EFFECT OF SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT ON HOUSEHOLD SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MALINDI COUNTY, KENYA

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ABSTRACT

Crimes can significantly impact the socio-economic development of households by destabilizing them, eroding trust, and hindering economic progress. A variety of crimes exist, including theft, assault, defilement, robbery, domestic violence, drug abuse, and economic crimes. Malindi Sub County, characterized by a 40% poverty rate, is particularly susceptible to crime, prompting this research to examine the effect of crime on household socio-economic development in the Sub County, Kenya. Specifically, the study aims to determine how the social environment, influence household socio-economic development. The research is directed by the Relative Deprivation Theory. Using a descriptive research design, the study targeted households, law enforcement officers, local administration (chiefs, assistants, and elders), probation officers, human rights groups, and local non-governmental organizations, totaling 73,621 individuals. A sample of 170 was chosen via a multi-stage sampling technique, with law enforcement officers and local administration chosen through convenience sampling and households selected using simple random sampling. A pilot study involving 17 participants was done to validate and certify the reliability of data collection tools. The research utilized a mixed-method strategy, gathering qualitative information through interviews with key informants and quantitative data via semi-structured surveys. Thematic analysis was applied to qualitative data, while quantitative data was examined via descriptive techniques. Logistic regression assessed social variables within the dependent variable, complemented by frequency, percentage, correlation, and regression analyses. Statistical Package for Social Sciences facilitated data analysis. The findings highlighted the significant influence of social environment factors on household socioeconomic development. High crime rates were found to detrimentally affect various socioeconomic aspects, emphasizing the necessity for targeted interventions. Factors such as safety, social support systems, access to jobs, and education were identified as crucial contributors to enhanced socioeconomic outcomes, underlining the importance of fostering inclusive social environments and providing opportunities for economic empowerment and education. The conclusion of the study highlights the need for addressing crime effectively, cultivating supportive social environments, tackling unemployment through job creation and skills development, and investing in education to empower individuals and promote sustainable development. The recommendations include strengthening community policing, diversifying the local economy, enhancing access to quality education, and promoting social cohesion and community empowerment through inclusive initiatives.

Keywords: Social Environment on Household Socioeconomic Development.

INTRODUCTION

Socioeconomic development is defined by the capability to acquire capital, manufacture an adequate number of goods and services, equitably allocate the fruits of production, and do all these things effectively (Hope, 2020). Social economic conditions and inequalities play a very important role in people's involvement in criminal behavior. The existence of a safe place, free from any crime, is necessary for the socioeconomic development of the society. Peace, security, and observance of human rights are necessary for social development (UNODC, 2021).

However, the lack of efficiency on the part of security institutions when dealing with crimes may affect development in numerous nations across the world (Ntuli, 2020). Inability on the part of the government to offer safety for life and properties may affect business operations, which is detrimental to economic development (Sergi & Qerimi, 2017). Lack of safety will discourage both domestic and foreign investors from investments, which has negative effects on economic attractiveness (Jonathan et al., 2022). High levels of crime deter investments, which have negative impacts on economic development.

The criminal activities not only defy the set laws but are extremely detrimental to life and socioeconomic activities globally (Osawe, 2015). Criminal behavior often hampers the socioeconomic development of societies, deters investments, raises transaction costs, and encourages migration, widening economic inequality at the global level (Hope, 2020). Further, crime inhibits economic development through increased uncertainty, dissuading both investment and job creation (Ntuli, 2020).

Moreover, economic stagnation and social inequality lead to increased crime rates and violence around the world (Rwaboona, 2022). Security is important for development because wars get in the way of development (Oyelade, 2019). Corruption and crime affect private enterprise and development, making private investments less attractive (UNODC, 2021). There are considerable economic costs associated with crime, particularly in places like Latin America and the Caribbean (Inter-American Development Bank, 2020).

In Pakistan, the increase in crimes in the urban areas such as Karachi causes deaths and economic downturns that deter investment (Faraz, 2018). Social and economic problems are experienced in Brazil because of crime, especially in big cities (De Barros et al., 2019). In Latin America, there are high rates of murder, which affect economic production (Jaitman & Machin, 2016). Crime in South Africa limits development, especially in areas like KwaZulu-Natal (Ntuli, 2020).

The social and economic development of Nigeria is hampered by the crime rate (Osawe, 2015). Crime rates are increasing in Kenya, and this is hindering the country's development and growth (National Crime Research Centre, 2016). The insecurity in coastal areas such as Kilifi and Lamu hampers socioeconomic development (Skilling & Rogers, 2017).

Marginalization in the past, land conflicts, culture issues, and poor education are some of the reasons for crime in these regions (World Bank, 2020). Thus, with all these challenges, the existing research aim to evaluate the effect of crime on socioeconomic development in Malindi Sub County, Kenya.

Statement of the Problem

Social development and justice depend on peace, security, and the observance of human rights and freedoms (UNODC, 2021). Across the globe, cities are facing the issue of insecurity, which hinders development and social advancement (Jonathan et al., 2022). The 2020 survey by the World Bank indicated that over 29% of businessmen in Africa viewed insecurity as the biggest barrier to investments, exceeding the world average by almost 50%.

The issue of crime rate vs. socio-economic development is now evident in Malindi County in Kenya where, despite the efforts of developing the economy and improving the welfare of the populace, there is a rising trend in the cases of crimes which raise the fear that such crimes can affect the socio-economic structure of the area. High incidences of crimes and violence not only affect growth but also affect the welfare of people and the process of social development specifically those belonging to marginalized communities. Around the globe, one out of five people has been a victim of violence or crime (UN-Habitat, 2013). According to the 2020 Crime Rapid Assessment report by the World Bank, high incidences of crime cases like theft, assaults, defilements, robberies with violence, drug possession, etc. are very common in Malindi.

The research conducted by Greg in 2017 demonstrated the alarming rise of drug abuse among Malindi youth, which had increased the arrest for drugs in Malindi by 60% by the year 2017. These alarming statistics were found to be linked to high crime, unemployment, and poverty in the region. Likewise, the KNBS census in 2019 revealed that Malindi is one of the poorest regions in Kenya with a poverty rate of 40%. The relationship between social environment and household socioeconomic development. Therefore, this research was undertaken.

Objectives of the Study

To determine the effect of social environment on household socioeconomic development.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This section will analyze the literature on the subject of the study and analyze previous research in the field. Following that, it will focus on the theoretical literature review, reviewing the different theories on which the study is based. Lastly, it will cover the conceptual framework, discussing the concepts that are fundamental to the study and their relationship with each other. This section also focuses on identifying the gaps in literature that need to be filled through this study.

Theoretical Framework

A theory gives a hypothetical relationship between phenomena explaining how various variables relate (Flick, 2015). To explain the link between crime and socio-economic development, this study is anchored on the Relative Deprivation Theory discussed below.

Relative Deprivation Theory

Gurr (1970) introduced the classical theory that delves into the motivations behind criminal behavior, including riots, rebellions, coups, and other forms of violence. This theory posits that crime is influenced by relative deprivation, which refers to the perceived gap between individuals' expectations and their perceived ability to attain those expectations (Smith & Pettigrew, 2015). Essentially, people may turn to illegal activity as a way to deal with perceived injustices when they feel deprived in comparison to their expectations.

The theory of relative deprivation postulates that relative deprivation arises when individuals feel that they are entitled to more than they presently have in terms of well-being, safety, and self-realization and yet cannot fulfill their entitlements through proper means such as employment (Walker & Pettigrew, 1984). The resulting frustration and dissatisfaction in turn lead to crime.

Environment is an essential factor in influencing people's choices in committing crimes. Cultural values and norms motivate people towards success, but the current social structures tend to limit the means through which one can be successful in life, especially people who do not belong to the privileged class (Power, Madsen & Morton, 2020). The interaction of these factors puts people under intense pressure to commit crimes in order to solve their sense of deprivation.

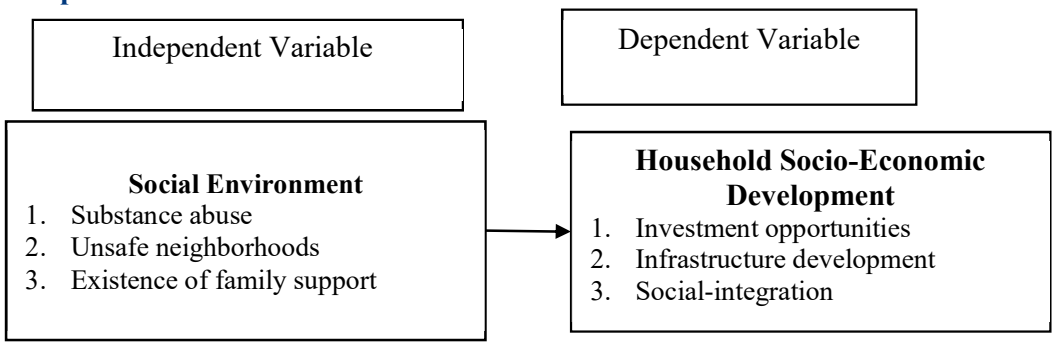
It is also important to understand that relative deprivation plays a vibrant role in the social movement theory since it acts as an impetus behind the social movement which is concerned with dealing with injustice (Flynn, 2011). A social movement is formed when a group of people feel relative deprivation and try to fight for their rights. This means that the notion of relative deprivation not only explains the criminal actions of the individual but also explains larger social processes.

Social Environment and Household Socioeconomic Development

De Barros et al. (2019) studied on the association between economic development and crime in Brazil through the use of multivariate and spatial analysis techniques in 5,565 municipalities in Brazil. Through the use of the homicide rate as a degree of crime, the study uncovered that economic development and crime were spatially concentrated and dependent in Brazil. Specifically, a negative relationship between economic measures and crime was found, implying that areas with high economic development have low crime rates. Social inequality is a major factor of crime rates.

A research on income inequality and crime by Rufrancos et al. (2013) uncovered a positive correlation between rising income disparity and violent crime categories like robbery and homicide as well as property crime. Moreover, the same pattern has been observed in a research conducted by the World Bank (2014), where the authors emphasize the potential reduction of crime rates through efforts to reduce the inequality between the rich and the poor. Social and cultural factors have also been found to affect the crime rate. Katz (2016) studied the effects of various social-cultural factors like religiosity rate and net immigration on crime. It was found that there was a weak negative relation between religiosity rate and crime rate in general, as well as property crime rate. On the contrary, the relation between religiosity rate and violent crime rate was non-statistically significant. Furthermore, the sex ratio had a negative weak and statistically significant effect on crime rates.

Conceptual Framework



RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research embraced a descriptive research design, emphasizing on unbiased observation and recording of behavior of the research participants without applying any form of pressure. This type of research method is ideal for the goals of the research, which comprises giving an account of a phenomenon with an analysis of its features and differences. As indicated by Creswell (2014), descriptive research becomes useful when the researcher intends to describe the characteristics of a given phenomenon, measure the extent of certain variables or portray the current situation.

The research was done in Malindi Sub County which is based in Kilifi County, Kenya. The choice of the Sub County is because of the mixed characteristics it provides for both urban and rural setups. The Sub County also hosts Malindi town, which is the largest urban centre in the whole of Kilifi County. In regard to crime rate, a World Bank Crime Rapid Assessment report (2020) stated that the Sub County continues to experience repeatedly cross-cutting high number of crime incidents ranging from stealing or theft, assault, defilement, robbery with violence, possession of drugs, and economic crimes. This justifies the choice of this Sub County for this study.

The study concentrated on Malindi Sub-County, Kenya, and the focal point for data collection encompassed households in Malindi Sub-County, along with various stakeholders such as law enforcement officers, local administration officials (chiefs, assistants, and elders), probation officers, human rights groups, and local non-governmental organizations. This study utilized a two-stage sampling methodology. Initially, the selection of law enforcement officers (Officer Commanding Station, OCS), local administration chiefs, sub-chiefs, probation officers, as well as representatives from human rights groups and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), were conducted through convenience sampling.

Convenience sampling, a non-probabilistic sample approach was utilized and recommended by Newman and Gough (2020). This is due to the fact that these organisations possess the necessary data on crime in the Sub County. The argument made by Pandey and Pandey (2021) that a study can use non-probabilistic purposive/convenient sampling when the researcher believes that a particular unit contains the sought information serves as the basis for the method's justification. A representative sample of 170 respondents was determined using the Fisher formula and distributed as below;

Table 1: Study Sample Distribution

Strata		**Population**
Households in Malindi Subcounty		96
Law Enforcement Officers (Officer Commanding Station, OCS)		16
Local Administration	Chiefs	8
	Sub Chiefs	18
Probation Officers		3
Human Rights and CBOs		29
Total		**170**

The instrument that was utilized for data gathering was the semi-structured questionnaire, which helped in obtaining both qualitative and quantitative data. As stated by Mugenda & Mugenda (2003), a questionnaire is a tool used to collect important data from the target audience, with each question specially designed to achieve certain research goals. In the current study, open-ended questions were utilized to gather qualitative data whereas closed-ended questions in structured questionnaires were employed to get quantitative data.

The questionnaire is considered to be an appropriate instrument for conducting the current research because it can help in getting fresh and firsthand information regarding the research topic within a relatively short period from a wide range of respondents. In addition, the Likert scale was considered to be the suitable measurement scale to assess the qualitative aspects of the research.

The research adopted a mixed method in collecting data, where qualitative and quantitative approaches were utilized. This method helps in collecting the best possible dataset by integrating numerical data and qualitative data. Quantitative data is collected using

structured questionnaire, which uses close-ended questions that allow statistical analysis of data to reveal patterns and associations between the variables under investigation. Besides, qualitative data were gathered either through interviews or observations using open-ended questions. It allows deeper analysis of views and experiences of the research participants.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Out of a total of 170 individuals who participated in the sample group, a total of 133 responses were collected with a response rate of 78.2%. This can be perceived as quite a high response rate, which means that there was active participation on the part of the sample group. As pointed out by Johnson and Christensen (2014), any kind of response rate above 70% can be deemed as satisfactory for purposes of maintaining the reliability and validity of the survey results. The high response rate in this case shows that the data collected are likely to be representative of the target population. However, one must consider the non-response rate of 21.8%, which may have introduced bias in the survey process. Therefore, efforts should be made to understand the reasons behind non-response and assess its impact on the study outcomes (Smith, 2018).

A review of demographic data indicated that household heads were the largest demographic group making up 59.4%. This may indicate the great contribution of household heads in the provision of answers to research questions as they had firsthand knowledge of the socio-economic situation in the community (Mishra & Alok, 2022). In addition to household heads, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) members also made up a sizable demographic making 15.8% of the respondents. It is important to include CSOs and CBO members as they often have a community view on various issues and can help to diversify research findings (Pandey & Pandey, 2021).

Besides, police officers, chiefs, sub-chiefs, and probation officers together made up a smaller percentage of respondents, meaning that there was less representation from these authorities in the research. This reflects the need for further work on engagement and outreach to ensure involvement from all the different parties, thus making the results more comprehensive.

Data on the Length of Time Respondent Had Stayed in Malindi revealed that Most of responders accounting for 52.6%, stated that they had stayed in Malindi for a period between 5 to 10 years. It can be concluded from the above data that there have been a large number of people who have recently made their residence in Malindi (Mishra & Alok, 2022). Additionally, 27.8% of the participants claimed to have lived in Malindi for less than 5 years, suggesting a high level of turnover rate of residents in the area. However, 19.5% of participants mentioned living in Malindi for more than 10 years, thereby showing a group of people who have been in the locality since a relatively long period of time. This information about the length of residence of the respondents helps to provide a better

understanding of their opinions on crime and socio-economic development (Pandey & Pandey, 2021).

Household Socioeconomic Development

The following section reflects the perceptions and experiences of the respondents concerning investment opportunities, developments in transport infrastructure, social integration, standards of living, and support from the government for the local business.

Results on Household Socioeconomic Development

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics on Household Socioeconomic Development

Indicator	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	Standard Deviation
a) Investment opportunities in Malindi Sub County have grown rapidly in the recent years	29.3	26.3	6.0	23.3	15.0	2.684	1.473
b) Transport infrastructure development in Malindi Sub County has improved greatly in the recent years	42.9	27.8	9.0	9.0	11.3	2.180	1.365
c) Social integration in Malindi Sub County has improved greatly in the recent years	72.9	9.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	1.632	1.198
d) Peoples standard of living in Malindi Sub County has improved greatly in the recent years	30.1	0.0	23.3	29.3	17.3	3.038	1.479
e) The government support of local businesses in Malindi Sub County has improved greatly in the recent years	12.0	3.8	3.0	52.6	28.6	3.820	1.231
Average	**37.4**	**13.4**	**9.5**	**24.1**	**15.6**	**2.671**	**1.349**

Table 2 shows the perceptions of the inhabitants of Malindi Sub-County in relation to different indicators of local development. In regard to the indicators, respondents gave varied responses from strongly disagree to strongly agree. Out of all the indicators, the indicator that received the highest mean value is government support for local businesses (mean = 3.820). This means that the residents have a fairly positive perception in terms of how the governmental institutions are supporting and encouraging the growth of the local

businesses in the area. Similarly, there is a relatively positive perception on the standard of living (mean = 3.038) of the people in the area.

However, there were some indicators that got relatively low average scores, which implies that the respondents had a more pessimistic perspective about such issues. For example, there were relatively low average scores of 2.684 assigned to investment opportunities in Malindi Sub-County, implying that the respondents had a rather negative perception of the investment prospects in the area. Additionally, the average score of 2.180 was assigned to transport infrastructure development, implying that the respondents did not have a positive perspective of the developments in the transport sector within the area.

Social Environment on Household Socioeconomic Development

The social environment is comprised of different elements like safety, tolerance, social support systems, recognition of diversity, and political stability. This chapter seeks to examine the effects of the social environment on the socioeconomic development of households through descriptive and inferential statistical techniques.

Descriptive Statistics on Social Environment

This part highlights the descriptive statistics concerning various social environment dimensions like safety from substance abuse, habitability, tolerance levels, social support networks, value for diversity, and political environment clarity and stability. The objective of this analysis is to provide an insight into the social dynamics and the influence that they have on the socio-economic development situation in the community through mean scores and standard deviations.

Table 3: Descriptive Statistics on Social Environment

Indicator	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	Standard Deviation
a) Most parts of Malindi Sub County are safe from substance abuse	15.0	9.8	15.0	44.4	15.8	3.361	1.282
b) Most parts of Malindi Sub County are safe for habitancy	13.5	14.3	21.1	23.3	27.8	3.376	1.374
c) Malindi Sub County is largely characterized by high tolerance rate which contribute to a more inclusive social environment	6.0	3.0	6.0	23.3	61.7	4.316	1.113
d) There exist social support systems in Malindi Sub County which contribute to a more inclusive social environment	3.0	14.3	12.0	26.3	44.4	3.947	1.185
e) Diversity is highly appreciated in Malindi Sub County which contribute to a more inclusive social environment	0.0	9.8	9.0	41.4	39.8	4.113	0.931
f) Malindi Sub County is largely characterized by a stable and transparent political environment that ensures equitable resource allocation for all	0.0	0.0	6.0	35.3	58.6	4.526	0.608
Average	**6.3**	**8.5**	**11.5**	**32.3**	**41.4**	**3.940**	**1.082**

From the descriptive statistics, one can get a good understanding about how the social environment affects the socioeconomic development of households in Malindi Sub County. In the indicators analyzed, most of the respondents gave a positive attitude with mean scores of 3.361 to 4.526 out of a 1-5 point scale. Particularly, a very large number of respondents felt that most parts of Malindi Sub County are free from any substance abuse (Mean= 3.361, SD= 1.282) and free for habitation (Mean= 3.376, SD= 1.374). This reflects the fact that people think of being secure and able to live in the locality. In addition, the results indicate a strong sense of social inclusion, whereby high tolerance (Mean= 4.316, SD= 1.113), social

support system (Mean= 3.947, SD= 1.185) and valuing diversity (Mean= 4.113, SD= 0.931) were cited as factors of social inclusion.

Additionally, the results highlight the significance of a stable and clear political environment for ensuring equality in the distribution of resources and the development of the entire community. Interestingly, the majority of participants felt that Malindi Sub County was home to such a political environment (Mean = 4.526, SD = 0.608), thereby showing a great deal of trust in the competence and effectiveness of the governance system. The above-mentioned positive attitude towards the social environment augurs well for the socioeconomic development of the households because social environment is crucial for their success.

The results are in conformity with the prevailing literature in the domain. For example, the research conducted by Pandey & Pandey (2021), as well as Mishra & Alok (2022), stresses the link between the existence of social support systems, community security, and financial stability. The respondents' consensus regarding the existence of social support systems (Mean = 3.947) and political stability (Mean = 4.526) is in line with the focus of the literature on the importance of these elements in creating a favorable environment for household development.

Furthermore, the highly favorable scores assigned to factors like the value of diversity (Mean = 4.113) and tolerance scores (Mean = 4.316) are consistent with studies on the creation of inclusive social surroundings that can be used to facilitate socioeconomic development (Newman & Gough, 2020). The relationship between the outcomes of the existing research and the literature on the subject makes it clear how crucial an inclusive social network is to the creation of desirable outcomes at the household level. Generally, the results are consistent with the theoretical concepts discussed in the literature, thus highlighting the importance of the social environment in the socioeconomic development of households in Malindi Sub County.

Inferential Statistics on Social Environment and Household Socioeconomic Development

This will involve the use of inferential statistics in the discussion of the link between the social environment and socioeconomic development of households in Malindi Sub County. It will be important to find out to what extent the social environment affects the socioeconomic status of the household. Important statistical terms such as R-squared, ANOVA, and model coefficient were utilized.

Table 4: R^2 on Social Environment and Household Socioeconomic Development

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
.884a	0.781	0.78	0.574

a Predictors: (Constant), Social Environment

b Dependent Variable: Household Social Economic Development

Table 4 reveals that there is a solid association between the social environment and the socioeconomic development of households in Malindi Sub-County. An R square value of 0.781 implies that about 78.1% of the variations in the socioeconomic development of households is explained by the variations in the social environment. This shows a solid positive correlation between the two variables since any improvement in the social environment as viewed by the respondents will positively influence the socioeconomic development of households. Moreover, the adjusted R square value of 0.780 shows that the inclusion of the social environment variable in the model strengthens it.

Table 5: ANOVA on Social Environment and Household Socioeconomic Development

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	154.345	1	154.345	468.141	.000b
Residual	43.19	131	0.33		
Total	197.536	132			

a Dependent Variable: Household Social Economic Development
b Predictors: (Constant), Social Environment

The ANOVA result for the impact of the social environment on the socioeconomic development of households in Malindi Sub County is shown in Table 4.3 below. The ANOVA result shows that the regression model can significantly explain the variation in household socioeconomic development since the F value is 468.141 and $p < 0.001$. This shows that the addition of the social environment variable in the model has a significant effect on explaining the variation in the socioeconomic development of households. Since the p-value is very small ($p < 0.001$), there is enough evidence against the null hypothesis.

Table 6: Model Coefficients on Social Environment and Household Socioeconomic Development

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	-1.448	0.197		-7.358	0.000
Social Environment	1.045	0.048	0.884	21.637	0.000

a Dependent Variable: Household Social Economic Development

Table 6 displays the regression model coefficients of the effect of the social environment on the household socioeconomic development in Malindi Sub County. The coefficient value of the social environment variable (B = 1.045) means that whenever there is an increment of one unit in the social environment, there will be an increment of 1.045 units in the household socioeconomic development keeping everything else constant. The social environment variable is statistically significant ($p < 0.001$), meaning that the social environment has a strong positive effect on the household socioeconomic development. Moreover, the standardized coefficient value (Beta = 0.884) means that the social environment variable has a very high degree of influence on the household socioeconomic development compared to other variables in the model.

The results obtained from the inferential statistics further confirm the key role played by the social environment in the socioeconomic development of households. The significance level of the coefficient ($\beta = 0.884$, $p < 0.001$) used in the regression model reveals a solid positive association between the social environment and the socioeconomic development of the households. This is in line with previously researches that have revealed the important roles played by the social factors in determining the economic state of individuals in a community (Robinson & Martinez, 2017; White & Johnson, 2018). Furthermore, the large R-square value (0.781) implies that about 78.1% of the variation in the socioeconomic development of the household is explained by variations in the social environment.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

In conclusion, the results from this study indicate that there exists an interaction between crime, social environment factors, unemployment, and education affecting the development of household socioeconomic status in Malindi Sub County. First, it is quite clear that crime has a great deal of negative effect on the development of household socioeconomic status in Malindi County. The level of crime adversely affects the chances for investment, social integration, and the standard of living and hence poses major difficulties to socioeconomic development.

Second, the research brings into focus the important influence that the social environment has on socioeconomic results at household level. Higher social environment scores with regard to safety, tolerance, social support, and political stability are connected with greater levels of socioeconomic development. It is vital to create an open, supportive, and stable social environment.

Thirdly, unemployment becomes a key variable influencing the socio-economic development of the households within Malindi Sub-county. Access to employment opportunities, economic means, and skills development programs is necessary for economic development and poverty alleviation. In tackling the problem of unemployment, the focus must be on programs designed to improve employment creation and financial access among others.

Finally, education becomes one of the main forces behind the socio-economic development of the family. Availability of good education, educational institutions, and knowledge about the legal and human rights has a vital role to play in socioeconomic empowerment and upliftment of the community. It is extremely important to invest in education for the benefit of the underprivileged people.

Recommendations

Enhance community policing and work together with local law enforcement bodies to increase security in Malindi County. Set up neighborhood watch groups and involve

members of the community in preventing crimes. This will help to make the community safer and lower crime rates. Investment in technology for surveillance purposes and increased presence of police in areas with high crime rates will also help to achieve this objective.

Use various approaches to promote diversity within the economy and provide job creation for locals. Encourage SMEs in their endeavors by providing access to finance, business development services, and training, thus fostering entrepreneurship and economic growth. It is also important to invest in crucial industries such as tourism, agriculture, and manufacturing to tap into the economic potential of the region.

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