Conflict Management Continuum & Sustainable Development in West Pokot and Turkana Counties

By

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Introduction

- There has been persistent conflict between the Pokots and Turkanas in Kapedo and Kainuk areas.

- There are frequent attacks either from the Pokots or Turkanas, as consequence, once on community is attacked, the other prepares to revenge, which lead to lose of lives, properties and livestock which is regarded as the backbone of economy.

- The attack paralyses all systems of educational, commercial and social that leads to development. Scholars wonder what the root cause of the conflict is.

Introduction

- In recent months, parts of North rift, stretching from Baringo in the south, through Samburu and West Pokot and Turkana in the north, were hardly hit by bandits in which civilians and security officers have been killed

- The term conflict is used to refer to a situation in which people or groups are involved in a serious disagreements or disputes.

- There has been a prolonged conflict the two pastoral communities along the borders and the root cause is not known, but scholars have done studies on the same and gave some of the causes.

Introduction

- Climate related environmental changes have been observed to be the major causes of the conflicts in Ethiopia, for example, drought has increased from 6-8 years to the current 1-2 years].

- Conflicts are common phenomena in many regions of the world, especially in dry lands, that are endowed with scarce natural resources as result leading to competition over control of and access to the meagre resources especially water and pastures for their livestock which in turn trigger conflicts.

Introduction contd.

- Therefore environmental factors and historical factors are the root cause of conflicts between Turkana and pokots.

- On the other hand in reference to history, inter-community conflicts are the most common type of conflicts in the counties of west Pokots and Turkana.

- The conflicts were caused by historical rivalry, cattle rustling and competition for water and pasture-This was attributed to the fact that the Pokots & Turkana share the longest boundary and in addition each community regarded the other as inferior.

Genealogy of conflicts

- Since time immemorial, once conflict was accepted as a central fact of the society, a rich tradition was available for its interpretation.

- Every society has its conflicts; every person has persons who face up to them.

- In classical Greece, a series of thinkers from Heraclitus to the sophists treated conflict as a primary; perhaps the social fact.Polybrus developed the best conflict theory of antiquity, for which it was a fundamental fact in the evolution of political institutions.

Genealogy of conflicts

- Also in the medieval Arabic world, Ibn Khaldun developed a conflict theory of society based on the assumption that the struggles between the nomad and a tiller were fundamental to evolution of civilization [Abraham, 1992].

- the conflicts which occur in societies originate from either economic issue, which involves disputes relating to development of trade, industry and accumulation of wealth; or conflict also occurred because of political issues, this can be related to the government and political parties over certain policies.

Genealogy of conflicts

- Conflicts which occur can also emanate from a social issue.

- The main causes of conflicts in the contemporary world are the social nature, refers to concerns of the people, community and relationships with each other, for instance Turkana and Pokot.

- These calls for the **classification of conflicts**: Conflicts have been classified according to the parties involved.

- In this criteria, Juma [2000] classifies them into four main categories:

Genealogy of conflicts

(a) conflicts among pastoral communities,

(b) conflicts linked to presence of refugees,

(c) conflicts between pastoralists and crop farming communities and

(d) ethnic clashes.

- Huho[2012] has given two classifications

[a] Intra community and

[b]Inter-community

Genealogy of conflicts

- by observing "Conflicts in West Pokot County, like in many other pastoral regions, were both intra and inter community and nearly all revolved around control over and access to natural resources particularly water and pasture."

- The research also classified the conflicts into two:

[a]external and

[b] internal conflicts.

- Internal conflicts are those which occur among the community e.g. the Pokot themselves- intra-community conflicts were largely as a result of land disputes

Genealogy of conflicts

- Land ownership in West Pokot County is both communal and freehold.

- Most of the communal lands, where pastoralism predominates, are found in the lowlands while freehold land ownership is largely in the highlands where land is arable.

- The need to access the available land resources, during the dry spell, triggered conflicts between community members living on the lowlands of Sigor, Cheptulel, Kacheliba and Chepkopigh and on the highlands of Chepareria, Lelan and Kapenguria".

Genealogy of conflicts

- External conflicts are those emanate from outside the community, for example conflict between Turkanas and Pokots.

- Inter-community conflicts were the most common types of conflict in the county.

- These conflicts were caused by historical rivalry, cattle rustling and competition for water and pasture. Conflicts as a result of historical rivalry existed between the Pokot and members of other pastoral communities such as the Turkana, Sabaot, Samburu and Marakwet [from Kenya] and Sabiny and Karamajong [from Uganda].

Genealogy of conflicts

- The other classification is according to the level of the parties in involved in the conflict.

- Under this criterion, Kiruthu et al, [2007], classified conflicts into five levels as follows:

[a] Individual versus individual.

[b] Group versus group.

[c] Individual versus state.

[d] Group versus state.

[e] State versus state.

- The conflicts were resolved through reconciliation and leading to peace.

Genealogy of conflicts

- The term reconciliation is derived from Latin root word "*conciliatus*" ,which means to come together, to assemble which implies "walking together".

- According to Nelson [1969] reconciliation refers to the act by which people who have been apart and split-off from one another begin to stroll or match again.

- Essentially reconciliation means the restoration of broken relationships or the coming together of those who were alienated and separated from each other by conflict to create a community again [Assefa,1993].

Genealogy of conflicts

- Peace is about preventing the problems and conflict management is about managing a conflict once it has occurred.

- The research paper applied conflict management continuum which refers to peace education concentrating on the skills attitudes and behaviors which constructively manage the conflicts.

The Models of approaching Conflicts

- The consensus model gives considerable weight to the persistence of shared ideas.

- The major social change is thought to come rather slowly and depend on large-scale shifts in attitude and belief.

- The conflict model approach holds that most important aspect of social order is the domination of some groups by others that society is best understood as an arena of actual and potential conflict and that when things look peaceful.

- A conflict model appeals to proponents of change for two reasons.

The Models of approaching Conflicts

- First, it identifies the potential for change, especially the rise of new groups capable of challenging existing institutions.

- Second. The conflict model suggests that a strategic shift in power can decisively affect social history [Broom & Selznick, 1977].

The statement of the problem

- The problem of study is no one can resolve conflicts and thus make peace without knowing the root causes of the conflicts are identified and dealt.

- It's against this problem that the current research to be conducted to know causes.

The objective of the research

- The purpose is to study the best strategy to be applied to bring peace and reconciliation among the Turkana and Pokot and lead to sustainable development in the area.

Methodology

- The study adopted in-depth interviews through simple random sampling technique in respondents from both communities in Kapedo and Kainuk areas. The research interviewed   three hundred responds in the region.

Conflict-peace to sustainable development

- There are seven methods of fostering peace where a conflict occurs.

1. The use of force. Force is the most common method but the least effective, where force is applies it also triggers violence which leads to conflict.

2. The adjudication in a legal system; here three components of the police system, legal and penal systems are applied to stop the conflict. This does not bring peace if justice is not exercised. Thus there should an element truth so as to be successful among the two parties.

Conflict-peace to sustainable development

3. Another method is Abitration, where judgments are made by the third party [but not a court of law], it could enforced by social pressure from other groups.

4. Negotiation is another method applied where two parties solve their problem without the third party.

5. Mediation is applied and a third party [neutral] is involved to help the process and this cannot be enforced by law.

6. Resolution is method used when both sides are satisfied with the outcomes with negative or positive, the relationship restored as before.

Conflict-peace to sustainable development

7. Tranformation method is where the relationship is better after than before the conflict.

- From transformation there would be peace which would lead to security as a consequence there would be sustainable devt in communication system, transport system, religious systems, medical systems and educational systems.

- If there would be no transformation, it would result into conflict and as a result lead to unsustainable development in communication systems, no networks as so on, in transport system, no roads and impassable etc

Conflict-peace to sustainable development

- in transport system, no roads and impassable and so on, in religious system, no church or mosque or temples would effectively function and so on, in medical, there would be no hospital build, doctors would fear to work in such places and so on, in educational systems, the schools would be closed down and teachers would fear to work in such places.

The key findings

1. **People lose lives** for example the 16 November 1995 raid For example, the 16 November 1995 raid by the Pokot against the Turkana, which led to a loss of 2,000 goats and one herdsman, was followed by a retaliatory attack on 27 December 1995 by the Turkana pastoralists.

- This retaliatory attack led to loss of three people and 4,000 cattle [Nangulu, 2001].The most recent case, there was a massacre and people lost lives. The police could not even find, the manyatta where 54 bodies of women, men and children were rotting where they fell, mauled by AK-47 fire.

The key findings

- Here there are no roads, no phones, no hospitals, no police and no army. The very idea of government is an alien joke [Daily Nation May 7th 2015].

2. **Fear and insecurity** due to anarchy and the civil servants fear to work in those areas.

3. **Education system was paralyzed** and pupils from the region feared to go to schools because of fear of fresh attacks. Most of non-indigenous teachers transferred and those who were not allowed to transfer in formal way had to quit and vowed not to return back those schools.

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The key findings

4. **Poor infrastructure.** There were no roads in Nadome which sits on the boundary between Turkana and Baringo counties.

• A feeble effort by the police to reach the area was unsuccessful, because the roads were impassable. Red Cross personnel and Nation reporters reached the remote village locked away from civilization by pathetic roads and rough terrain.

5. **Human suffering and misery:** It was pitiful sight of mothers, one whom was pregnant clutching desperately at young ones, even as they were mowed down with AK-47 fire.

The key findings

- Sufferings were experienced Lorogon village on the boundaries of Turkana and West Pokot counties were villagers were under siege from bandits for five days before police officers from both counties coordinated and unblocked the Turkwel-Lorogon road and ended the siege.women lamented that they could not venture to water points or fetch firewood for fear of fresh attacks.

5. **Massive displacements**; the villagers indicated that the aim of the bandits was to displace them and take over the village as they had done with 20 others whose names were changed.

The key findings

- They said they used to know Lokankapei [Kasses] and Kangilogitea [Takaiwa]as villages in Turkana. They pleaded for the government to show them the exact boundary whether Lorogon is in Turkana or west Pokot counties [Daily Nation May 7th 2015].

6. Commercial or business activities stop to operate for several days and three, pupils stop going to schools because of fear of attacks and lead to the closure of schools. More than 92 public schools have been closed countrywide because of insecurity. Out of these 23 are secondary schools.

The key findings

6. **Historical hatred** between the two communities which leads to revenging to each other when an issue occurs.

7. **Proliferation of small arms and light weapons** in the regions.

- Respondents gave the factors contributing to the proliferation of the arms as follows:

[i]insecurity of the people and feel that they are not adequately protected by the government

[ii]porous border makes it easy to acquire them

[iii]armed militias as a means of self protection

The key findings

[iv]threat from outside communities

[vi]limited capacity of the government security apparatus to adequately deal with security.

[vii]Rivalry between communities and need to revenge

[viii] competition for scarce resources such as water and pasture for the animals.

[ix]lack of communication and dialogue between communities[Turkana, Pokots, Samburu & others].

[x]Poor infrastructure such as roads, where raiders cannot be followed

The key findings

[xi]political instability in the neighboring countries of Somali and others, leading to influx of refugees.

[xii]Social economic factors-using illicit ammunition/ weapons as a means of acquiring wealth.

- The research found there were some factors that encouraged the youth to engage in banditry & cattle rustling in the conflict prone areas such as:

[a]unemployment, where most of the youth are systematically excluded during the recruitment because they do not meet the requirement and some done have money to corrupt to be recruited in forces.

The key findings

[b] cultural factors that encourage the young initiates and men to engage in cattle rustling; high bride price which compel who needs to marry look for wealth; and livestock is a measuring parameter for wealth and is a symbol of authority.

[c]economic factors-over reliance on animals/livestock; environmental factors do not favour many economic activities such as agriculture.

[d]inequitable distribution of resources for example infrastructure and social amenities as no hospitals, few schools and making youth less interested and competitive.

The key findings

[e] poor governance and leadership-there is over reliance on the traditional systems of governance that encourage hegemy and leaders have been known to encourage and facilitate the youth to be involved in raids.

[f]desire to restock huge livestock losses due to drought and epidemics and lack of proper mentorship counseling and guidance.

Conclusion

- It is concluded that there no economic growth and sustainable development in Kapendo and Kainuk regions.

- As a consequence these regions would not be at par with other parts of Kenya in levels of development.

- Despite much effort by government and non-governmental bodies to broker peace amongst the pastoralists, Kona [2004] acknowledges that breaking the vicious cycle of conflicts in pastoral communities remains a challenge to most peace building initiatives.

Conclusion

- Development prior to 1960, development too many people was equated with economic growth, that is, a country's Gross National Product.

- Thus economic growth was perceived as an effective means of improving people's standards of life.

- As a fact there was a positive relationship between GNP and standard of living.

- In Turkana and west Pokot counties in Kenya, where conflicts are rampant, shows the features of underdevelopment as follows: majority of the people remain economically poor, because are not able to go to school because of conflicts which disrupt the educational systems.

Conclusion

- And the children from the region who would resistant and persistent, could would drop from school and get involved in raids or cattle rustling.

- This concurs with, the report of the cabinet secretary admitted that the learners in the conflict hit counties would find it difficult to compete with the rest of the country [Daily Nation May27th 2015].

Conclusion

- The youth in ASAL areas should be engaged positively by:

[a] encouraging them to go to school in large numbers

[b]affirmative action in employment, recruitment and admission to schools and tertiary institutions

[c]counseling, mentoring and spiritual nourishment should be encouraged among the youth

[d]the government provides quality education and training for children in pastoral areas to enhance diversification of opportunities for decent incomes.

Recommendation

- The research recommends for conflicts to be resolved, it must be beyond surface issues and address the substantive and emotional issues as the same time the communities' needs and interests that are at the root of the conflicts.

- This implies lasting peace between conflicting communities is possible only when deeper needs are accommodated and satisfied.

- The government effectively deploys experienced and specially trained officers to deal with challenges of peace and security and adequately equips them.

Recommendation

- The government should adequately secure and ensure prompt recovery of stolen livestock and punishment of the perpetrators.

- Develop strategies, recommendations and action plans for attaining sustainable peace and development in the ASALS, particularly in Kapedo and Kainuk, as follows:

[i]Appreciate and address the past grievances by various communities,Turkana and Pokot.

[ii]Engagement of youth in productive activities as not to be idle.

Recommendation

[iii]strengthen peace committees thro' training, sensitization, motivation & reward from both Turkana & West Pokot counties and other neighboring counties of Samburu and Baringo where conflicts are rampant.

[iv]Strengthen security presence along the borders & along conflict prone areas thro' the establishment of well-resourced police posts and patrol bases, posting of competent and experienced officers to these areas not the new graduates from training.

Recommendation

[v]promotion of community dialogue and community policing with a view to regulate grazing patterns and resolve conflicts between the Pokot, Turkana, Samburu and others.

[vi deliberate efforts by county governments to be made to address poverty in ASALS.The should be incentives for investments in ASAL and exploitation of resources within those areas for the benefit of all like Turkwel Power project.

[vii]Leaders from those areas should champion sustained peace through respect because they will serve as ROLE MODEL to their communities.

Recommendation

[viii]There should be affirmative action-deliberate efforts at development of ASALS by their county governments on Health facilities, roads, water, irrigation, industries, education including university in-take and entry into civil service, to help steer up sustainable development .

THANKS
FOR LISTENING