Analysis of the Economic Strategies on Strategic Natural Resources Leveraging on Kenya's Vision 2030 Strategic Plan for Alleviation of Absolute Poverty in Bomet County

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Abstract
The objective of the research was to analyze unique strategies leveraging on Kenya's vision 2030 strategic plan for alleviation of absolute poverty in Bomet County. The literature review was based on Resource Based View Theory as the recent theory of strategic management recently applied in Asian Countries and Europe and has successfully improved their economic growth. The specific objectives were: to identify the cash and subsistence crops, to determine the economic importance of water, to determine the assistance required by the residents of Bomet County and to identify intervention by the County government in Bomet County leveraging on Kenya's vision 2030 on alleviation of absolute poverty in Bomet County. In the research methodology, the survey design will be adopted in collecting primary and secondary data from households. The targeted population was 141, 219 households from five sub-counties in Bomet County. By comparing Conchran formula and Krejcei and Morgan table the sample taken was 384 households. Questionnaires and interviews schedule were the main research instruments. Secondary data included periodicals, County ministerial reports on absolute poverty. Data analysis was done using descriptive statistics (Percentages and averages), Inferential statistics was part of the data analysis. The Significance of this study was to identify the resources and the likely exploitation strategies that will generate wealth and consequently alleviate absolute poverty in Bomet County. It was established that economic strategies ($r = 0.537^{**}$).

KEYWORDS: (i) Natural resources, (ii) Alleviation, (iii) Absolute poverty (iv) Bomet county.

INTRODUCTION

Statement of the Problem

Despite these positive developments, poverty alleviation has remained elusive particularly from 1980s. Poor economic performance led to increase in absolute poverty, that is, people without adequate food and nutrition, and inadequate access to basic services – education, health facilities, safe water, and decent housing. This has been blamed on poor policy formulation, initiation, planning, and implementation of poverty alleviation programs. The PPARs have broadened perceptions of the poor on the phenomenon of poverty. The studies reveal that the poor have

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been excluded in formulating policies aimed at alleviating poverty. The poor have, over the years, been reduced to passive participants in their own development; reducing their ownership of poverty alleviation programs. They are not involved in formulating the policies and identifying the specific projects that will raise the level of development, thanks to their non-representation in various policy-making organs and institutions at the grassroots.

Bomet County is endowed with abundant resources but these have not been fully exploited to generate wealth. Some areas of the county experiences extreme poverty, hence necessity that the modern technology and strategic leadership, coupled with the establishment of strategic research institutions should convert these under-utilized resources to produce wealth. The following statistics obtained from Bomet County First Integrated Development Plan (2013-2018 pg. 78): child headed households – 708, absolute poverty- (242, 585 persons – 31%), contribution to national poverty – 0.2%, urban poor - 1024 households (7.8%), rural poor – 381,875 persons (48.8%), food poverty –283,276 persons (36.2%), household with access to portable water – 27,531 households (19.47%) and access to piped water- 11,940 households (8.45%) and Doctor: patient ratio 1: 55,595, nurse: patient ratio 1: 2,727. No study has been done in Bomet County to alleviate absolute poverty (GOK, 2013). The Kenya's vision 2030 has laid down strategies for Kenya. The study therefore seeks to isolate working strategies that will alleviate absolute poverty in Bomet County by strategizing on social, economic, and political pillars to exploit the available recourses in Bomet County. Therefore, the objective of this study was to explore the strategic resources, strategic programs/projects, and infrastructures that can be developed to alleviate absolute poverty in Bomet County.

Research Objectives

The study objectives were to identify the cash and subsistence crops which can reduce absolute poverty in Bomet County, to determine the economic importance of water that can reduce absolute poverty in Bomet County, to determine the assistance required by the residents of Bomet County to reduce absolute poverty and to identify the intervention by the county government to reduce absolute poverty in Bomet County.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Poverty in Kenya

Poverty in Kenya is fueled by a diversity of factors: Unemployment, child labor, HIV/AIDS epidemic and an education system that does not address the needs of the country. Kenya is one of the countries in Africa, which did pretty well in 1970s – 80s in term of covering basic needs. Kenya wasted opportunities. Kenya boasts a young and vibrant population, with 40% underage a big share of it below 15 years. This would be a tremendous opportunity for consumption if only the average income had not been plummeting in the past few years threatening more and more families of destitution. By 2008, unemployment was at 40% of the population. In 2004, Kenya's income poverty rate was 57% of the population. The poverty line is set at $ 1.46 per day in urban areas and $ 0.68 in rural ones, averaging $ 1.07 per day. The poverty indicators in Kenya are as follows:-15 million people are poor in the rural areas (about 49% in 2005) and poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line 45.9% of population.

Kenya is on the path to economic growth; however, poverty alleviation remains a challenge. Nearly half of the country's 43 million people live below the poverty line or unable to meet their

daily needs. Kenya is ranked 145th among 187 countries in United Nation Development Programs. Human Development Index, which measures development in terms of life expectancy, educational attainment and standard of living. Poverty and food insecurity are acute in the country's arid and semi-arid lands, which have been severely affected by recurrent droughts. In some counties, harsh climatic conditions, poor application of relevant technologies to utilize abundant resources, lack of subsidized fertilizers and election violence have contributed to extreme poverty in Kenya.

Absolute Poverty in Bomet County

Bomet is one of the counties in Kenya endowed with many resources. Poverty is largely a rural phenomenon and the prevalence of absolute poverty in rural Kenya is 49% (GOK, 2007). Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target to reduce the proportion of people affected by absolute poverty by 2015 (United Nations 2006).Bomet County is in high potential areas in Rift Valley and it experiences absolute poverty. This is manifested by the presence of the following:

(i) Inadequate Health Facilities- leading to diseases like kwashiorkor, marasmus, rickets, and cholera. Poor sanitation facilities, no safe drinking water, jigger infestation, crime (Rape cases) are some of the examples.

Education – drop out of school children due to: - lack of fees to attain secondary education, inadequate access to technical/business education to equip the youths with trade skills required for self-employment, early pregnancies and infrastructure – inadequate or poor roads to transport farm products to markets especially during rainy seasons. Very few manufacturing industries to process farm products and create jobs to the residents and inadequate financial institutions like cooperative societies to give loan credits to the locals to meet their needs.

(ii) Technology – Inadequate ITs and inability to use them if they are available.

Very few Research and Development institutions (no university research institution) to mitigate uprising problem e.g. Maize Negrital Disease (MND), very few business process off-shoring and outsourcing and lack of establishment of markets both local and international to market their products.

(iii) Resources–Inadequate maximization of resources using scientific technology to generate wealth.e.g. Land, Tea, Flowers, Pyrethrum, Coffee, Tobacco as cash crops and subsistence farming to provide sufficient daily needs.

Bomet County is blessed with under-exploited resources namely tangible, human, and intangible resources that could have been utilized to reduce absolute poverty. Some studies have been done by the Ministry of Agriculture, Swynerton plan (1954) but there is a lot of manifestation of poverty in Bomet County. The objective of this study is to fill the above gap by using strategies that can be utilized to alleviate absolute poverty in Bomet County. Strategically Bomet County should maximize its competitive advantage, minimize competitive disadvantage by generating wealth, and consequently better living standards.

Studies on the Asian Tigers, a term used in reference to the highly free and developed economies of Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore were notable for maintaining exceptionally high growth rates (in excess of 7% a year) and rapid industrialization between early 1960s and 1990s. By 21st Century all the four Asian Tigers had developed into an advance competitive advantage, Hong Kong and Singapore have become international World leaders in manufacturing information technology. Their economic success stories have served as role models for many developing countries especially the Tiger Cub economic (Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam). By 1963, Kenya was a head of the above countries in the development status yet

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today, the Asian Tigers are far ahead of Kenya. Therefore, Bomet County should re-think and re-engineer how to use the unique strategic resources in the County, generate wealth, and consequently alleviate absolute poverty. What is required is to examine ecological factors of a country and develop strategies relevant to their environment in time. It is now that Bomet County deduces strategies unique to the county and enacts them for its benefit and thus alleviates absolute poverty.

Kenya's Vision 2030 and poverty alleviation

The Kenya's vision 2030 was to make Kenya a globally competitive and prosperous nation by 2030. The vision aimed at implementing the flagship projects identified under vision 2030 as well as other key policies and programs over the twenty years. Kenya's vision 2030 envisage the use of Economic pillar, Social pillar and the Political pillar as the cornerstone of generating wealth in Kenya by 2030. In itself is a good blue print. Social equity and equitable access to public services have been part of nation's development agenda since independence. However, concerns have been raised on the extent of disparities between rich and the poor and inequitable distribution of public resources between individuals, regions and along gender lines.

Attempts to Alleviate Absolute Poverty in Bomet County

Poverty is prevalent in all the sub-counties in Bomet County, but the degree and causes vary. The average number of households living below poverty line is 51% of the total county population. The most affected divisions are Sigor, Longisa, Siongorio, Sotik and Kimulot. The Kenya Integrated Household and Budget Survey Report (KIHBS) 2005 indicate that most of the poor people are those living in major centers, tea estates and in the lower zones of the county. The constitution of Kenya (2010) requires an integrated development-planning framework to enhance linkage between policy, planning, and budgeting. Bomet county Integrated Development plan (CIDP) for the period 2013-2017 was prepared with the County Government Act 2012 and other legislations which stipulates that all county governments shall develop documents to derive their development agenda in collaborations with national government. This was expected to realize the expectation of Kenya's vision 2030, medium term plans and millennium development goals at the county levels.

The first Bomet County integrated development plan (CIDP) for the period 2013-2017 was prepared by department of finance and economic planning in close collaboration with the Sectorial heads. The CIDP is a broad-based consultative process in each of the 25 wards, which brought together a cross section of stakeholders within Bomet County. Poverty is still widely spread in Bomet County, 51% of the total population living below poverty line. Mostly women are affected. About5.2% of the population is infected by HIV/AIDS. The most affected are women and men in the age brackets of (20-29) and (30-39) respectively. A lot of resources and time is spent in taking care of the sick, which should be used on economic activity elsewhere. An estimated 2.5% of persons live with disability in Bomet County. The young people constitute 33% of the total population and are unemployed and vulnerable to many vices that have affected society, leading to drug abuse and alcoholism.

Drunkenness has led youths to commit serious crimes and to be economically inactive resulting in increased dependency ratio as they continue to depend on their parents. The government has put in place mechanism to empower the youths through the provision of soft loans under the

youth enterprises fund but the uptake is still low as most youths still lack the right information on the fund. There is also fear of the enterprises failing due to inadequate capacity by the youths to understand prudent business practices and financial management. Due to unemployment and drug abuse, the young people have also suffered from HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Studies on the County Government of Bomet first County Integrated Development Plan (2013-2018), showed that is the old methods of development planning. It does not show the concrete ways of initiating and tackling absolute poverty in Bomet County. It is too general and does not apply the strategic management methods to tackling poverty. More so, there is no mention of absolute poverty. Competitive advantage is the heart of a firm's performance in competitive market. Competitiveness is a framework for analyzing industries and competitors. It describes three generic strategies for achieving competitive advantage: cost leadership, differentiation, and focus. Competition is the core of the success or failure of firms. Competition determines the appropriateness of a firm's activities that can contribute to it's to its performance, such as innovations, a cohesive cultural or good implementation. Competitive strategy is the search for favorable competitive position in Industry, the fundamental arena in which competition occurs.

UK, Ireland, Asian Tigers, China are countries which have created strategies to generate wealth in their countries and thus there has been high growth in GDP and wealth distribution and have reduced absolute poverty and social seclusion. Good governance, leadership and avoidance of corruption and good environment have led to steady growth. Bomet County should be specific on their studies to alleviate absolute poverty, which is unacceptably high. This is the basis of this research study.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Resource –Based View (RBV)

Birge Wenefeldt developed the Resource-based theory in 1984. It is a method of analyzing and identifying a firm's strategic advantages based on examining its distinct combination of assets, skills, capabilities, and intangibles as an organization. The RBV's underlying premise is that firms differ in fundamental ways because each firm possesses a "unique" bundle of resources-tangible and intangible assets and organizational capabilities to make use of those assets. Each firm develops competencies from these resources, and when developed especially well, these become the source of the firm's competitive advantage (Pearce & Robinson, 2007).

In the context of this theory, it is evident that the resources that a firm has will play a big role in the strategic implementation process. This is because no matter how good the strategies are, without the necessary resources to enable the implementation, they remain in the planning phase. The resource-based approach sees firms with superior systems and structures being profitable not because they engage in strategic investments that may deter entry and raise prices above long run costs, but because they have markedly lower costs, or offer markedly higher quality or product performance. This approach focuses on the rents accruing to the owners of scarce firm-specific resources rather than the economic profits from product market positioning. Competitive advantage lies 'upstream' of product markets and rests on the firm's idiosyncratic and difficult-to imitate resources. Every organization has actual and potential strengths and weaknesses; it is important to try to determine what they are and to distinguish one from the other. Thus what a

firm can do is not just a function of the opportunities it confronts; it also depends on what resources the organization can master.

This model recognizes resources as key to superior from performance. RBV is an approach to achieving competitive advantage that emerged in 1980s and 1990s. The supporters of this theory argue that organizations should look inside the company to find resources of competitive advantage instead of looking at competitive environment. The County should look at unique strategic resources that will alleviate absolute poverty.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The research design that was to be used in this study was descriptive survey. The study collected at collecting information from respondents on their attitude and opinions on the analysis of strategies on alleviation of absolute poverty. The study was descriptive because it seeks to document the current practices without modification of parameters.

Target Population

The targeted area was Bomet County, which has a population of 141,219 households from five sub counties namely; Sotik, Chepalungu, Konoin, Bomet Central and Bomet East.

Table 1: Target Population

Sub-County	**Population**	**No. of Households**
Sotik	165, 640	31,878
Konoin	144,038	31, 778
Chepalungu	162, 225	30, 094
Bomet East	126, 077	23, 897
Bomet Central	125, 310	23, 575
TOTAL	**723, 290**	**141, 219**

Sampling Procedure and Sample size

Cochran (1963) developed a formula for determining the sample size. The following formula is used to determine the sample size for a population more than 10000 subjects since the targeted population is 14,219 household, then this was the ideal formula.

$$n = \frac{Z^2 pq}{e^2}$$

Where n = the desired sample Size if the target population is greater than 10000.
Z = the standard normal deviate at the required confidence level (95%).
p = the proportion estimated having characteristic being measured.
q = **1- p=** the population which was not targeted
e = the level of statistical significance

If there is no estimate available of the population in the target population assumed to have the characteristics of interest, 50% should be used as recommended by Fisher *et al.,* 1992). If the proportion of a target population with certain characteristics is 0.50, the Z- statistics is 1.96 and the desired accuracy is 0.05 significance level, the sample size is:

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$$n = \frac{Z^2 pq}{e^2} = \frac{1.96^2(0.5)(0.5)}{0.05^2} = 384$$

Proportional stratified sample was used to allocate the required sample from the five sub counties. Therefore the sample required from the sub-county was calculated as:

$$n_i = \left(\frac{n}{N}\right)N_i$$

n_i = sample required
n = sample size (384)
N = population of households in Bomet County
N_i = population of the strata in the sub-county

Therefore, in calculating the sample required for each sub-county for example in Sotik Sub-county was calculated as:

$$SampleRequired = \frac{384 \times 31{,}878}{141{,}219} = 86.68$$

Hence, the sample taken for Sotik Sub-county was 87.

Krejcie and Morgan (1970) greatly simplified size decision by providing a table that ensure that a good decision model. Table 11.3 provides the generalized scientific guidelines for sample decision from the table the population of 100,000 gives 384 as the sample size to be taken. Hence it agrees with Cochran calculation. By using Cochran formula and comparing with Krejcie and Morgan (1970), the sample obtained was 384. The strata of the sub-counties were calculated proportionally for Sotik, Konoin, Chepalungu, Bomet Central, and Bomet East. Similarly, the samples for the wards were calculated proportionally.

Table 2: Sample Calculation in the Sub-Counties

Sub-County	Population	No of Households	Sample Calculation	Sample
Sotik	165,640	31,878	$\frac{31{,}878}{141{,}219} \times 384 = 86.68$	87
Konoin	144,038	31,778	$\frac{31{,}778}{141{,}219} \times 384 = 85.82$	85
Chepalungu	162,255	30,094	$\frac{30{,}094}{141{,}219} \times 384 = 81.83$	82
Bomet East	126,077	23,897	$\frac{23{,}897}{141219} \times 384 = 64.98$	64
Bomet Central	125,310	23,775	$\frac{23{,}775}{141{,}219} \times 384 = 64.65$	65
Total				**384**

The researcher used simple random sampling to ensure representation from all households in the county. To obtain the sample of 384 households as earlier determined, the five sub-counties were to form the first level of stratification, then the wards as the next levels were drawn using simple random sampling. For example in Ndanai/Abosi ward the samples were:

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$$Sample = \frac{6{,}746 \times 87}{31{,}878} = 19$$

Hence the sample allocated to Ndanai/Abosi ward was 19 respondents

Table 3: Sample Allocation in the Sub-Counties and Wards

SUB COUNTY	HOUSEHOLDS	SAMPLE (1)	WARD	HOUSEHOLDS	SAMPLE (2)
SOTIK	31,878	87	Ndanai/	6746	19
			Abosi	6500	18
			Chamagel	6001	15
			Kipsonoi	7244	20
			Kapletundo	7387	15
			Rongena/ Chebilat		
CHEPALUNGU	30,094	82	Kongasis	5166	14
			Nyongores	6706	18
			Sigor	6335	17
			Chebunyoi	6469	18
			Siongiroi	5418	15
BOMET EAST	23897	64	Merigi	5297	14
			Kembu	5021	14
			Longisa	5465	15
			Chemaner	3489	10
			Kipreres	4625	12
BOMET CENTRAL	23572	65	Silibwet Township	5394	15
			Ndarawete	4109	11
			Singorwet	3930	11
			Chesoen	6466	18
			Mutarakwo	3673	10
KONOIN	31,778	85	Chepchabas	8826	23
			Kimulot	4420	12
			Mogogosiek	5688	15
			Boito	6618	18
			Embomos	6226	17
GRAND TOTAL	**141,219**	**384**		**141,219**	**384**

Instrumentation

The researcher used questionnaires as the data collection instruments. Both primary and secondary data were collected. Primary data were obtained using questionnaires. Secondary data were obtained from the internet, Journals, government publications and magazines. The questionnaires were both structured and unstructured questions so that qualitative and quantitative data were collected for the study. The questionnaires were structured to cover four specific objectives given. Questions covering dependent variables were included. For convenience and better analysis, a five point Likert Scale was used for the closed- ended

questions. A self-administered questionnaire was constructed based on the above-mentioned instruments. The first section of the questionnaire contained questions relating to employee biographical data, which included the age, gender, and work experience. The second part contained propositions on each of the research objectives based on 5 point Likert scale. The last section, contained propositions on a Likert scale on measurement of effective organizational performance.

Data Analysis

The first step in data analysis was to describe or summarize the data using descriptive statistics. The purpose of descriptive statistics was to enable the researcher to meaningfully describe a distribution of score using few indices of statistics. The descriptive statistics, which was used in this study, measured central tendency (mode, mean, and media) and measure of dispersion (ranges, variance, and standard deviation). Inferential statistics will be used in this study. Inferential statistics deals with inferences about population based on results obtained from samples. The more representative a samples, the more generalize the results will be to the population. Inferential statistics therefore concern with determining how likely it is for the results obtained from the sample to be similar to the expected from the entire population. Inferential statistics were Karl Pearson's Coefficient, Chi square analysis and regression analysis which are described below.

Pearson Correlation

According Chatfield (2004), correlation is a statistic that describes the association between two variables. The Karl Pearson correlation coefficient is probably the single most widely used statistic for summarizing the relationship between two variables. Under certain assumptions, the statistical significance of a correlation coefficient depends on just the sample size, defined as the number of independent observations. If time series are auto-correlated, an "effective" sample size, lower than the actual sample size, should be used when evaluating significance. But if many correlation coefficients are evaluated simultaneously, confidence intervals should be adjusted to compensate for the increased likelihood of observing some high correlations when no relationship exists.

The Karl Pearson's coefficient of correlation (r)can be calculated as:

$$r = \frac{\sum (Xi - \acute{X})(Yi - \acute{Y})}{n.\sigma x \sigma y}$$

$$r = \frac{\sum (Xi - \acute{X})(Yi - \acute{Y})}{\sqrt{\sum Xi - \acute{X})^2 . \sum (Yi - \acute{Y})^2}}$$

Where: Xi = ith value of X variable

$\acute{X}$ = mean of X

Yi = ith value of Y variable

$\acute{Y}$ = Mean of Y

σ_X = Standard deviation of X variables

σy = Standard deviation of Y variables

Karl Pearson coefficient (or product moment correlation) has the value '**r**' lies between ±positive values of '**r**' indicate positive correlation between two variables. Negative values indicate negative correlation between two variables. A zero value of **'r'** indicates there was no

association between the two variables. When r = (+)1, it indicates a perfect positive correlation and when it is (-) , it indicates perfect negative correlation meaning that variations in independent variable (x) explain 100% of variations in the dependant variable (y) hence **r** is given as $-1 \leq r \leq 1$

Chi-square (χ^2 - Square) Analysis

Chi-square analysis is statistical technique, which attempts to establish the relationship between two variables both of which were categorized in nature, comparing actual data to theoretical data. The test was a technique with which was possible for all researchers to test the goodness of fit, test significance of association between two attributes and test the homogeneity or the significant of, population variance. Chi-square analysis can be calculated as:

$$\chi^2 = \frac{\sum (f_o - f_e)^2}{\sum f_e}$$

Where f_o- actual observations and f_e – expected observations

The Chi-square technique yields one value, which was equal or greater than zero. To determine the significance of our test we compared the obtained Chi-square value with critical or tabled value. In every analysis, the researcher often has to choose the significance level of the test, which can be either 0.05 or 0.01.

RESULTS

Economic Strategies and Alleviation of Absolute Poverty

The study sought to establish the economic strategies leveraging Kenya's vision 2030 and its effect on alleviation of absolute poverty in Bomet County, Kenya. The findings of the sections on economic strategies are presented in various subsections. The findings on the number of acreage per household are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Distribution of Number of Acreage Per Household

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1-2	193	59.8	59.8	59.8
	3-4	80	24.8	24.8	84.5
	5-6	27	8.4	8.4	92.9
	over 7	23	7.1	7.1	100.0
	Total	323	100.0	100.0	

From the findings in Table 4, it was established that majority of the respondents (59.8%) had between 1 to 2 acres of land, 24.8% had between 3 to 4 acres of land, 8.4% had between 5 to 6 acres of land while only 7.1% had over 7 acres of land. The findings shows a general trend of reduced land size ownership across the country arising from increased population, enhanced land subdivision, and increased sell of household land. The study further sought to establish the economic cash crops carried out in the respondent's homesteads. The findings of the economic cash crops carried out in the respondent's homesteads are presented in Table 5. The findings indicate that most farmers (69.3%) grow tea, 10.8% grow tobacco and 10.8% grow coffee. Further, less than 10% of the respondents grow the other cash crops.

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Table 5: Distribution of Respondents on Economic Cash Crops

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Tea	224	69.3	69.3	69.3
	Flowers	6	1.9	1.9	71.2
	Pyrethrum	13	4.0	4.0	75.2
	Tobacco	33	10.2	10.2	85.4
	Sugarcane	12	3.7	3.7	89.2
	Coffee	35	10.8	10.8	100.0
	Total	323	100.0	100.0	

The study also sought to establish the cash crops that need to be introduced that would be of economic importance to the households in the county. The findings of the cash crops to be introduced are presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Distribution of Cash Crop to be Introduced

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Flowers	61	18.9	18.9	18.9
	Tobacco	17	5.3	5.3	24.1
	Sugar cane	26	8.0	8.0	32.2
	Coffee	120	37.2	37.2	69.3
	Cotton	27	8.4	8.4	77.7
	Pyrethrum	60	18.6	18.6	96.3
	Tea	9	2.8	2.8	99.1
	French beans	2	.6	.6	99.7
	Sunflower	1	.3	.3	100.0
	Total	323	100.0	100.0	

From the findings in Table 6, majority of the respondents (37.2%) noted that coffee should be introduced, 18.9% noted that flowers should be introduced while 18.6% noted that sugarcane should be introduced. Other cash crops to be introduced included cotton (8.4%), tobacco (5.3%) and tea (2.8%). The study also sought to establish the current use of water in the county and the findings are presented in Table 7.

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Table 7: Distribution of Current Use of Water

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Drinking	15	4.6	4.6	4.6
washing	14	4.3	4.3	9.0
Animal consumption	3	.9	.9	9.9
Irrigation	21	6.5	6.5	16.4
Others	9	2.8	2.8	19.2
Home use (drinking and washing)	20	6.2	6.2	25.4
Domestic use (Drinking, washing and animals)	199	61.6	61.6	87.0
Home use and Domestic use	14	4.3	4.3	91.3
All	28	8.7	8.7	100.0
Total	323	100.0	100.0	

The researcher further sought to establish other economic importance of water in the county that would help in reduction in absolute poverty. The findings, which were based on a 5-point Likert scale, are presented in Table 8.

Table 8: Descriptives on Other Economic Importance of Water

		SD	D	U	A	SA	χ^2	Sig.
Other economic importance of water in that can reduce absolute poverty.	Irrigation	54 (16.7)	30 (9.3)	30 (9.3)	121 (37.5)	88 (27.2)	96.520	.000
	Generation of electricity	41 (12.7)	18 (5.6)	70 (6.2)	161 (49.8)	63 (25.7)	222.124	.000
	Fish farming	27 (8.4)	18 (5.6)	31 (9.6)	140 (43.3)	107 (33.1)	188.811	.000
	Sporting activities	57 (17.6)	30 (9.3)	48 (14.9)	126 (39.0)	62 (19.2)	82.155	.000

From the findings in Table 8, majority of the respondents (64.7%) agreed that irrigation was one of the economic importance of water while only 26% disagreed. Furthermore, majority of the respondents (75.5%) agreed that generation of electricity was one of the economic importance of water while only 18.3% disagreed. Similarly, majority of the respondents (76.4%) agreed that fish farming was one of the economic importance of water in the county while only 14% disagreed. Finally, majority of the respondents (58.2%) agreed that sporting activities was one of the economic importanceof water while only 26.9% disagreed. The findings were all significant as indicated by the chi-square and p-values (χ^2 = 96.520, 222.124, 188.811, 82.155) were found to be significant (P-value=.000).

The researcher further sought to establish the subsistence crops that can be maximized to increase production in the county that would help in reduction in absolute poverty. The findings, which were based on a 5-point Likert scale, are presented in Table 9.

Table 9: Descriptives on Subsistence Crops that can be Maximized

		SD	D	U	A	SA	χ^2	Sig.
Name subsistence crops that can be maximized to increase production	Maize	21 (6.5)	8 (2.5)	28 (8.7)	144 (44.6)	122 (37.6)	248.347	.000
	Beans	5 (1.5)	1 (3)	15 (4.6)	158 (48.9)	144 (44.6)	388.316	.000
	Potatoes	8 (2.5)	7 (2.2)	13 (4.0)	162 (50.2)	133 (41.2)	361.443	.000
	Sweet potatoes	11 (3.4)	8 (2.5)	32 (9.9)	171 (52.9)	101 (31.3)	306.272	.000
	Bananas	8 (2.5)	2 (0.6)	19 (5.9)	164 (50.8)	139 (40.2)	361.598	.000

From the findings in Table 9, it was established that the majority of the respondents (82.2%) agreed that maize is one of the crops that can be maximized while only 9% disagreed. Further, majority of the respondents (93.5%) agreed that beans are one of the crops that can be maximized while only 4.5% disagreed. Similarly, majority of the respondents (91.4%) agreed that potatoes are one of the crops that can be maximized while 4.7% disagreed. In terms of sweet potatoes, majority of the respondents (84.2%) agreed that it is one of the crops that can be maximized in the county. Finally, the majority of the respondents (91%) agreed that bananas are one of the crops that can be maximized while 3.1% disagreed. The findings were all significant as indicated by the chi-square and p-values (χ^2= 248.347, 388.316, 361.443, 306.272, 361.598) were found to be significant (P-value= .000). The researcher further sought to establish the kind assistance required by the various homesteads in order to produce enough food crops. The findings which were based on a 5-point Likert scale are presented in Table 10.

Table 10: Descriptive on Assistance Required for Enhanced Production

		SD	D	U	A	SA	χ^2	Sig.
Assistance to be given to produce enough food crops	Subsidized fertilizers	9 (2.8)	2 (0.6)	5 (1.5)	123 (38.1)	184 (57)	351.319	.000
	Subsidized seeds	5 (1.5)	0 (0)	9 (2.8)	107 (33.1)	202 (62.5)	396.458	.000
	Subsidized ploughing	7 (2.2)	8 (2.5)	18 (5.6)	147 (45.5)	143 (44.3)	295.994	.000
	Credit facilities with low interest rates	7 (2.2)	2 (0.6)	6 (1.9)	130 (40.2)	178 (55.1)	347.170	.000

From the results in Table 10, it was established that most homesteads (95.1%) agreed that subsidized fertilizer is one of the critical assistance that can be given in order to produce enough

crops while only 3.4% disagreed. It was also established that most homesteads (95.6%) agreed that subsidized seeds is one of the critical assistance that can be given in order to produce enough crops while only 5% disagreed. Further, it was established that most homesteads (89.8%) agreed that subsidized ploughing is one of the critical assistance that can be given in order to produce enough crops while only 4.7% disagreed. Finally, it was established that most homesteads (95.3%) agreed that credit facilities with low interest is one of the critical assistance that can be given in order to produce enough crops while only 2.8% disagreed. The findings point towards a general agreement in opinion across the entire subsidy program, which suggests lack of capacity amongst most homesteads in producing enough food crops. The findings were all significant as indicated by the chi-square and p-values (χ^2= 351.319, 396.458, 295.994, 347.170) were found to be significant (P-value= .000).

The researcher further sought to establish the interventions that can minimize absolute poverty in the county. The findings, which were based on a 5-point Likert scale, were presented in Table 11.

Table 11: Descriptives on Interventions that can Minimize Absolute Poverty

		SD	D	U	A	SA	χ^2	Sig.
Intervention that can minimize absolute poverty in the county	Increase in employment	4 (1.2)	3 (0.9)	11 (3.4)	120 (37.2)	185 (57.3)	431.969	.000
	Improve balance of payment	5 (1.5)	7 (2.2)	26 (8.0)	139 (43.0)	146 (45.2)	317.666	.000
	Improve new infrastructure	2 (0.6)	3 (0.9)	16 (5.0)	122 (37.8)	180 (55.7)	413.115	.000
	Set-up manufacturing plants	15 (4.6)	3 (0.9)	10 (3.1)	123 (38.1)	172 (53.3)	374.322	.000
	Ensure grain sufficiency	14 (4.3)	1 (0.3)	16 (5.0)	138 (42.7)	154 (47.7)	345.932	.000
	Export of farm produces	15 (4.6)	7 (2.2)	16 (5.0)	142 (44.0)	143 (44.3)	313.889	.000
	Manufacturing goods	6 (1.9)	10 (3.1)	24 (7.4)	151 (46.7)	132 (40.9)	310.700	.000
	Skilled human labour	4 (1.2)	3 (0.9)	20 (6.2)	158 (48.9)	138 (42.7)	364.817	.000

From the findings in Table 11, it was established that majority of the respondents (94.6%) agreed that increase in employment is one of the interventions that can minimize absolute poverty in the county while only 2.1% disagreed. It was also established that majority of the respondents (88.2%) agreed that improved balance of payment is one of the interventions that can minimize absolute poverty in the county while only 3.7% disagreed. Similarly, it was established that majority of the respondents (93.5%) agreed that improving new infrastructure is one of the interventions that can minimize absolute poverty in the county while only 1.5% disagreed. It was also established that majority of the respondents (91.4%) agreed that setting up manufacturing plants is one of the interventions that can minimize absolute poverty in the county while only 5.5% disagreed. Further, it was established that majority of the respondents (90.4%) agreed that ensuring grain efficiency is one of the interventions that can minimize absolute poverty in the

county while only 4.6% disagreed. It was established that majority of the respondents (88.3%) agreed that export of farm produce is one of the interventions that can minimize absolute poverty in the county while only 6.8% disagreed.

Similarly, it was established that majority of the respondents (87.6%) agreed that manufacturing goods is one of the interventions that can minimize absolute poverty in the county while only 5% disagreed. Finally, it was established that majority of the respondents (91.6%) agreed that skilled labour is one of the interventions that can minimize absolute poverty in the county while only 2.1% disagreed. The findings were all significant as indicated by the chi-square and p-values (χ^2= 431.969, 317.666, 413.115, 374.322, 345.932, 313.889, 310.700, 364.817) were found to be significant (P-value= .000).

The researcher further sought to establish the successful strategies that can be adopted to enhance alleviation of absolute poverty in the county. The findings, which were based on a 5-point Likert scale, are presented in Table 12.

Table 12: Descriptives on Success of Strategies in Poverty Alleviation

		SD	D	U	A	SA	χ^2	Sig.
Will Bomet county be successful by adopting the following strategies	Accountability	5 (1.5)	1 (0.3)	9 (2.8)	130 (40.2)	178 (55.1)	430.731	.000
	Stabilization of economy	4 (1.2)	3 (0.9)	18 (5.6)	159 (49.2)	139 (43.0)	372.836	.000
	Liberalization of economy	9 (2.8)	1 (0.3)	50 (15.5)	144 (44.6)	119 (36.8)	257.170	.000
	Globalization	5 (1.5)	5 (1.5)	42 (13)	149 (46.1)	122 (37.8)	279.152	.000
	Equal competition	3 (0.9)	12 (3.7)	30 (9.3)	168 (52)	110 (34.1)	317.511	.000
	Transparency	5 (1.5)	2 (0.6)	23 (7.1)	107 (33.1)	186 (57.6)	398.409	.000

From the finding in Table 12, it was established that majority of the respondents (95.3%) agreed that accountability is one of the strategies that the county can successfully adopt while only 1.8% disagreed. It was also established that majority of the respondents (92.2%) agreed that stabilization of the economy is one of the strategies that the county can successfully adopt while only 2.1% disagreed. Further, it was established that majority of the respondents (81.4%) agreed that liberalization of the economy is one of the strategies that the county can successfully adopt while only 3.1% disagreed.

Similarly, it was established that majority of the respondents (83.93%) agreed that globalization is one of the strategies that the county can successfully adopt while only 3% disagreed. It was also established that majority of the respondents (86.1%) agreed that equal competition is one of the strategies that the county can successfully adopt while only 4.6% disagreed. Finally, it was established that majority of the respondents (90.7%) agreed that transparency is one of the strategies that the county can successfully adopt while only 2.1% disagreed. The findings were

all significant as indicated by the chi-square and p-values (χ^2= 430.731, 372.836, 257.170, 279.152, 317.511, 398.409) were found to be significant (P-value= .000). The researcher further sought to establish whether infrastructural strategies would reduce level of absolute poverty in the county. The findings, which were based on a 5-point Likert scale, are presented in Table 13.

Table 13: Descriptives on Infrastructural strategies that can Reduce Absolute Poverty

		SD	D	U	A	SA	χ^2	Sig.
If the following strategic infrastructures are improved do they reduce poverty?	Building for businesses	15 (4.6)	7 (2.2)	26 (8.0)	142 (44.0)	133 (41.2)	297.666	.000
	Roads	13 (4)	7 (2.2)	18 (5.6)	104 (32.2)	181 (56)	359.957	.000
	Electricity	16 (5)	5 (1.5)	16 (5)	124 (38.4)	162 (50.2)	329.585	.000
	ICT	14 (4.3)	4 (1.2)	37 (11.5)	126 (39)	142 (44)	259.368	.000
	Dams	17 (5.3)	7 (2.2)	25 (7.7)	152 (47.1)	122 (37.8)	279.957	.000
	Irrigation	17 (5.3)	2 (0.6)	20 (6.2)	120 (37.2)	164 (50.8)	326.985	.000

From the results in Table 13, it was established that majority of the respondents (85.2%) agreed that building for businesses was one of the strategic infrastructures that if improved can reduce poverty in the county while only 6.8% disagreed. It was also established that majority of the respondents (88.2%) agreed that roads was one of the strategic infrastructures that if improved can reduce poverty in the county while only 6.2% disagreed.

Further, it was established that majority of the respondents (88.6%) agreed that electricity was one of the strategic infrastructures that if improved can reduce poverty in the county while only 6.5% disagreed. It was established that majority of the respondents (83%) agreed that ICT was one of the strategic infrastructures that if improved can reduce poverty in the county while only 5.5% disagreed. Similarly, it was established that majority of the respondents (84.9%) agreed that dams was one of the strategic infrastructures that if improved can reduce poverty in the county while only 7.5% disagreed. Finally, it was established that majority of the respondents (88%) agreed that irrigation was one of the strategic infrastructures that if improved can reduce poverty in the county while only 5.9% disagreed. The findings were all significant as indicated by the chi-square and p-values (χ^2= 297.666, 359.957, 329.585, 259.368, 279.957, 326.985) were found to be significant (P-value= .000).

CONCLUSION

Economic Strategies and Alleviation of Absolute Poverty

The study established that irrigation (64.7) was one of the economic importance of water while only 26% disagreed. Furthermore, (75.5%) agreed that generation of electricity was one of the economic importance of water while only 18.3% disagreed. Similarly, (76.4%) agreed that fish farming was one of the economic importance of water in the county while only 14% disagreed. Finally, (58.2%) agreed that sporting activities was one of the economic importance of water while only 26.9% disagreed. The findings were all significant as indicated by the chi-square and p-values (χ^2 = 96.520, 222.124, 188.811, 82.155) were found to be significant (P-value= .000).

It was established that (82.2%) agreed that maize is one of the crops that can be maximized while only 9% disagreed. Further, (93.5%) agreed that beans are one of the crops that can be maximized while only 4.5% disagreed. Similarly, (91.4%) agreed that potatoes are one of the crops that can be maximized while 4.7% disagreed. In terms of sweet potatoes, (84.2%) agreed that it is one of the crops that can be maximized in the county. Finally, (91%) agreed that bananas are one of the crops that can be maximized while 3.1% disagreed. The findings were all significant as indicated by the P-values.

The study found that most homesteads (95.1%) agreed that subsidized fertilizer is one of the critical assistance that can be given in order to produce enough crops while only 3.4% disagreed. It was found that most homesteads (95.6%) agreed that subsidized seeds are one of the critical assistance that can be given in order to produce enough crops while only 5% disagreed. Further, most homesteads (89.8%) agreed that subsidized ploughing is one of the critical assistance that can be given in order to produce enough crops while only 4.7% disagreed. Finally, most homesteads (95.3%) agreed that credit facilities with low interest is one of the critical assistance that can be given in order to produce enough crops while only 2.8% disagreed. The findings point towards a general agreement in opinion across the entire subsidy program which suggests lack of capacity amongst most homesteads in producing enough food crops.

Furthermore, (94.6%) agreed that increase in employment is one of the interventions that can minimize absolute poverty in the county while only 2.1% disagreed. It was noted that (88.2%) agreed that improved balance of payment is one of the interventions that can minimize absolute poverty in the county while only 3.7% disagreed. Similarly, (93.5%) agreed that improving new infrastructure is one of the interventions that can minimize absolute poverty in the county while only 1.5% disagreed. Further (91.4%) agreed that setting up manufacturing plants is one of the interventions that can minimize absolute poverty in the county while only 5.5% disagreed. Similarly, (90.4%) agreed that ensuring grain efficiency is one of the interventions that can minimize absolute poverty in the county while only 4.6% disagreed. (88.3%) agreed that export of farm produce is one of the interventions that can minimize absolute poverty in the county while only 6.8% disagreed. Similarly, (87.6%) agreed that manufacturing goods is one of the interventions that can minimize absolute poverty in the county while only 5% disagreed. Finally, (91.6%) agreed that skilled labour is one of the interventions that can minimize absolute poverty in the county while only 2.1% disagreed.

The study found that (95.3%) agreed that accountability is one of the strategies that the county can successfully adopt while only 1.8% disagreed. It was also found that (92.2%) agreed that stabilization of the economy is one of the strategies that the county can successfully adopt while only 2.1% disagreed. Further, (81.4%) agreed that liberalization of the economy is one of the strategies that the county can successfully adopt while only 3.1% disagreed. Similarly, (83.93%) agreed that globalization is one of the strategies that the county can successfully adopt while only 3% disagreed. It was also noted that (86.1%) agreed that equal competition is one of the strategies that the county can successfully adopt while only 4.6% disagreed. Finally, (90.7%) agreed that transparency is one of the strategies that the county can successfully adopt while only 2.1% disagreed.

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The study established that (85.2%) agreed that building for businesses was one of the strategic infrastructures that if improved can reduce poverty in the county while only 6.8% disagreed. It was also established that (88.2%) agreed that roads was one of the strategic infrastructures that if improved can reduce poverty in the county while only 6.2% disagreed. Further, (88.6%) agreed that electricity was one of the strategic infrastructures that if improved can reduce poverty in the county while only 6.5% disagreed. It was established that (83%) agreed that ICT was one of the strategic infrastructures that if improved can reduce poverty in the county while only 5.5% disagreed. Similarly, (84.9%) agreed that dams was one of the strategic infrastructures that if improved can reduce poverty in the county while only 7.5% disagreed. Finally (88%) agreed that irrigation was one of the strategic infrastructures that if improved can reduce poverty in the county while only 5.9% disagreed.

Finally, there was a moderately strong correlation between economic strategies and alleviation of absolute poverty ($r = 0.537^{**}$, p-value = .000). Since the correlation was moderately strong and positive in nature, it was deduced that economic strategies in Vision 2030 had a positive effect on alleviation of absolute poverty and thus an increase in the functional nature of the implementation of the Strategies on Pillars of the Vision 2030 would cause a positive incremental effect on alleviation of absolute poverty.

Recommendations on economic strategies for alleviation of absolute poverty

It is recommended that since economic strategies in Vision 2030 had a positive effect on alleviation of absolute poverty and thus an increase in the functional nature of the implementation of the Strategies on Pillars of the Vision 2030 would cause a positive incremental effect on alleviation of absolute poverty, various economic related strategies should be implemented, monitored and continuously evaluated in order to enhance alleviation of absolute poverty. Various policies must also be developed both on the short-term and long-term that will help- guide the implementation of economic strategies at the grassroots level.

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