). In other words, it is the study's universe (Hennik, et al.., 2020). The target population of this study comprised of all the household heads of the households who are traders in El-barta Ward, Samburu County, the heads of security agencies in the Ward, the office of Sub-County Social and Youth Services. According to the Kenya Population and Housing census Volume 1 (2019), Samburu County has 65,910 households with an average of 4.7 people per households. Of these households, 12,605 are found in Samburu North Sub- County and 427 households found in El-barta Ward. In addition, there are two security agencies: private rangers and government security agency and one social and youth offices. All these comprised the target population. The study population is summarized in the table below.

Table 1: Target Population

Sector	Number
Household's traders.	427
Private rangers	1
Government security agency	1
Youth and Social services	1
Total	430

Source: Kenya Population and Housing Census (2019)

3.4. Research Instrument

The choice of data and data collection instrument depends on the attributes of the subjects, research topic, problem questions, objectives, designs and expected results (Hennik, et al., 2020). To begin with, a questionnaire consisting of open and close-ended questions was used to collect data from the household heads traders and the security agent heads. The questionnaire was an appropriate research instrument for this study for its ease of collecting qualitative and quantitative data. Moreover, the respondents had the liberty to fill in information, in anonymity to avoid unnecessary fear of victimization due to sensitivity of the research topic.

As explained by Andy Field (2013), a questionnaire was useful in this study because it is cost-effective and enables the researcher to easily reach many respondents within a given span of time without engaging the researcher on constant travel to meet the respondent. However, a questionnaire may have setbacks, especially when the respondents fail to fill and return the instrument on time. On the same note, the respondents may not understand a statement and decide to provide false information because the researcher will be out of reach for clarification.

A semi-structured questionnaire was thus used in the study to obtain primary data. A semi-structured questionnaire was appropriate for this study because it allowed a mix of both qualitative and quantitative information targeted by this study. This triangulation, according to Sekaran and Bougie (2016), allows for cross-validation between data collected from key informants, thus improving the reliability of the findings. The semi-structured questionnaire had two parts, part one sought demographic

characteristics of the respondents while the second part collected data on study variables.

3.5. Description of Samples and Sampling Procedures

Leavy (2017) defined a sample as a subset of the entire population from which the researcher intends to obtain the required information to make inference on the entire population. The sample size is arrived at through a sampling technique. Sampling technique is a method adopted by a researcher to select an appropriate sample size from which the required data will be collected (Singh & Masuku, 2014). A sample thus allows a researcher to infer information about a population based on the results from only a subset of the population. Sampling design enables a researcher to determine sampling frame and the sample size. Sampling frame for this study was all the household heads of 427 households and heads of the 3 different departments found in El-barta Ward. Sample size usually depends on the level of precision, level of confidence and degree of variability in the attributes being measured (Singh & Masuku, 2014).

Kumar (2019) asserts that a sample representing 10% or more of the targeted population is adequate enough for reliable data analysis. In this study, a sample of 203 (47%) respondents as shown in Table 1 was selected from the population size of 430 household heads and heads of departments. Consequently, the sample size in this study was large enough to permit data analysis. This was selected using stratified sampling technique. The sample size of 203 respondents was arrived at by calculating the target population of 430 with a 95% confidence level and an error margin of 0.05 using the following formula adopted from Kothari (2004)

$$n = \frac{Z^2 . N . \partial_p^2}{(N-1)e^2 + Z^2 \partial_P^2}$$

Where; n = Size of the sample,
  N = Size of the population and given as 430,
  e = Accepted error and given as 0.05,
  ∂_P = The Standard deviation of the population and given as 0.5 where not known.
  Z = Standard variate at a confidence level given as 1.96 at 95% confidence level.

Table 2: Sample Size

Section	Population size	Sampling ratio	Sample size
Household heads	427	0.47	200
Private security rangers	1	1	1
Government security agency	1	1	1
Youth and social services department	1	1	1
Total	430		203

Source: Researcher (2021)

3.6. Data Collection Techniques

Prior to the actual visit to collect data, the researcher recruited and thoroughly trained research assistants on interviewing skills and interpersonal skills including creating a rapport with the respondents to enhance response rate. Research assistants were also trained on study variables to equip them with relevant understanding should respondents need clarification. The research assistants contacted the respondents to agree on the most convenient time to respond to the research instrument. The questionnaire was enumerator administered. This technique was adopted to ensure that all questionnaires were filled in and returned. Where this is not possible, drop and picks method was deployed to enhance response rate. Where the enumerator consulted with the respondents on the most appropriate time to drop and pick the questionnaire.

3.7. Description of Data Analysis Procedures

Data analysis is the process through which users convert raw data into useful information for decision making Taylor et al., 2015. In this study, data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential analysis. Before data analysis, the questionnaires from the respondents was checked for errors and omissions, completeness and consistency. They were then coded before entering data into the Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) V.23 for analysis. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, mean scores and standard deviations were used to describe the characteristics of the variables under study. Descriptive statistics enabled a researcher to describe and compare variables before conducting further analysis (Saunders et al., 2009; Creswell, 2014). Inferential analysis was used to establish the nature and strength of the relationship between the independent and dependent variables in the study. As suggested by Cooper and Schinder (2014), inferential statistics are important in

estimating population parameters and testing statistical hypothesis. For the inferential analysis, regression model was applied.

3.8. Ethical Consideration

Before the data collection commences, the researcher sought for an introduction letter from the Centre for Social Justice and Ethics of The Catholic University of Eastern Africa which was presented to the responding household heads and security agencies and other government offices so as to be allowed to collect the required data. The researcher also obtained a research permit from the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI) as part of ethical consideration. To safeguard the dignity of the participants, the researcher guaranteed the confidentiality of the information gathered from the research interviews. The study purpose was explained to the interview participants. The researcher also guaranteed them confidentially of the information they provided and that the researcher would use pseudonyms to obscure the identity of research respondents. This helped the researcher gain the

respondent's trust and confidence. The Researcher also sought informed consent from all the participants, whereby he asked those who would willingly accept to be interviewed, voice recorded, and information they give jotted down in a notebook.

4. Results and Discussion

This study aimed to investigate the causes of cattle rustling and economic activities undertaken in El-barta Ward in Samburu County. The results are given below:

1. The Causes of Cattle Rustling in El-barta Ward in Samburu County

This study sought to find out the causes of cattle rustling in El-barta Ward in Samburu County. Therefore, the respondents were given several statements on the cause of cattle rustling and asked to indicate their extent of agreement on a scale of 1-5 with five being to a very great extent and 1 no extent. The responses provided are as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Causes of Cattle Rustling

Statements	1	2	3	4	5	M	Std
Struggling for limited resources causes cattle rustling	2.4	1.2	15.7	30.3	50.3	4.27	.92
Proliferation of Light Weapons and Small Fire Arms in the region intensifies cattle rustling	1.2	5.5	12.1	31.5	49.7	4.47	3.23
Political rivalry and pressure leads to cattle rustling	3.6	5.5	32.1	29.1	29.7	3.81	1.07
Tribal cultural beliefs contribute to cattle rustling	3.0	17.6	38.2	23.6	17.6	3.36	1.07
Existing imaginary boundaries leads to cattle rustling	15.2	22.4	34.5	12.7	15.2	3.02	2.03
Increased demand for cattle in the market both in and outside of the county instigates cattle rustling	20.0	29.1	27.3	10.9	12.7	2.64	1.26
Persistent drought of El-barta Ward leads to cattle rustling	6.1	17.0	29.1	17.6	30.3	3.49	1.25
Establishment and registration of group ranches leads to cattle rustling.	37.0	32.1	14.5	7.3	9.1	2.19	1.26

Scale: 1= not extent, 2=Low extent, 3= Moderate extent, 4=great extent, 5=very great extent, M= Mean, Std= Standard Deviation

Source: Field Data, 2022

In terms of resources, half (50.3%) of the respondents indicated that struggling for limited resources caused cattle rustling to a very great extent. This was further supported by 46.0% of the respondents who indicated to a great and moderate extent respectively. The remaining 3.6% indicated to a low extent and no extent. This statement had a mean score of 4.27 and standard deviation of 0.92. This implies that majority of them were positive that lack of resources contributed to cattle rustling.

Whereas 49.7% of the respondents indicated that proliferation of Light Weapons and Small Fire Arms in the

region intensifies cattle rustling to a very great extent, 31.5% and 12.1% indicated to a great and moderate extent respectively. The remaining 5.5% and 1.2% indicated to a little extent and no extent respectively. This statement had a mean score of 4.47 and standard deviation of 3.23. This implies that proliferation of light weapons and small fire arms largely contribute to cattle rustling.

When asked to indicate the extent to which political rivalry and pressure leads to cattle rustling, 32.1% indicated moderate extent, 29.7% very great extent, and 29.1% great extent. Only a few (9.1%) of the respondents

indicated low or no extent. This statement had a mean score of 3.81 and standard deviation of 1.07. This implies that political rivalry and pressure has a moderate effect on cattle rustling.

Whereas 38.2% of the respondents indicated that tribal cultural beliefs contribute to cattle rustling to a moderate extent, 41.2% indicated to a great and very great extent respectively. The remaining 20.6% however indicated to a low and no extent respectively. This statement had a mean score of 3.36 and standard deviation of 1.07. This shows that tribal cultural beliefs partially contribute to cattle rustling.

With regard to boundaries, 34.5% and 22.4% indicated that existing imaginary boundaries leads to cattle rustling to a moderate or low extent respectively. Thirty seven point nine per cent indicated that the imaginary boundaries led to cattle rustling to a great and very great extent with the remaining 15.2% indicating to no extent. This statement was supported by a mean score of 3.02 and standard deviation of 2.03. This implies that the existence of imaginary boundaries have moderate or little effect on cattle rustling.

In terms of cattle market, 49.1% indicated that increased demand for cattle in the market both in and outside of the county instigates cattle rustling to a low or no extent. This was however not the case among 50.9% of the respondents who indicate that it affected to a moderate, very great and great extent respectively. Notably, the statement had a mean score of 2.64 and standard deviation of 1.26. This implies that on average, demand in the cattle market had a low effect on cattle rustling.

When asked to indicate the extent to which persistent drought of El-barta Ward leads to cattle rustling, 30.3% indicated to a very great extent, 29.1% moderate extent, 17.6% great extent, 17.0% low extent and 6.1% no extent respectively. This statement had a mean score of 3.49 and standard deviation of 1.25 implying that on average, the persistent drought had a moderate effect on cattle rustling in El-barta Ward.

A majority (69.1%) indicated that the establishment and registration of group ranches leads to cattle rustling to a low extent and no extent. a few (14.9%) however indicated a moderate extent whereas the remaining 16.4% indicated to a very great and great extent respectively. This statement was further supported by a mean score of 2.19 and standard deviation of 1.26. This implies that on average, the establishment and registration of group ranches had a low effect on cattle rustling.

Having established the extent to which various factors caused cattle rustling in the El-barta Ward, the respondents were further asked to mention some of the other factors that they felt contributed to cattle rustling which had not been highlighted. There were several

factors mentioned and they include measuring tribal strength and braveness, tribalism, unemployment, attitude, biased resource sharing, unresolved historical injustices and boundary issues, displacement by other communities, influence of government officials, poor security, ethnic cleansing, illiteracy, poverty, enmity within the communities and lack of reliable sources of income. It was also indicated that, radicalization of youth (culture), easy availability of arms due to porous borders, diversion of money meant for development into buying arms (implicit county government policies) and lack of political will by political leaders largely contributed to cattle rustling. One of the respondents reported that:

> Tribalism largely contributes to the increased cattle rustling in the area. This is where a certain community feels the other is not important and doesn't have a right to live there. Additionally, unequal distribution of government resources - sometime the government distributes resources unequally and this will lead to cattle rustling in the area.

Another respondent reported that:

> Spill-over from cross border conflicts has had a significant effect on cattle rustling in this area. High illiteracy levels among the youths also support cattle rustling for they are not able to secure employment. Cultural practices such as consistent demand for dowry from elders/pride has fuelled cattle rustling in the area as well as peer pressure from girls and women from both sides of the conflicts (Respondent D, 2022).

According to respondent X (2022):

> Scarcity in job opportunities where nepotism and tribalism wins the day whiles the less population benefits through the indulgence in cattle rustling. Corruption or unequal distribution of resources and social amenities in the region creating buffer zones has been a source of cattle rustling in the area of the years. Classification of rich and poor, educated and uneducated is also a contributory factor to cattle rustling in my community.

Additionally, Respondent T (2022) reported that:

> Social, economic and political exclusion of selected ethnic communities/regions contributes to increased cattle rustling in the community supported by negative ethnicity. Competition for meager natural resources e.g. land (grazing lands), water points and disproportionate distribution of county resources and development of county resources (e,g. jobs, development activities e.t.c) all contribute to cattle rustling.

From the findings, it is evident that there are several emerging factors which contribute to cattle rustling in El-barta Ward some of which include lack of employment, prevalence of fire-arms, limited resources, political rivalry, tribal cultural beliefs and persistent drought. These findings are in line with the findings from previous studies. For instance, Viajar (2016) in a study on cattle

rustling posits that cattle rustling in Philippines stems from the presence of conflict caused by the breakdown of governance, high poverty and proliferation of firearms. The persistence of cattle-rustling in Philippines is attributed to political incitement. Additionally, Cheromoi (2019) also adds that the main cause of cattle rustling between the Pokot of Alale Division and its neighbors notably the Turkana is to acquire more cattle for economic independence and prestige. Manyok,(2017) indicated that among the causes of cattle rustling are changes in leadership system, availability of SALWs, political influences, poverty levels, illiteracy, cattle rustling commercialization, form of ethnic conflicts, increase in

bride prices, continuous cultural practice of cattle rustling and migration patterns.

2. Economic Activities carried out in El-barta Ward

This study was set to explore the main economic activities carried out in El-barta Ward, Samburu County. Hence, several statements were provided to the respondents on the main economic activities carried out in the El-barta Ward. The respondents were expected to indicate the extent to which they were in agreement or disagreement. Responses are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Main Economic Activities

Statements	1	2	3	4	5	M	Std
The residents of the Ward depend on pastoralism and animals rearing for their daily livelihood.	4.2	.6	11.5	17.6	66.1	4.41	1.01
Some members of the Ward are practicing small scale farming to supplement animal products.	8.5	41.8	24.2	15.7	9.7	2.74	1.11
Trading activities are prevalent in the urban setup of El-barta Ward.	.6	12.7	30.3	28.5	27.9	3.71	1.02
Livestock markets are prevalent in El-barta Ward and attract all the communities present.	10.9	29.1	18.8	19.4	21.8	3.08	1.32
Some members of El-barta Ward are employed in the formal sector and earn a monthly salary.	17.6	24.8	24.8	20.1	12.7	2.84	1.28
Scale: 1= not extent, 2=Low extent, 3= Moderate extent, 4=great extent, 5=very great extent, M= Mean, Std= Standard Deviation							

Source: Field Data, 2022

Majority (66.1%) indicated that pastoralism and animals rearing for their daily livelihood was practiced by the residents to a very great extent. This statement had a mean score of 4.41 and standard deviation of 1.01. This implies that pastoralism and animals rearing are highly active in the ward.

The statement on whether some members of the Ward are practicing small scale farming to supplement animal products had a mean score of 2.74 and standard deviation of 1.11. This is whereby half of the respondents indicated that small scale farming was practiced to a low extent with 24.2% indicating to a moderate extent and a quarter (25.4) indicating to a great and very great extent. This implies that on average, small scale farming is practiced to a low extent in the ward.

Whereas 56.4% indicated that trading activities are prevalent in the urban setup of El-barta Ward to a great and very great extent, 30.3% and12.7% indicated to a moderate and low extent. The statement had a mean score of 3.71 and standard deviation of 1.02. This implies that on average, trading activities in the ward is moderate.

Whereas 21.8% of the respondents indicated that livestock markets are prevalent in El-barta Ward and attract all the communities present to a very great extent, 29.1% and 18.8% indicated to a low and moderate extent respectively. This statement was further supported by mean score of 3.08 and standard deviation of 1.32 implying that livestock markets attracted present communities to a moderate extent.

When asked to indicate extent to which some members of El-barta Ward are employed in the formal sector and earn a monthly salary, 49.6% indicated to a moderate and low extent, 20.1% to a great extent, 12.7% very great extent and 17.6% to no extent. This statement had a mean score of 2.84 and standard deviation of 1.28. This implies that in El-barta ward, there are only a few members who are in the formal sector and earning a monthly salary.

The researcher went on ahead to ask the respondents to indicate other ways of improving the economic production of residents of El-barta Ward. There were several suggestions given by the respondents and they include job creation, inter-marriages, construction of dams for agricultural activities and drilling boreholes, security

provision at the market grounds, creation of more livestock market places, diversification of income sources, improve infrastructure (such as roads) for market accessibility, introducing improved animal breeds, educating people on the importance of business and self-employment, equal participation of all conflict resolution activities in decision making at county level. Provide morans with seed capital for business, promote Cross-border peace meetings, promote education among the youth, promoting emergency or drought resilience among the pastoralist communities. Facilitate inter-county exchange visits for the reformed morans (benchmarking tours). The County government should provide internships to all qualified youths and engage the reformed warrior in out of school literacy program. There were several statements from the respondents that were outstanding. The statements are as directly provided by the respondents:

> Provision of civic education on various farm inputs to promote large scale farming. Encouraging peaceful co-existence between communities to promote trade and ensuring safety El-barta ward region transport network in order to improve movement of both goods and trades men in and out of El-barta ward (Respondent X, 2022).

> The pastrolist communities should be taught animal production to increase the quality and the quantity of animal products. Investors -when investors come to El-barta ward they will create job opportunities to the youth and morans. This will improve the economy and also keep the youth busy (Respondent M, 2022).

> Sensitize the locals on the available economic opportunities offered by the national government e.g.jobs, tenders, youth and women fund and social security fund for the elderly. Train youth on entrepreneurships. Train women on leadership and good governance to enhance their local capacities for social auditing for purposes of social accountability. Sensitize the youths on behavior change and social values of hard work and economic responsibility and independence (Respondent O, 2022).

> Reducing overgrazing; reduces soil erosion hence high soil productivity. Provision of regular livestock vaccination activities. Sensitizing farmers on production value chain technology and services, establishment of new markets e.g. in Nichola and Lesirikan/ rehabilitation of closed markets e.g Mart, non-productive and curling of livestock will improve economic sustainability (Respondent Z, 2022).

> There is need for public participation, education and awareness when coming to the sharing of the

budget of the county government. Allocation of funds to youth sector promoting industrialization through establishing TVET center. Promotion of employment by training young people trough seminars public barazas and later brings their activities to daily livelihood (jua kali) (Respondent A, 2022).

Establishment of micro finance institutions for people to access more funds to invest in their business. Introduce village loans and loaning activities at the grass root. Adequate distribution of county economic resources to all groups e.g. the county women fund and exploring of natural resources to support the economy of alternative sources of income will improve the economic production of residents (Respondent C, 2022).

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1. Conclusion

There are several conclusions that this study makes. With regard to the causes of cattle rustling, this study concludes that there are several factors which have played a major role in promoting cattle rustling in El-barta Ward. These factors include lack of resources, availability and accessibility of firearms, tribalism, cultural beliefs especially those surrounding land territories and property ownership, political interference. Moreover, the issue of poverty, unemployment and lack of education is also a major contributory factor towards cattle rustling in El-barta Ward, Samburu County.

For the economic activities, the study concludes that main economic activity carried out among the households in El-barta Ward is pastoralism. However, there are those few who have engaged themselves in doing small scale farming and trading businesses in the area. Those who are engaging in formal employment are very few and this may be attributed to lack of formal education among most of the people living in the area.

5.2 Recommendations

From the summary of the findings and conclusions made in this study, there are several recommendations that are made. This study recommends that there is need for the law enforcers to work together with the locals in order to ensure that there is tight security in the ward. Including the locals in the decision making process is essential for it will boost in establishing some of the loopholes that may not be seen by the law enforcers while taking patrols in the area for security purposes.

There is also a need for empowerment programs to be implemented in the area. These programs can help to create awareness among the youth and locals on the importance of education as well as diversification of income sources. Training programs can be provided on entrepreneurship, agri-business, small scale farming.

Additionally, the through the empowerment programs, grants may also be provided to the people to encourage them to venture into business and agriculture which can help reduce overdependence in pastoralism which is contributory factor to cattle rustling.

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