FACTORS AFFECTING THE ROLE OF MEN IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NDARAGWA SUB-COUNTY, NYANDARUA COUNTY,KENYA

BY

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ABSTRACT

For the last two decades, Kenyan men residing in the rural areas have undergone the process of reversed empowerment. Disempowerment in this context is inferred as a process that culminated in men losing power over the circumstances in their lives, largely because of changes in livelihoods. This has led to impairement in their self-esteem and a decrease in their capacity to conquer barriers to self-actualization.(Amuyunzu,and Francis,2006). The purpose of this study was to investigate the factors affecting men's roles in socio-economic development in their rural areas, in Nyandarua County, Ndaragwa Sub-county. This study has discussed various aspects that are crucial in undertaking a research, this study was specifically guided by the following objectives; (i) To examine the effects of collapse in livelihoods on the role of men in social economic development at Ndaragwa sub-county. .(ii)To explore the socio-cultural factors affecting the role of men in socio-economic development at Ndaragwa sub-County.(iii)To assess the effects of women empowerment policies on men's role in socio-economic development at Ndaragwa sub-county. The study was informed by two theories: Social role theory and Gender Schema Theory. Social role theory stated that individuals socially known as men and women tend to perform different roles ascribed by structures within a society and are judged against a raft of divergent expectations for how they ought to behave. Gender Schema Theory shows that individuals are engendered in society, and how sex-linked behaviors are transmitted and maintained to other members of the same culture. This study was conducted in Nyandarua County, Ndaragwa Sub-county. It employed a survey study design, it comprised of a sample size of 200 respondents who were sampled through a cluster sampling method. The main data collection tool was questionnaire and interview schedule for key informants. The Data was

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analyzed by use of descriptive statistics where data was presented in the form of charts and tables. The study seeks to inform men and gender policy makers on socio-economic challenges facing men, in order to assist men in overcoming their challenges and hence be able to engage effectively in socio-economic activities in the rural areas. Some of the findings for the study are that only 38.5% of men are bread winners. This shows that 50% of men in Ndaragwa Sub-county do not fulfill their role as bread winners. Majority of respondents, 60.34% felt that women empowerment had affected men's socio-economic roles in their families.Finally on recommendations there is a need to include poor men of age bracket of 40-60 years of age in empowerment development programs. There is a need to come up with empowerments programs targeting men capacity to build alternative livelihoods that overcome the stress and shocks of collapsed traditional socio-economic activities.

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