

INFLUENCE OF SOCIO- CULTURAL FACTORS ON PARTICIPATION OF WIDOWS IN
SELECTED NON-GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORTED PROGRAMMES. A CASE OF
ELDAMA RAVINE DIVISION, KOIBATEK DISTRICT, KENYA.

BY

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DECLARATION

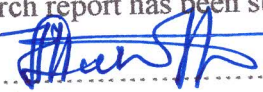
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This research report has been submitted with my approval as university supervisor.

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SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

DEDICATION

To my family members and the Almighty God for their love, care and understanding during the entire study period.

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TABLE OF CONTENT

	Page
TITLE	i
DECLARATION	ii
DEDICATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF TABLES	viii
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	x
ABSTRACT	xi
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	2
1.3 Purpose of the Study	3
1.4 Objectives of the Study	3
1.5 Research Questions	4
1.6 Significance of the Study	4
1.7 Limitations of the Study	4
1.8 Delimitation of the Study	5
1.9 Basic Assumptions of the Study	5
1.10 Definitions of Significant Terms as used in the Study	6
1.11 Organization of the study	7
 CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	 8
2.1 Introduction	8
2.2 Global status of widows	8
2.3 Socio-cultural factors and widows participation in Non-Governmental supported programmes	10
2.3.1 Family size and widows' participation in Non-Governmental supported programmes	10
2.3.2 Poverty and widows participation in Non-Governmental supported programmes	11
2.3.3 Stigmatization and widows' participation in Non-Governmental supported programmes.....	12
2.3.4 Infringement of women rights and widows participation in NGO supported programmes.....	15

2.3.4 Infringement of women rights and widows participation in NGO supported programmes.....	15
2.4 Conceptual Framework.....	16
3.2 Research design	20
3.3 Target Population	20
3.4 Sample size Selection and Sampling procedure.....	21
3.5 Data Collection instruments.....	21
3.5.1 Piloting of the Study	22
3.5.2 Validity of Research Instruments	22
3.5.3 Reliability of Research Instruments	23
3.6 Ethical Considerations	23
3.7 Data Analysis Techniques	23
3.8 Operational Definition of Variables	25
CHAPTER FOUR :DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION.....	25
4.1 Introduction	25
4.2 Response rate.....	26
4.3 General characteristics of respondents.....	26
4.3.1 Membership in any women group.....	26
4.4 Socio-cultural factors that influence widows' participation in NGO supported programmes.....	27
4.4.1 Family size and participation in NGO supported programmes.....	27
4.4.2 Influence of poverty and participation in NGO supported programmes.....	29
4.4.3 Influence of stigmatization and participation in NGO supported programmes.....	32
4.4.4 Infringement of women right and participation in NGO supported programmes.....	36
CHAPTER FIVE; SUMARY OF FINDINGS, DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION.....	40
5.1 Introduction.....	40

5.3 Discussion of findings.....	41
5.4 Conclusion of the study.....	43
5.5 Recommendation.....	43
5.6 Suggestion for further research.....	44
5.7 Contribution to knowledge.....	45
REFERENCE.....	46
APPENDICES	50
Appendix 1 Letter of transmittal.....	50
Appendix 2 Research Authorization letter.....	51
Appendix 3 Research Authorization letter (Office of the President).....	52
Appendix 4 Questionnaire for widows.....	53
Appendix 5 Focus Group Discussion	59
Appendix 6 Sample size table.....	60
Appendix 7 FOREWO groups.....	61
Appendix 8 Letter of consent of participation in FGD.....	62
Appendix 9 FGD confirmation letter.....	63

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figures I: Conceptual Framework showing Relationship between Variables.....	17

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table 3.1 Operational Definition of Variables	23
Table 3.2 Sample size table	36
Table 4.1 Age of respondents.....	26
Table 4.2 Level of education of respondents.....	26
Table 4.3 Membership in an NGO supported programmes.....	26
Table 4.4 Reasons for non- membership	26
Table 4.5 Membership in an NGO supported programmes.....	28
Table 4.6 Distribution of family size by participation in an NGO supported programme	28
Table 4.7 Level of education of respondents.....	29
Table 4.8 Level of education of respondents by participation in an NGO supported programme	
Table 4.9 Source of income.....	31
Table 4.10 Distribution of form of employment.....	32
Table 4.11 Feeling guilty about the death of the husband.....	33
Table 4.12 Distribution of feeling guilty by participation in an NGO supported programme.....	34
Table 4.13 Worried of being widowed one day.....	35
Table 4.14 Worried of being widowed by participation in NGO supported.....	36
Table 4.15 Control and management of properties of dead husband.....	37
Table 4.16 Control of property by participation in NGO supported.....	38
Table 4.17 Experience of violence after death of husband.....	39
Table 4.18 Experience of violence by participation in NGO supported programmes.....	40

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
CEAFD	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FPE	Free Primary Education
FOREWO	Friends of Ravine Women Empowerment Organization
HIV	Human Immune Virus
ICRC	International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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ABSTRACT

This study sought to establish the influence of socio-cultural factors on widow's participation in Non-Governmental Organizations in Eldama Ravine Division, Koibatek District. In order to accomplish this, the study was guided by the following objectives;

To determine the extent to which family size influence participation of widows in NGO supported programmes, to establish the extent to which poverty influence participation of widows in NGO supported programmes, to examine how stigmatization influence participation of widows in NGO supported programmes, and to establish the extent to which infringement of women rights influence the participation of widows in NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division of Koibatek District. The study adopted the descriptive research survey design. Probability sampling technique was used in the selection of the study sample. Data was collected from the widows by the use of questionnaires containing structured and unstructured questions and a focus group discussion with leaders of different groups selected randomly from Friends of Ravine Women empowerment Organization (FOREWO). Data was analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and Microsoft Excel software. The findings were presented in the form of tables for easier interpretation. Following the findings of this study it was revealed that most of the widows (67%) belonged to NGO supported programmes but their maximum participation was inhibited by socio-cultural factors that included family size, poverty, stigmatization and infringement of women rights. The study indicated that socio-cultural factors influenced violation of the fundamental rights of widows in the study area as follows: High family sizes increased pressure on available family resources which encouraged majority of the widows to seek assistance from NGO support groups. Poverty is prevalent among widows which leads them to seek support through participation in NGO supported programmes, Education increased the level of awareness of the roles of NGO support groups among women, most of the death of the husbands of the widows was unanticipated and thus they did not feel guilt about it and widowhood exposed to violation of their women rights including disinheritance of the properties and violence. Following these research findings, several recommendations were made which included; The Government of Kenya to develop and implement strategies to assist widows to access and participate in NGO supported programmes and The Department of Gender and Social Development office should organize for sensitization of widows in order to make them aware of the funds available for them in their offices. It is hoped that the findings of this

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CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Women all over the world have shown commendable courage, resourcefulness and resilience in carrying on despite the trauma of their loss, the isolation and ostracism imposed on them by being widows and the difficult tasks of earning a living and protecting themselves and their children. These women challenge and in some cases redefine the cultural and social perceptions of widowhood and its former boundaries. For the first time a woman could have the possibility of working outside their home, be a bread winner, main decision maker and head of a household. She may organize with other women to go into areas of public life that had been the preserve for men (ICRC Workshop on Widowhood-November1999).There is therefore need to assist and protect widows throughout the world in given contexts where they have been identified as particularly vulnerable. Without such assistance, widows might find that they are either totally reliant of the goodwill of family, friends or neighbours or alone and faced with the necessity of providing for themselves and their family.

The new Kenyan constitution which was promulgated on 27th August 2010 in chapter four, under the bill of rights, provides the rights and fundamental freedoms in article 19(2) which states; “The purpose of recognizing and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms is to preserve the dignity of individuals and communities and to promote social justice and the realization of the potential of all human beings” Every individual has a right to realize their potentials(Kenyan constitution section 43(f). State parties should combat all forms of discrimination against women through legislative, institutional and other measures in order to curb discrimination that hinder women’s progress. This could be done through provision of business services, training and access to markets and technology particularly for low income women who include a majority of widows.

Widows poverty is most directly related to the absence of economic resources including credit, land ownership and inheritance, lack of access to education and support services, minimal Participation in the decision making process, access to credit among other vital element or a combination of these factors. In recent years, Self Help Groups have become significant

institutions for rural development. This has been particularly so in the case of poor women. The poor women do not have enough capital to take up business enterprise on an individual basis. The group approach makes the available collective wisdom and combined resources for any task. When undertaken well, these groups help to enhance the economic conditions of concerned members and boost their social status. This in turn can strengthen their economic capacity and commercial networks (Cherie Blair, 2011)

Group activities that widows can engage in if aided by NGO supported programmes that can generate income include; poultry keeping, entrepreneurship (small businesses), tree nurseries, horticultural practice, bee keeping and crop farming. This is only possible if they get funding and motivation.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Promotion of gender equality and empowering women is one of the main policy priorities of the Kenya government and was reinforced after the Beijing Platform for Action of 1995; which calls for the generation and dissemination of gender disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation.

Majority of Kenyan women are not economically empowered, they lack access to the tools and resources that can transform their lives (Kenya MDGs Progress Report, 2003). This is because most women do not access education. Studies show that despite the introduction of Free Primary Education in the hope that the goal of Universal Primary Education will be achieved by 2015, many girls will not enjoy the full benefits (Ministry of Education, Science and Technology 2004). This has been a major setback since independence where despite the government of Kenya trying to fight illiteracy alongside poverty, a high proportion of women have been forced to discontinue with their education due to social and cultural factors that include early and forced marriages, early pregnancies, multiple workloads, poor economic situations and traditional gender attitudes.

In recent years, Self Help Groups have become significant institutions for rural development (Cherie Blair, 2011) But in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District, participation of widows in NGO supported programmes is dismal. Data available from the Department of Gender and Social Development office in Eldama Ravine indicate that there are a total of 658 registered

women groups in the district. In Eldama Ravine division there are 333 registered groups out of which only eight are widows groups. These records further indicate that out of the eight groups, only one group is active, that is, they apply for the available funds, refund the loans promptly and provide their progress records on regular basis. The other seven groups registered their groups and have never asked for any Funds. It is through registered groups that most NGO's provide their support by offering grants to deserving vulnerable members of the society who are usually the widow groups but this support does not benefit the targeted group because most widows do not register themselves nor do they belong to any self-help groups within their communities. This study therefore sought to investigate the influence of socio-cultural factors on participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama-Ravine Division of Koibatek District in Kenya.

1.3 Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to investigate the influence of socio-cultural factors on participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District.

1.4 Objectives of the study

The following are the objectives that guided the study;

- i) To determine the extent to which family size influence participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District.
- ii) To establish the extent to which poverty influence participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District
- iii) To examine how stigmatization influence participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District
- iv) To establish the extent to which infringement of women rights in the society

Influence participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District.

1.5 Research questions

The research questions that guided this study include;

- i) To what extent does family size influence participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District?
- ii) To what extent does poverty influence participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District?
- iii) How does stigmatization influence participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District?
- iv) How does infringement of women rights in the society influence participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District?

1.6 Significance of the study

The main significance of this research was to establish and document the influence of socio-cultural factors on participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District. It is hoped that the results of this study would add to the existing body of knowledge concerning the diverse challenges that widows face in their day to day encounters and the factors that deter them from fully participating in NGO supported programmes.

It is also hoped that the study would assist the community, the government, Non-Governmental Organizations, and even the private sectors to come up with programmes that could look into these challenges and find the possible viable solutions to address and alleviate the issues that inhibit widow's participation in NGO supported programmes in the district.

1.5 Limitation of the study

There was difficulty in accessing the primary data because most widows were not willing to reveal their status and even when they did they were not ready to discuss the issues relating to their personal lives. There was therefore fear that some respondents might give false answers to questions asked. This was maybe due to fear of being exposed leading to stigmatization. To overcome this limitation, respondents were assured of confidentiality of the information, both verbally and in written by the researcher.

1.8 Delimitation of the study

This study was carried out throughout Eldama Ravine Division of Koibatek District with the help of the chiefs and sub-chiefs who assisted in identifying the widows .The study also confined itself to one very popular Non-Governmental Organization (FOREWO) in the division. Through the use of questionnaires and focused group discussions the widows provided information regarding the challenges they faced and issues that influenced their participation in NGO supported programmes. The widows also suggested ways in which they thought they could be assisted.

1.9 Basic assumption of the study

This study assumed that the respondents provided correct and truthful information that could be used as a general indication of the situation of widows.

1.10 Definitions of significant terms as used in the study

Family - A social structure made up of people related by blood, marriage or adoption.

Income - Money received as Interest on investments

Infringe - to encroach on the rights of other people.

Ostracize - to exclude somebody from a group, club or social gathering and to refuse to talk or meet somebody.

Participate - Take part or become involved in an activity.

Poverty - The state of not having enough of what is necessary. Can also be described as the state of being poor

Programme - A plan of activities to be done in future in order to solve an existing problem.

Reparation - the action of compensating for wrong done to someone.

Self-help - The use of one's own efforts and resources in order to achieve their own income and avoid depending on others.

Stigmatization - To describe or consider somebody very bad, worthy of extreme disapproval.

Socio-cultural - the customs, beliefs and social institutions of a particular group of people in a given society.

Widow - a woman whose husband has died and who has not married again.

1.11 Organization of the Study

This research project report contains five chapters and an appendices section. Chapter One, which is the Introduction, contains the Background of the study, statement of the problem, research objectives and questions that will guide the study. It also contains the basic assumptions of the study, significance of the study, limitations of the study and delimitation of the study. Significant terms have also been highlighted as used in the study.

Chapter Two contains a comprehensive literature review of related studies and publications conducted regarding the influence of socio-cultural factors on participation of widows in NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District. The section contains a conceptual framework which gives the relationship between the variables.

Chapter Three gives a description of the methodology used in the study. The research design and sampling procedure used are explained. The method of sample selection and determination is explained. Methods of data collection, analysis and presentation have been discussed. The chapter is concluded with the operational definition of variables which associates the research objectives with the methodology and provides a guide to the expected results.

Chapter four contains presentation and interpretation of the findings arising from data analysis using the techniques described in chapter three. This chapter also contains the discussions of the findings. The findings are presented in form of tables with a brief explanations of the findings .

Finally, chapter five contains summary of the findings, conclusion and research recommendations. The chapter also suggested areas for further studies arising from the study findings and is concluded with a section of the study's contribution to the body of knowledge.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This section contains a comprehensive review of studies and arguments related to the issues that influence participation of widows in NGO supported programmes. It also contains a conceptual framework that provides a diagrammatic representation of the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable.

2.2 Global status of widows

Widowhood exists when a spouse loses the other spouse. Hence women are called widows while their male counterparts are called widowers. This study focuses on the female widowhood. Although widows make up a significant proportion of the female population in all societies, their numbers keep rising to quite extraordinary and unprecedented levels in conflict-afflicted countries, although there are, as yet, no official statistics (widows for peace through democracy 2009). Rough estimates vary widely. In Afghanistan, it is thought that there are over two million widows, with 70,000 in Kabul alone. Also in Kabul, nearly all of the 37,000 street children are, according to a UN report, fatherless. In Iraq, there are probably more than 3 million widows, although the numbers may be much higher in both Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as in other countries afflicted by war. The numbers are exacerbated by the existence of many women who are the wives of the disappeared or missing. In Rwanda, it is suggested that as many as 70% of all children are dependent upon widowed mothers. In Eastern Congo, over 50% of all women are widows. Nepal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Burundi all similarly need to identify the impact of such increases in widowhood and address these women's particular needs, protect their vital roles as supporters of children and other dependents, and ensure they have the opportunity to participate in decision-making relating to peace-building, reconstruction and development.

Widowhood often changes the social and economic roles of women in the household and community (WICR 1999). It alters the structure of the family and its impact differs according to culture and religion. Widowhood can affect the physical safety, identity and mobility of women

and children. It also affects their access to basic goods and services needed for their survival and their rights to inheritance, land and property. A study carried out through a workshop on widowhood organized by International committee of the Red Cross and the Australian Red Cross, at the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, November 1999, highlighted selected issues faced by widows: In many countries, but particularly across Africa and Asia widows find themselves the victims of both physical and mental violence related to inheritance, land and property disputes. With no rights to ownership of her husband's property, a widow is subjected to abuse and consequently cast out of the place she calls home. Widow abuse cuts across ethnic class and income boundaries. Widows are therefore the most vulnerable and destitute women in the region. According to Hindu custom widows had three options: to marry their husband's younger brother; throw themselves on their dead husband's funeral pyre; or lead a life of self-denial (Panini and Parwani 2006.)

African widows, irrespective of ethnic groups, are among the most vulnerable and destitute women in the region. Common to both francophone and Anglophone countries in the region is the concept that death does not end a marriage. While the widow may have no rights to ownership of her husband's property, she is usually expected to fulfill obligations towards her deceased husband through her participation in traditional practices. In return she would be allowed to remain in her home and to have rights to cultivate land. In the past, this pattern of reciprocal duties and obligations in an extended family protected the widow and her children. Today, the custom is more likely to be used to oppress and exploit them. The low status, poverty and violence experienced by widows stem from discrimination in inheritance custom, the patriarchal nature of society, and the domination of oppressive traditional practices and customary codes, which take precedence over constitutional guarantees of equality, modern laws and international women's human rights standards (The world's women 2000)

In Kenya when widows lose their loved ones, they are often deprived of support from traditional sources, which can cause economic hardship or deprivation. The death of the husband spells doom for the widow. It threatens her psychological and physical wellbeing. She faces cruel in-laws who have no regard for the wellbeing of her and her children, all her property is normally grabbed from her (widows and orphan in rural Kenya-Registered UK charity 1119959). She is

called names and left a destitute. Most often, she is blamed for the deaths in the family and is punished by being chased away from her matrimonial home and all properties grabbed from her by in-laws. Most widows often feel unable to talk about their loss in public because they fear ostracism and other punishments. As a result widows grieve in silence often with the added burden of raising their family. Those who have dependent children often say that their main reason for living is the responsibility of raising their children. These children especially girls may themselves be subjected to discrimination and unfair treatment due to their mother's status. Women can be left entirely without social status when they lose their husbands, especially in patriarchal societies (Cherie Blair, 2011). The death of the main breadwinner can cause a breakdown in the normal division of labour as women take over the roles traditionally carried out by men. Women do face extra difficulties as heads of households especially if they do not have an adequate educational background or are prevented from obtaining further education; this may restrict their capacity to find work. Moreover, in countries where land ownership is regulated by customary laws or cultural barriers, women often do not have the right to own any land nor property leading to widowed women becoming homeless and unable to support themselves and their children. These among other reasons will prevent widows from participating in income-generating activities.

2.3 Socio-cultural factors and widows participation in NGO supported programmes

A non-governmental organization (NGO) is any non-profit, voluntary citizen's group comprising of members who have similar interests in a given activity for example alleviation of poverty among the rural women by mobilizing and maximizing available resources as is the case of FOREWO in Koibatek district. Some of the socio-cultural factors that influence widows participation in NGO supported programmes include; family size, poverty, stigmatization and infringement of women rights.

2.3.1 Family size and widows' participation in NGO supported programmes

A multidisciplinary explanation for the findings on family size suggest that family resources become "diluted" as family size increases and the result is that various developmental deficits are reported by researchers. Many widows are left with a large family to take care of by their deceased husbands. This is due to early marriages, son preferences that result in women having more children at shorter intervals and socio-cultural barriers which restrict women's rights in

managing their reproductive health through the use of contraceptives which increases with level of education and empowerment (Jonson Tony et al, 2003).

In some cultures a widow is responsible for her late husband's dependants, while in others she is taken in by his family. The situation can become desperate for those who must assume responsibility for dependent family members. Furthermore, social traditions may be abandoned by families that no longer see themselves as under any obligation towards the widow, for example, when the link between the family and the woman has been severed by the death of the son. In order to provide food for their families, widows in Kenya like many others in the world do shoulder the primary responsibilities for agricultural work, water and firewood collection. One Kenyan study found out that women and girls carry from 20-25 liters of water over a distance of 3.5 kilometers, for one or two hours daily (MDGs report,2003). Because of the large size of their families, widows spend so much time on these very crucial duties and are left with no time to think of or even engage themselves in NGO supported programmes.

2.3.2 Poverty and widows' participation in NGO supported programmes.

The first of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and the first target is to halve, between 1990 and 2015 the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day. Poverty is defined as the lack of the minimum food and shelter necessary for maintaining life(dictionary.reference.com/browse/poverty). More specifically, this condition is known as **absolute poverty**. Today it is estimated that more than 35 million Americans-approximately 14 percent of the population- live in poverty. **Relative poverty on the other hand** is a condition where the poor are those who lack what is needed by most Americans to live decently because they earn less than half of the nation's medium income. (Zweig, Michael, 2004). In Kenya, more than 56 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line, with more than halve of these being women (Kenya MDGs progress report, 2003). Poverty is an exceptionally complicated social phenomenon, and trying to discover its causes is equally complicated. The stereotyping explanation that the poor cause their own poverty still persists. Some theorists have accused the poor of having little concern for the future and preferring to live "for the moment"; others have accused them of engaging in self defeating

behavior. Still other theorists have characterized the poor as fatalists, resigning themselves to a culture of poverty in which nothing can be done to change their economic outcomes. This culture of poverty is passed from generation to generation and the poor feel negative, inferior, passive, hopeless and powerless. The stereotypic perspective of "blame the poor" is not applicable to all of the underclass because most poor people are able and willing to work hard, they do so when given the chance. The real trouble has to do with such problems as minimum wages and lack of access to education necessary for obtaining a better-paying job.

Beijing Platform for Action calls for provision of business services, training and access to markets, information and technology, particularly for low income women (Strategic Objective F3), and for the strengthening of women's economic capacity and commercial networks (Strategic Objective F4). Across a wide spectrum of countries, religions and ethnic groups, a woman is left destitute when her husband dies (World's women 2000). Poverty is made worse by a little or no access to credit or other economic resources. This is heightened by illiteracy or lack of education. Without education and training, widows find it difficult to support themselves or their children neither are they able to participate in NGO supported programmes.

2.3.3 Stigmatization and widows' participation in NGO supported programmes.

Stigma refers to an attribute or characteristic of a person that is deeply discrediting. This attribute is devalued in a particular context, and calls into question the full humanity of this person. US sociologist Erving Goffman describes stigma as a quality that significantly discredits an individual in the eyes of others (Goffman, 1963). Persons are devalued, spoilt or flawed in the eyes of others because of this negatively valued attribute and dehumanization, threat aversion and social rejection are openly behavioral manifestations of stigmatization. Stigma has important consequences in the way individuals come to see themselves. Widowhood stigmatization take various shapes and styles and can be categorized into two namely "felt" and "enacted" stigma. Felt stigma arises from the real or imagined stigmatizing response, while enacted stigma refers to actual acts of discrimination (Jacoby, 1994 Scimpler & Hopkins, 1986).

Felt stigma refers to feelings that labeled individuals experience when they internalize the negative responses and reactions of others. It may have an important role to play in affecting the

mental health and the behavior of those stigmatized. Felt stigma is harmful and may lead to depression, feelings of worthlessness, shame, guilt, low self-esteem, withdrawal and isolation of stigmatized individuals. It is also harmful because negative thoughts often lead individuals to do things that harm others or deny others services and entitlements. Some of the reasons for felt stigmatization in widowhood include; Living as though widowhood may never come while still married, being guilty of enacted widowhood stigmatization when still married, Total dereliction of self existence in marriage (over-reliance on spouse), Lack of self- esteem and drive, Lack of knowledge of sources of financial empowerment, Over-consciousness of the societal and external stigmatization among others.

Gilmore & Somerville(1994) have described four main features of any stigmatizing response: the problem that initiates the reaction; the identification of the group or individual to be targeted; the assessment of stigma to this group; and the development of the stigmatizing response. Enacted Stigma constitute a process during which five interrelated components converge. The five components include "labeling" (people identify and label human differences); "Stereotyping" (link labeled individuals to undesirable characteristics or negative stereotypes); "Separation" (place labeled individuals in distinct categories, separating ("us" from "them"); "Status loss"(labeled individuals experience devaluation that lead to unequal outcomes); and "Discrimination" (systematic disapproval, rejection and exclusion towards labeled individuals). Enacted stigmatization is linked to power and cultural beliefs that dominate society and in the norms and values that govern much of everyday life. It creates and in turn is reinforced by, social inequality. It causes labeled individuals to be devalued and shamed, and others to feel that they are superior.

Examples of enacted stigmatization include, Castigation of the widow as being directly or indirectly responsible for the death of her husband. Many widows are held out to be responsible for the death of their husbands particularly men who die in their primes whether or not such men had any tangible assets before their demise or not. It is either that the wives gave the men too much stress that caused their untimely death or they caused their death through voodooes or poisoning. It does not matter whether the men drank themselves to stupor or were engaged in gluttonous eating that caused blockage to their hearts. Even if the men were involved in evil

activities unknown to their wives and were killed by hired assassins who are also men, the women get somehow to be blamed for their deaths. Women are therefore self sacrificed martyrs of marriage contracts.

Denial of rights to husband's estate, Some cultures believe that a woman would always be a stranger in her husband's family. That is why to date when some men die in some cultures; they get to visit their father's home in death before they are buried in their own homes. Widows therefore are not allowed access to their husband's property because whatever the man owns belongs to his father's family, not his wife or immediate family. This is worse when such properties are in villages. In extreme cases, movable assets of the deceased man are moved by relations out of the reach of the widow. Where a man dies in an estate, it is normal for his brothers to obtain a letter of administration and take over whatever entitlements from their work places without the involvement of the widows particularly when the widows are uneducated.

Lack of financial support for family upkeep and children upbringing from the family or society. Even when men's family take possession of the deceased estate, because of the believe mentioned above, they fail to provide for the widow and her children's upkeep and when they do it, it is usually paltry and done as though they were doing a great favour to the widow and her children., the macho and superior partner postures of the men do not make room for them to let their wives into their affairs while still alive. This is made worse when a man has more than one wife or is more dedicated to his parents, brothers and sisters than his wife. Some hide their estates from their family to avoid demands and pressures. They therefore end up creating wealth for banks and shareholders on their death rather than for their wives and children.

Furthermore, Physical and mental ostracization by family and friends and Perception by close friends and associates as liabilities is very common. Perception as husband snatchers by wives of former family friends before the death of husbands is only concretely felt when experienced. Widows do not believe the turn of events with family friends after their husband's demise. Right during the mourning period, if husbands of their friends or their husbands close friends extend a helping hand, the wives begin to look at the widows as planning to snatch their husbands. They go fighting their husbands at home and to avoid trouble the men draw back. The widow is therefore left without true and helpful friends. Widows are seen as a liability by friends of her late husband and her own close friends (males and females). A widow can no longer easily

express a concern without someone believing that she wants him or her to carry her responsibilities as though the widow had suddenly turned physically incapacitated. It is worse when she wants to borrow money or take items on credit from people she ordinarily would have taken such loans when their husband was alive. Societal and workplace behavioral watch with a view to condemnation where widows every move is watched, in churches, town unions, work places and every place she is known to be a widow. Her every behavior does matter. If she is cheerful, does not tie her hair to church, she makes up, wears trousers, it is because she is looking for male advances even if she made up more and used to laugh a lot when her husband was alive. If she comes out with wet eyes and all covered up, it is because she wants to be pitied and obtain help from the couples; if she keeps off public places, it is because she is accusing people of not caring; if she enjoys socializing it is because she does not feel the pain of her husband's death; if her children are not doing well it is because she chases after useless things and abandons her children.

2.3.4 Infringement of women rights and widow participation in NGO supported programmes.

Women's rights are all the rights spelled out by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), and by the two Human Rights Covenants (on Civil and Political Rights as well as on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) are the rights of every woman. The same applies to all other Human Rights treaties. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEAFD), deals with ban on any form of discrimination of women in its entirety.

Infringement is defined as the Violation of the terms of an agreement, encroachment, trespass, or disregard of others' rights, such as invasion of an exclusive right of intellectual property Rights and privileges for men and women is asymmetrical. Asymmetries in rights are pervasive in legal statutes, in customary laws and in practices within communities and households (Pulling Apart, 2004). These asymmetries exist in the right to marry, to divorce to determine family size and manage property, to allocate ones labour to household enterprises and to travel independently. These disparities in rights constrain the choice available for widows in many aspects of life often profoundly limiting the opportunities they have in the economy and society. Most widows, therefore, during and immediately after their husband's death are still naïve and

cannot make important decisions regarding their lives and it becomes very difficult for them to participate in NGO supported programmes.

As with basic rights, widows seem to have poorer access to a range of resources. This limits their opportunities and their ability to participate in and enjoy the fruits of development. Some of the resources that women have limited access include human resources, social capital, physical and financial capital, employment and earning. This limits their ability to participate in development and to contribute to higher living standards of their families. They translate into greater risk and vulnerability in the face of personal or family crisis when they are widowed which leads to economic shocks.

Many widows in traditional societies have no rights to inheritance or land ownership under customary and religious law. Without inheritance rights and lack of rights to property of their birth family, widows find themselves financially insecure and totally dependent on assistance of their husband's relatives. This limits their ability to access proper health facilities which is critical for the wellbeing of every individual. It is an important resource that enables people to take part in and enjoy the fruits of development. The gender roles and discrimination in access to health services, subjects women to lower life expectancy and mortality rates. Socio-cultural barriers restrict women rights in managing their own reproductive health and end up having more children at shorter intervals. (Jonson Tony et al, 2003). Since widows face all these challenges during their marriage, they enter into their current status with this burden, they are forced to seek for informal work as domestic laborers or to turn to begging and even worse to prostitution. This puts their health at risk.

Violence against women is very common and is one of the most widespread violations of human rights. It affects women of all backgrounds, ages, cultures and countries. Widows are no exception and are in fact at particularly higher risk of violence (Margaret Owen, 2009) Violence is one of the crucial social mechanism by which widows are forced into subordinate positions. This is because violence creates a climate of fear and destroys the sense of safety and security necessary to widow's full participation in the life of the nation. Fear of violence impairs mobility and limits widow's access to resources and opportunities. In this way violence dis-empowers widows and robs them of full realization of their rights. Widows are casualties of violence in their homes and outside. This is because of the absence of the husband who is normally a sign

protection in the family. Due to fear for the unknown widows are usually rendered helpless and their mobility is generally impaired. This, therefore impacts negatively their participation in NGO supported programmes and access to available resources. Some burial and mourning rights which widows are coerced into are harmful to their health -both mental and physical. Some are made to undergo ritual cleansing through sex with male relatives regardless of their HIV status (Kenya Demographic and Health Survey, 2003).

Every person has the right to education (Kenyan constitution sec.43 (f)). Education is central to one's ability to respond to the opportunities that development present. Basic education is the foundation for developing the flexible skills needed to participate in knowledge intensive economic activity. Those who lack basic education are likely to be excluded from the new opportunities placing them at an increasing risk of falling behind in their ability to participate in development. Despite the introduction of Free-Primary Education in the hope that the goal of Universal Primary Education will be achieved in Kenya by the year 2015, many girls do not enjoy the full benefits (Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, 2004). A high number of girls are forced to leave school before completing primary education due to social and cultural factors that include early marriages, early pregnancies, multiple workloads, poor economic situations traditional gender attitudes. The enrolment, retention, completion and progression rate for girls reduce in secondary school and becomes worse in university where records indicated that women represented 30.8 percent of the total population in Kenyan universities in 2003/2004. (Pulling Apart: Facts and Tables on Inequality in Kenya, 2004). This therefore means that most of the widows today lack the basic education necessary for them to be actively involved in development activities.

2.4 Conceptual framework

The figure below shows the conceptual framework of the study stating the socio-cultural factors that influence the participation of widows in NGO supported programmes.

Independent variables

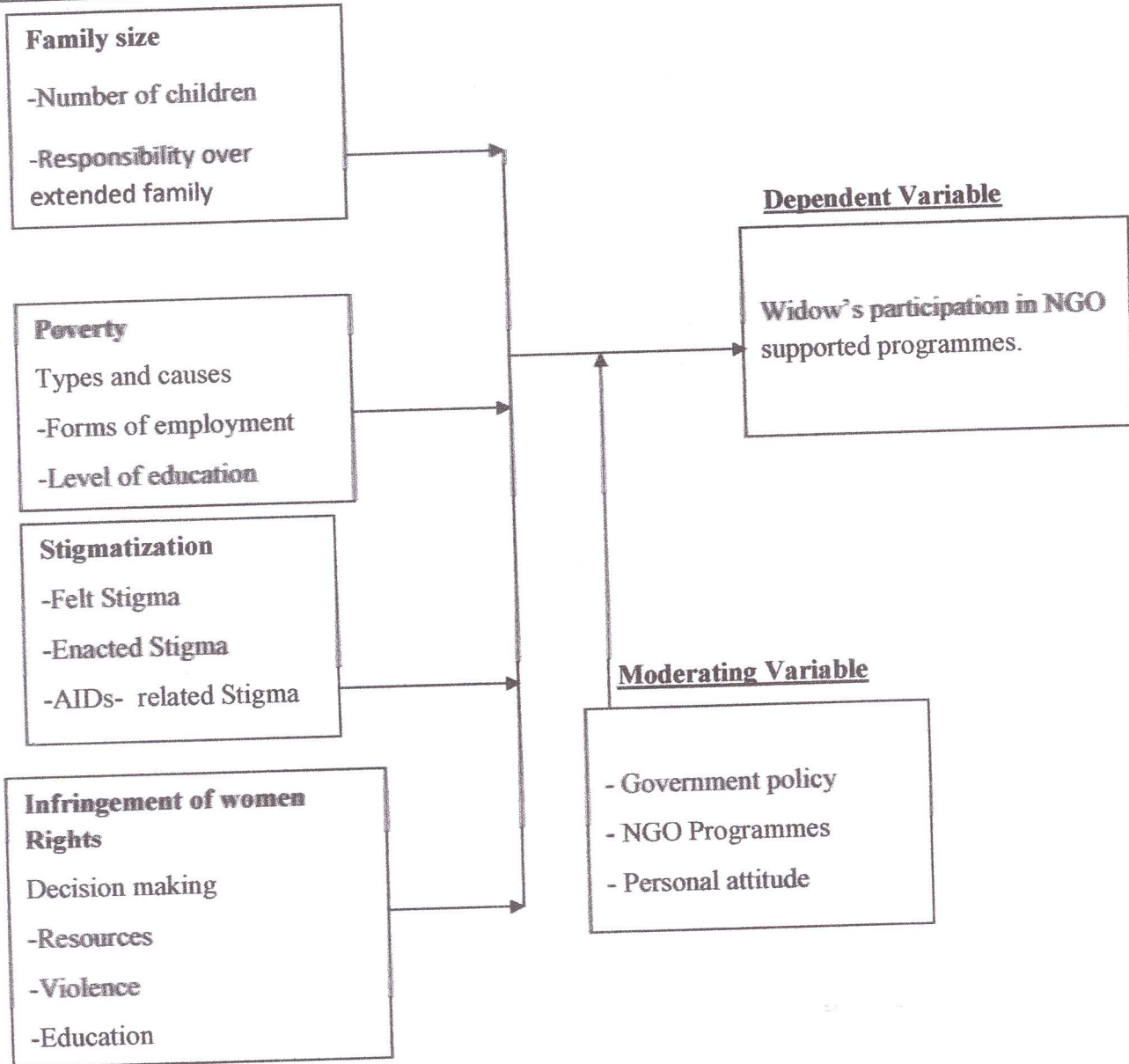


Figure 1: Conceptual framework showing relationship between variables.

Figure 1 shows the determinants of Women Participation in NGO Supported Programmes. This study conceptualizes that, socio-cultural factors influence the participation of widows in NGO supported programmes. These include; poverty, rights to participate in decision making, stigma and

family size. This argument is however subject to various moderating variables such as government policies and Non-Governmental Organizations that aim at protecting and providing support to vulnerable widows and their children.

2.5 Summary of literature review

From the literature review above, it was established that there was a gap in availability of hard data which becomes a major obstacle in development of policies and programmes to address the poverty, violence and discrimination suffered by widows. There was need for more research and statistics disaggregation into marital status, sex and age in order to help reveal the incidences of widow abuse and illustrate the situation of widows. Due to lack of awareness and discrimination by judicial officials, widows avoid turning to the justice system to seek reparation. Programmes and policies for ending violence against widows and their children, poverty alleviation, education and support to widows of all ages also need to be undertaken so as to accelerate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Widows should be empowered through access to adequate healthcare, education, decent work, full participation in decision-making and public life. Their lives should be free from violence and abuse in order to build a secure life after bereavement. Creating opportunities for widows to participate in NGO supported programmes can help them protect and provide for their children's needs and to avoid the cycle of inter-generational poverty and deprivation.

All widows should be allowed to participate in International Widows Day (IWD), observed for the first time on 23rd July 2011. This gives them an opportunity for action towards achieving their full rights and recognition which have been invisible, unaccounted and ignored for too long.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with the description of the methods and procedures that were used in conducting the research. The chapter deals with the research design, location of the study, population, sampling techniques, research instruments, data collection procedures, data analysis and the type of variables and measurement scales that were employed during the study.

3.2 Research design

This study employed descriptive research survey design which according to Mugenda and Mugenda,(2003) is an attempt to collect data from members of a population in order to determine the current status of that population with respect to one or more variables. It is a method of collecting information by administering questionnaires to a sample of individuals or by interviewing them. It can also be used to collect information about people's attitudes, Opinions habits or any of the variety of education or social issues (Kathuri, 1993). The descriptive research survey design is applicable because it has the potential to provide researcher with a lot of information from quite a large sample of individuals. The design also enables the researcher to establish the relationship between variables in order to achieve an in depth analysis of the influence of socio-cultural factors on widows participation in NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine division of Kobatek District. The design provides self reported facts about respondent's attitudes, inner feelings, opinions and habits. Best and Kahn, (1998) describes it as appropriate and economical for finding out the characteristics and attitudes of a population and is also a rich source of information.

3.3 Target population

According to Best and kahn, (1998) target population is defined as a small portion of the population selected for observation and analysis. It also refers to all members of a population to which research findings can be generalized and is an accurate record of the sampling frame from which a sample is to be drawn.

The study targeted widows within Eldama Ravine Division. According to records found in different chiefs' offices in Eldama Ravine Division of Koibatek District and in the Koibatek Bureau of Statistics, there are an estimated 130 widows which represents the target population of the study.

3.4 Sample size selection and sampling procedure

Sampling is the process of selecting a number of individuals or objects for a study in such a way that the individuals or elements represent the larger group, or the population from which they are selected. This research used probability sampling whose goal was to enable the researcher to select a reasonable number of respondents that represent the target population. According to Mugenda and Mugenda, (2003) probability sampling provides the researcher with accurate information about groups that are too large to study in their entirety. Sampling was based on the Krejcie & Morgan sample size table shown in appendix 1. Where N = Population and n = sample size. The study thus used a sample of 97 widows and the researcher distributed questionnaires randomly during chief's barazas. Other questionnaires were delivered to the respondents personally at their homes. The study sought additional information on the topic under study by conducting a Focus Group Discussion with leaders from six different randomly selected self-help groups in the division. This number was considered appropriate since too few will not provide sufficient information to add value to the study nor will the use of so many participants because they would not be able to participate fully. A schedule for the discussion was used to guide the exercise. This process was undertaken during one of their general meeting.

3.5 Data collection instruments

A set of questionnaires containing both structured and unstructured questions were used for the study to collect primary data. They were administered to the widows. The choice of questionnaires was preferred because of the simplicity in their administration, scoring of items and analysis (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). The questionnaire was divided into sections and developed based on the research objectives in order to capture relevant information. The widows were expected to provide information regarding their socio-economic situation, cultural backgrounds, and educational levels and how they related with their in-laws and the members of their immediate family. The focus group discussion with leaders of self- help groups sought to

provide additional information regarding widow's participation in NGO supported programmes. Questions set for focus group discussion were flexible and encourage free group interaction and provide an opportunity to gather and probe insights of participants. The information gathered was qualitative (opinions insights and personal responses) as opposed to quantitative (uniform facts). The questionnaires combined both close- ended and open- ended questions to allow respondents to have an opportunity to give more insight of the research problem.

In the study, data was collected through the drop and pick method where questionnaires were delivered to the respective respondents and collected after a week. The respondents were briefed by the researcher in order to help in the completion of the questionnaires. The focus group discussion was organized and carried out in the convenience of the leaders during a time when they were having their general meeting in their head office. The whole process of data collection was administered personally by the researcher.

3.5.1 Piloting of the study instrument.

In this study a pilot study was conducted through a pre-test carried out in one of the locations found within the study area. This helped to improve the questionnaire in order to enhance the validity and reliability. The questionnaires were administered personally by the researcher and picked as soon as they were ready. Weaknesses of the instruments were noted like the inability of certain questions to elicit responses required to achieve the research objectives, and revisions were done to rectify the deserving areas before the instruments was finalized.

3.5.2 Validity of Research Instruments

Validity refers to the quality that a procedure or instrument or tool used in research is accurate, correct, true, meaningful and right. The validity of the questionnaire and the focus group discussion schedule was determined by the help of experts (such as research supervisor). This ensured that the instruments did not mislead the respondents in the course of providing information. This also ensured that the research objectives were addressed by the information sought in the instruments.

3.5.3 Reliability of Research Instruments

Reliability of an instrument is the degree of consistency with which it measures a variable (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). It is concerned with estimates of the degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results or data after repeated trials. The questionnaire combined both close-ended and open-ended questions administered to the respondents. This allowed respondents to have an opportunity to give more insight to the research problem and facilitate consistency of responses. The results of data collected from pre-test administered during piloting of the study helped in reconstructing questionnaires in cases where they appeared ambiguous to respondents.

3.6 Ethical considerations

The study ensured that official authorization was obtained from the office of the president through the Eldama Ravine District Commissioner prior to collection of data from the target population. The study informed the respondents of the purpose of the study and gave them a written assurance that the data collected would be used only for research purposes and that confidentiality would be observed.

3.7 Data Analysis Techniques

Data collected was coded with regard to the type and source. Data was analyzed and interpreted both quantitatively and qualitatively with the aid of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences, version 11.5 for windows and Microsoft Excel 2007 computer software. Qualitative statistical techniques was used to describe and summarize data. Data was analyzed using frequencies and percentages for descriptive statistics while Pearson Product Movement Correlation was used for inferential statistics. The degree of association between two variables (correlation) was described by a number (Coefficient) to indicate the strength of association. The results were then presented in the form of tables.

3.8 Operational Definition of Variables

This section shows the dependent and independent with the associated indicators and how they were measured. The data collection instruments are outlined, scales of measure represented and

the techniques that were used for analysis of data are also laid down. The independent variables were operationalized as shown in the table.

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Table 3.1 Table of operationalization of variables

<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Variables</u>	<u>Indicators</u>	<u>Measure</u>	<u>Tools of Data collection</u>	<u>Measuring scale</u>	<u>Data Analysis Techniques</u>
To determine the extent to which family size influence participation of widows in income Generating activities in Eldama Ravine Division, Koibatek District.	Dependent Variable Widows participation Independent Variable family size	Belonging to a self help group No. of people under widows responsibility	Level of participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of children Parents in law Sisters/brothers in law Grand parents 	Questionnaire Focus group Discussion (FGD) Questionnaire	Nominal Ordinal Nominal Ordinal	Frequencies percentages and correlations
To investigate how infringement of women rights influence participation of widows in NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division Of Koibatek District.	Independent Variable Rights infringement	Right to ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> owning of land Access to resources Pursue their education Managing their own health 	Questionnaires FGD	Interval Nominal ordinal	Frequencies percentages and correlations
To establish the extent to which poverty influence participation of widows in NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in K oibatek District	Independent Variable Poverty	Standard of living (household assets) (type of house)	Having TV, car, computer Cooking fuel used Availability of water Availability of electricity Permanent, Semi-permanent, Temporary	Questionnaires FGD	Nominal Ordinal	Frequencies percentages
To examine how stigmatization influence participation of widows in NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division of Koibatek District	Independent Variable Stigmatization	Ostracization	Number of friends Level of assistance from friends and relatives Societal and work place condemnation	Questionnaires FGD	Interval Nominal ordinal	Frequencies percentages and correlations

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents results and discussion of the findings of the study on "Influence of Socio-Cultural Factors on Participation of Widows in Selected Non-Governmental Supported Programmes: A Case of Eldama Ravine Division, Koibatek District". The discussion addresses the research objectives of the study which included; family size and participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes, poverty and participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes, stigmatization and participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes and infringement of women rights in the society and participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes

4.2 Response Return Rate

A total of 97 questionnaires were distributed to the widows in Eldama Ravine Division. The study was able to get a response from 84 respondents out of the 97 questionnaires; that is a response rate of 86%. Which is adequate for statistical reporting according to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) which states that a response rate of 50% and above is a good response rate for analysis, therefore the response of 86% from the widows was sufficient and boosted the reliability of the study. In the cases of non response, the reason cited by respondents was misplacement of the questionnaires.

4.3 General characteristics of the respondents

The respondents comprised of 84 widows from urban, rural settlements and affluent estates. The study found out that there were no respondent who were aged between 25 and 29, 7.1% were aged between 30 and 34 years, 28.6% were aged between 35 and 39, 25% were between 40 and 44 years and 39.3% were 45 years and above. The responses were outlined in table 4.1

Table 4.1 Age distribution of the respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
25-29	0	0
30-34	6	7.1
35-39	24	28.6
40-44	21	25
Above 45	33	39.3
Total	84	100

The study also found out that 17.9% of the respondents were standard eight leavers, 39.3% were form four leaver and 32.1% went to college. Only 10.7% went up to university level. According to the findings, majority of the widows (39.3%) are form four leavers while very few (10.7%) completed university. This is illustrated in table 4.2

Table 4.2: Level of Education of the Respondents

Level of education	Frequency	Percent
primary	15	17.9
secondary	33	39.3
Tertiary	27	32.1
university	9	10.7
Total	84	100

4.4 Membership of respondents in any women group under NGO supported programmes

In this study, the 84 sample widows were asked whether they were members of any NGO group. They varied in their responses as illustrated in Table 4.5. The study findings revealed that 57 of the respondents were members of women group in their community and 27 were not members of any women group.

Table 4.3: Membership in an NGO Support Group

<i>Membership</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Yes	57	67.9
No	27	32.1
Total	84	100.0

The study findings revealed that 57 of the respondents were members of women group in their community and 27 were not members of any women group.

The study further sought to find out the reasons for non-membership and responses were shown in table 4.4;

Table 4.4 Reasons for non-membership

reason given by the widows who were not members of women group				
		lack of money	of lack of consistent income	Total
member of any women group yes in your community	57	0	0	57
no	3	18	6	27
Total	60	18	6	84

The respondents, who were not members of any women group under the NGO supported programmes, gave reasons same as what we got from the FGD which were; lack of adequate money and lack of consistent income while others did not give any reason. Responses from the Focus Group Discussion with group leaders and representatives of different groups agreed that the widows who belonged to the different group were the most problematic individuals because they would often request for loans from the group but would never repay in time and therefore leaving other members to carry the burden of repaying for them.

4.5 Socio-cultural factors that influence widows participation in NGO supported programmesThe study sought to determine the influence of socio-cultural factors on widows participation in NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division as outlined in the findings illustrated bellow;

4.5.1 Family Size and Participation in Selected NGO Supported Programmes

The study sought to assess the influence of family size on participation in selected NGO supported programmes by inquiring for the number of children the respondents had. The response is outlined in table 4.5. The objective was based on the fact that the size of the family of a widow determines the level of access to family resources. Thus a higher family size increases pressure on family resources.

Table 4.5 Number of children of respondents

Number of children	Frequency	Percent
Less than three	12	14.3
Three and more	72	85.7
Total	84	100

In this study, the 84 sample widows were then asked whether they were members of any NGO group. They varied in their responses as illustrated in Table 4.6

Table 4.6: Membership in an NGO Support Group

Membership	Frequency	Percent
Yes	57	67.9
No	27	32.1
Total	84	100.0

Table 4.5 indicates that 67.9 percent of the respondents participated in NGO support group while 32.1 percent did not. This suggests that more widows were aware of the importance of NGOs and the need to belong to one. Such widows were more likely to benefit from such NGO depending on their mandate, objectives and operations. The 32.1 percent who did not participate in NGO support group were asked about their reasons and enumerated the following: too much commitments, and lack of money to subscribe to meet financial commitment. After establishing participation in the NGO support groups, the study went further to determine the family size for both those who were members and those who were not. This was done by cross tabulating participation in NGO support group by family size as depicted in Table 4.7.

Table 4.7 Distribution of Family Size by Participation in NGO Support Group

		Participation in NGO Support Group		Total	
		Yes	No		
Family size	Less than 3	Count	9	3	12
		%	15.8%	11.1%	14.3%
	3 and more	Count	48	24	72
		%	84.2%	88.9%	85.7%
Total		Count	57	27	84
		%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

$\chi^2 = 0.327$ $df = 1$ $p = 0.567$

Table 4.7 indicates that widows in the study area had generally high family sizes regardless of whether they participated in NGO support groups or not. Out of the 57 respondents who participated in NGO support group, 84.2 percent had three and more children; similarly, for the 27 who did not participate in NGO support groups, 88.9 percent had three and more children. This suggests that the family sizes in the study area were generally high and this complicated the poverty level of widows in all cases. The large family sizes increases pressure on the available resources in the family and thus complicated that levels of poverty. This could be the reasons why majority of the widows with three and more children participated in NGO support groups so as to supplement their resources and take care of their large families. These findings support previous studies such as Johnson et al (2003) who observed that higher family size dilute family resources. Cherie (2011) adds that group approach through Self Help Groups makes the available collective wisdom and combined resources for any task. When undertaken well, these groups help to enhance the economic conditions of concerned members and boost their social status. This in turn can strengthen their economic capacity and commercial networks.

4.5.2 Poverty and Participation in Selected NGO Supported Programmes

The study sought to establish the extent to which poverty influence participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District. The objective was based on the fact that widowhood was one of the most important factors influencing level of poverty in rural area as a result of the social, cultural and economic factors determining access, ownership and control of productive resources. Widowhood complicates poverty levels making it impossible for the affected women to access vital sources of livelihoods. In this study, the 84 sample widows were asked various questions on different indicators of poverty in their households. The two critical factors of poverty included employment status and

highest level of education of the sampled widows. First the respondents were asked about their levels of education and their results summarized in Table 4.7.

Table 4.8: Level of Education of the Respondents

Levels of education	Frequency	Percent
primary	15	17.9
secondary	33	39.3
Tertiary	27	32.1
university	9	10.7
Total	84	100

Table 4.8 indicates 57.1 percent of the respondents had primary and secondary levels of education while 42.8 percent had post-secondary levels of education. Such levels of education were relatively low and more likely to limit majority of the respondents from accessing productive and gainful employment opportunities. This will in turn determine the level of poverty of the respondents. In addition low level of education was likely to lower the understanding of majority of the respondents about the available NGO support groups and the need to join and participate fully in them. Thus the study cross tabulated the levels of education of the respondents by participation in NGO support groups. Table 4.8 depicted the distribution.

Table 4.9: Level of Education by Participation in NGO Support Group

Level of education		Participation in NGO Support Group		Total
		Yes	No	
Primary	Count	7	11	18
	%	12.3%	40.7%	21.4%
Secondary	Count	19	11	30
	%	33.3%	40.7%	35.7%
Tertiary	Count	23	4	27
	%	40.4%	14.8%	32.1%
University	Count	8	1	9
	%	14.0%	3.7%	10.7%
Total	Count	57	27	84
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

$$\chi^2 = 12.749$$

$$df = 3$$

$$p = 0.005$$

Table 4.9 indicates that 54.4 percent of the 57 respondents who participated in NGO supported groups had post-secondary levels of education while 81.4 percent of the 27 respondent who did not participate in NGO supported groups had primary and secondary levels of education. This suggests that the higher level of education enabled majority of the respondents to participate in NGO supported groups, and vice versa. This was supported by the chi square test, where the p value (0.005) was lesser than the 0.05 significance level suggesting that there was a significant relationship between participation in NGO supported groups and the level of education of the widows. The higher the level of education, the higher was the level of participation in NGO supported groups, and vice versa.

The level of education determines the form of employment and associated income. Therefore, the respondents were asked about their form of employment and categorized it as either formal employment or self employment as summarized in Table 4.10.

Table 4.10 source of income

Source of income	Frequency	Percent
small business(kiosk)	18	21.4
small scale farming	30	35.7
vegetable vendors	12	14.3
employed(salaried)	24	28.6
Total	84	100

Table 4.10 indicates that 71.4 percent (60) of the respondents were self-employed while 28.6 percent (24) were formally employed. This self employment included operating kiosks and engaging in farming. The variations in the form of employment was attributed to the limited employment opportunities and resources in the study area which is more rural in nature. This depicted the poverty levels in the study area that required the intervention of the NGO support. However, the influence of form of employment on poverty levels depends on the associated levels of income. To establish whether there was any relationship between the form of

employment and participation in NGO support groups, the two variables were cross tabulated as illustrated in Table 4.11

Table 1.11 Distribution of Form of Employment by Participation in NGO Support Group

		Participation in NGO Support Group		
		Yes	No	Total
Employment status	Self employment	Count 39 68.4%	21 77.8%	60 71.4%
	Formal employment	Count 18 31.6%	6 22.2%	24 28.6%
Total	Count	57	27	84
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

$\chi^2 = 0.786$ $df = 1$ $p = 0.375$

Table 4.11 indicates that majority of the sampled widows in the study area were generally self employed regardless of whether they participated in NGO support groups or not. Out of the 57 respondents who participated in NGO support group, 68.4 percent were self employed; similarly, for the 27 who did not participate in NGO support groups, 77.8 percent were also self employed. This could be attributed to the general limited economic opportunities to engage in formal employment. This was supported by the chi square test, where the p value (0.375) was greater than the 0.05 significance level suggesting that the form of employment in itself does not significantly influence participation in NGO supported groups. This only happens after it has influenced the level of income and level of poverty of the affected widow.

4.5.3 Stigmatization and Participation in Selected NGO Supported Programmes

The study sought to examine how stigmatization influence participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District. The objective was based on the fact that socio-cultural factors, attitude and belief in many African traditional communities stigmatize and discriminate against women who are widowed. This was more attributed to the patriarch society that does not give men and women equal opportunities and regard in the society. In this study, the 84 sample widows were asked various questions on different aspects of social stigmatization of widows in the study area. The two most critical factors included feeling of guilty of the death of the husband and worry about being widowed.

The respondents were asked whether they felt guilty about the causes of death of their husband as illustrated in Table 4.12

Table 4.12 Feeling guilty about death of husband

		member of any women group in your community		Total
		yes	no	
Feel guilty about your husband's death and at time think that there are things you did or not do to cause his death	yes	18	6	24
	no	39	21	60
Total		57	27	84

Table 4.12 shows that majority of the respondents never felt guilty of the death of their husband. This suggests that the death of most of the husbands was as a result of known causes that did not vindicate the wives. This therefore meant that the widows had nothing to feel guilty about. For the minority who felt guilty, they could have been implicated in the circumstance and causes of death of their husband. To establish whether there was any relationship between the feeling of guilty over the causes of death and participation in NGO support groups, the two variables were cross tabulated as illustrated in Table 4.13

Table 4.13 Distribution of Feeling Guilty by Participation in NGO Support Group

		Participation in NGO Support Group		Total
		Yes	No	
Feeling of guilty of the husband death	Yes	Count 18 % 31.6%	Count 6 % 22.2%	Count 24 % 28.6%
	No	Count 39 % 68.4%	Count 21 % 77.8%	Count 60 % 71.4%
Total		Count 57 % 100.0%	Count 27 % 100.0%	Count 84 % 100.0%

$$\chi^2 = 0.786 \quad df = 1 \quad p = 0.375$$

Table 4.13 indicates that majority of the sampled widows in the study area did not feel guilty of the death of their husbands regardless of whether they participated in NGO support groups or

not. Out of the 57 respondents who participated in NGO support group, 68.4 percent did not feel guilty of the death of their husband; similarly, for the 27 who did not participate in NGO support groups, 77.8 percent were also did not feel guilty of the death of their husband. This could be attributed to the fact that the causes of the death of most of the husbands did not vindicate or implicate their wives. This was supported by the chi square test, where the p value (0.375) was greater than the 0.05 significance level suggesting that the cause of death of the husbands was not enough in influencing participation in NGO supported groups.

In addition to the feeling of guilt, the respondents were also asked whether they worried or thought of being widowed one day as illustrated in Table 4.13.

Table 4.14 Worried about being widowed one day

		member of any NGO supported group in the community		
		Yes	No	Total
thought of being widowed like other	yes	9	6	15
	no	48	21	69
Total		57	27	84

Table 4.14 shows that majority of the respondents never worried of being widowed one day. This suggests that they were never anticipating the death of their husband meaning that the deaths were not foretold. For the minority who were worried, they could have seen signs of impending death of their husband. To establish whether there was any relationship between worry about being widowed one day and participation in NGO support groups, the two variables were cross tabulated as illustrated in Table 4.15.

Table 4.15: Worry of being widowed by Participation in NGO Support Group

			Participation in NGO Support Group		Total
			Yes	No	
Worry of being widowed one day	Yes	Count	9	6	15
		%	15.8%	22.2%	17.9%
	No	Count	48	21	69
		%	84.2%	77.8%	82.1%
Total		Count	57	27	84
		%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

$$\chi^2 = 0.517$$

$$df = 1$$

$$p = 0.472$$

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Table 4.15 indicates that majority of the sampled widows in the study area were not worried of being widowed one day regardless of whether they participated in NGO support groups or not. Out of the 57 respondents who participated in NGO support group, 84.2 percent were not worried of being widowed one day; similarly, for the 27 who did not participate in NGO support groups, 77.8 percent were also not worried of being widowed one day. This could be attributed to the fact that the respondents never anticipated the death of their husband and thus it came as a surprise. This was supported by the chi square test, where the *p* value (0.4725) was greater than the 0.05 significance level suggesting that the death of the husbands were not anticipated by the respondent and this did not influence participation in NGO supported groups.

The study further established what majority of the respondents were worried about immediately after death of husband which were; Children's school fees and general upkeep, loneliness, lack of security and support during parenting, lack of identity for children (being fatherless), and ostracism. This suggests that widows faced social discrimination and stigmatization. Some of the women were treated as outcast, and is often excluded from inheriting property, from decision-making in the family, and from any type of financial or social security. They were castigated and directly or indirectly responsible for the death of her husband. Many widows are held out to be responsible for the death of their husbands particularly men who die in their primes whether or not such men had any tangible assets before their demise or not. There was also physical and mental ostracization by family and friends and Perception by close friends and associates as liabilities.

4.5.4 Women Rights and Participation in Selected NGO Supported Programmes

The study sought to establish the extent to which infringement of women rights in the society influence participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District. The objective was based on the fact that social discrimination that widows face in the society infringed on their fundamental human rights which could necessitate their joining and participation in NGO support groups for social and economic security. The study assessed infringement of women rights in terms of control of properties left after the death of the husband and experience of violence after the death of the husband. First, the 84 sampled

widows were asked about their control and management of the properties left after the death of their husband and their responses captured in Table 4.16.

Table 4.16: Control and Management of the Properties after the Death of the Husband

		member of any NGO supported programme in your community		Total
		yes	No	
right to manage his property	Totally	16	8	24
	Not at all	5	4	9
	Partially	36	15	51
Total		57	27	84

Table 4.16, show that majority (71.4%) of the respondents was not fully controlling and managing the properties left after the death of their husbands. This suggests that majority of the widows were disinherited of properties after the death of their husbands. This could be attributed to the socio-cultural discrimination that women faced after the death of their husband. Women ownership of properties was on *de facto* basis and only recognized while the husband was still alive. This was expected to facilitation their participation in NGO supported groups to agitate for their fundamental women rights. To establish whether there was any relationship between the control and management of properties and participation in NGO support groups, the two variables were cross tabulated as illustrated in Table 4.17

Table 4.17: Control of Properties by Participation in NGO Support Group

		Participation in NGO Support Group			
		Yes	No	Total	
Right to manage property after death of the husband	Total	Count	16	8	24
		%	28.1%	29.6%	28.6%
	Not at all	Count	5	4	9
		%	8.8%	14.8%	10.7%
	Partially	Count	36	15	51
		%	63.2%	55.6%	60.7%
Total	Count	57	27	84	
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

$\chi^2 = 0.814$ $df = 2$ $p = 0.666$

Table 4.17 indicates that majority of the sampled widows in the study area were not fully controlling and managing the properties after the death of their husbands regardless of whether they participated in NGO support groups or not. Out of the 57 respondents who participated in NGO support group, 63.2 percent partially controlled and managed the properties after the death of their husband; similarly, for the 27 who did not participate in NGO support groups, 55.6 percent partially controlled and managed the properties after the death of their husband. This could be attributed to the socio-cultural factors which disinherited widows in the society. Majority of widows are denied rights to husband's estate with some cultures believing that a woman would always be a stranger in her husband's family. This was supported by the chi square test, where the p value (0.666) was greater than the 0.05 significance level suggesting that participation in NGO supported groups was not influenced by control or the management of properties after the death of their husbands. Previous studies such as Johnson et al (2003) observed that many widows in traditional societies have no rights to inheritance or land ownership under customary and religious law. Without inheritance rights and lack of rights to property of their birth family, widows find themselves financially insecure and totally dependent on assistance of their husband's relatives. This limits their ability to access proper health facilities which is critical for the wellbeing of every individual. It is an important resource that enables people to take part in and enjoy the fruits of development. The gender roles and discrimination in access to health services, subjects women to lower life expectancy and mortality rates. Socio-cultural barriers restrict women rights in managing their own reproductive health and end up having more children at shorter intervals.

In addition to the disinheritance of properties, the rights of widows are also violated in terms of violence after the death of their husbands. This was expected to encourage the respondents to seek help from NGO supported groups. The respondents were asked whether they experience any form of violence after the death of their husbands as illustrated in Table 4.18.

Table 4.18: Experience of Violence after the Death of Husband

		member of any women group in your community		Total
		yes	no	
experience any form of violence now as widow	yes	29	10	39
	no	28	17	45
Total		57	27	84

Table 4.18 show that 39(46.4%) of the 84 respondents experienced violence after the death of their husbands. This suggests that the death of the husbands deprive the respondents of the needed security from relatives and other people. The women were more vulnerable without a defender and security to protect them. To establish whether there was any relationship between experience of violence after the death of husbands and participation in NGO support groups, the two variables were cross tabulated as illustrated in Table 4.17.

Table 4.19: Experience of Violence by Participation in NGO Support Group

		Participation in NGO Support Group		Total	
		Yes	No		
Violence after the death of the husband	Yes	Count	29	10	39
		%	50.9%	37.0%	46.4%
	No	Count	28	17	45
		%	49.1%	63.0%	53.6%
Total		Count	57	27	84
		%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

$$\chi^2 = 1.411 \quad df = 1 \quad p = 0.235$$

Table 4.19 indicates that majority (50.6%) of the sampled widows who participated in NGO support groups had experienced violence after the death of their husbands compared to 37.0 percent of those who did not participate in the support groups. This suggests that experience of violence enabled the respondents to seek help from NGO support groups to champion of their fundamental rights. However, this contradicted the chi square test, where the *p* value (0.235) was greater than the 0.05 significance level suggesting that there was no significance relationship between participation in NGO support groups and experience of violence after the death of the husbands.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a summary of the major findings from the study based on the research objectives, conclusions from the findings and recommendations derived from the conclusions. The chapter also presents suggestions on areas for further studies.

5.2 Summary of the Research Findings

Based on the study objectives, research questions and data analysis, the following summary of research findings are presented:

Majority of the respondents had generally high family sizes regardless of whether they participated in NGO support groups or not. The large family sizes increases pressure on the available resources in the family and thus complicated that levels of poverty. This could be the reasons why majority of the widows with three and more children participated in NGO support groups so as to supplement their resources and take care of their large families.

Most respondents who were members of any women group (NGO supported) recorded poor standards of living showing that the level of poverty is high among respondents.

More than a half of the respondents had primary and secondary levels of education and were also self employed. The level of education significantly influenced participation of widows in NGO support groups, while the form of employment did not.

Majority of the widows did not feel guilt of the cause of death of their husbands and never worried of widowhood one day because the death of their husbands were never anticipated

Majority of the widows were not fully controlling and managing the properties left after the death of their husbands, while almost a half experienced violence after the death of their husbands.

5.3 Discussion of findings

The study was set to investigate the influence of family size on participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes. The findings revealed that the respondents had children as follows 10.7% had less than 3 children, 28.6% had 3 children and 60.7% had more than 3 children. This shows that majority of the widows(60.7%) had more than three children meaning they have a big responsibility. These findings support previous studies such as Johnson et al (2003) who observed that higher family size dilute family resources.

Pearson co-efficient with 95% confidence level was used to test whether there is any relationship between family size and participation of widows in women groups under NGO supported programmes. The results showed a Pearson co-efficient of 0.671 and 0.037 comparing it with 0.05 significant level it indicated that 0.671 is greater than 0.05 implying that there is significant relationship between the number of children and the participation of widows in women group under the NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division, Koibatek, while 0.037 is less than 0.05 indicating that there is no significant relationship between the number of member of the extended family and participation of widows in women groups under the NGO supported programmes. Thus the number of children does influence the participation of the respondents in women groups under NGO supported programmes.

The study sought to establish the extent to which poverty influence participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes. Information on aspect indicative of standards of living which could relate to poverty was obtained. These included, the material which their houses were made of, the number of rooms in the house, type of toilet (pit or flush), and owning a car, a television or a computer. From the Chi-square test, the Pearson co-efficient was 0.202(2-sided) which is greater than 0.05 significant levels implying that there is a relationship between being a member of any women group and the type of material the house is made of. Indicating that most respondent who were members of any women group (NGO supported) could afford to live in mud and wood made houses showing that the level of poverty is high among respondents. This is similar to previous studies like Kenya MDGs progress report, (2003) which indicate that in Kenya, more than 56 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line, with more than halve of these being women.

The influence of stigmatization on participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes was also examined. The study indicated that most widows (78%) did not feel guilty about their husband's death, although (71%) were over dependent on their husband and never thought they would be widows like others who were already widows in their community.

This thus indicated that prior to death of their husbands most of the widows under NGO supported programme depended on their husband, an attribute that confirmed that respondents were stigmatized. This is similar to a studies carried out previously by Jacoby,(1994) and Scompler & Hopkins,(1986) which sited Some of the reasons for felt stigmatization in widowhood as; Living as though widowhood may never come while still married, being guilty of enacted widowhood stigmatization when still married, Total dereliction of self existence in marriage (over-reliance on spouse).

All the respondents said that they were worried about their future after the death of their husbands and they gave different reasons for their worries but the most common were highlighted as follows;

Children's school fees and general upkeep, loneliness, lack of security and support during parenting, lack of identity for the children –being fatherless and ostracism among others.

The study assessed the influence of infringement of women rights in the society and found out that the factors that indicated infringement of women rights in the society especially the widows where: right to manage husband property after death, determination of family size, experiencing violence during marriage and not being able to use family planning methods during your marriage. The study revealed that majority of the widows (53%) had the right to manage their husband's property after their husband's death although only 7.% were able to determine their family size while the other 92% made the decision jointly with their husbands or were not involved altogether. The study further found out that The 27 out of 57 respondents who were members of any women group under NGO supported programme who did not use available family planning methods sighted that they did not use family planning method because of medical reasons and resistance from their spouses. The findings also showed that 42 out of the 57 widows who were members of any women group under NGO supported groups experienced violence during their marriage and 15 out of 57 of them did not experience violence during their marriage This corresponds with previous studies such as Owen (2009) which indicate that violence against women is very common and is one of the most widespread violation of human

rights. Widows are no exception and are in fact at particularly higher risk of violence. This is because violence creates a climate of fear and destroys the sense of safety and security necessary to widow's full participation in the life of the nation. Fear of violence impairs mobility and limits widow's access to resources and opportunities. In this way violence disempowers widows and robs them of full realization of their rights. Widows are casualties of violence in their homes and outside. This is because of the absence of the husband who is normally a sign protection in the family. Due to fear for the unknown widows are usually rendered helpless and their mobility is generally impaired. This, therefore impacts negatively their participation in NGO supported programmes and access to available resources. Some burial and mourning rights which widows are coerced into are harmful to their health -both mental and physical. Pearson co-efficient was 0.7919(2-sided) which is greater than 0.05 indicating that widows who were members of any women group under NGO supported were the most violated during their marriage by their relatives.

5.4 Conclusion of the study

Following the findings of this study it was revealed that most of the widows (67%) belonged to NGO supported programmes but their maximum participation was inhibited by socio-cultural factors that included family size, poverty, stigmatization and infringement of women rights. The study indicated that socio-cultural factors influenced violation of the fundamental rights of widows in the study area. The following conclusions are based on the specific objectives of the study:

High family sizes increased pressure on available family resources which encouraged majority of the widows to seek assistance from NGO support groups.

Poverty is a prevalent among widows which leads them to seek support through participation in NGO supported programmes, Education increased the level of awareness of the roles of NGO support groups among women.

Most of the death of the husbands of the widows was unanticipated and thus they did not feel guilt about it.

Widowhood exposed to violation of their women rights including disinheritance of the properties and violence.

5.5 Recommendations

The Government of Kenya to develop and implement strategies to assist widows to access and participate in NGO supported programmes.

The Department of Gender and Social Development office should organize for sensitization of widows in order to make them aware of the funds available for them in their offices.

The government, Non Governmental Organizations and interested stakeholders to consider scaling up financial support to assist widows initiate and manage programmes that will improve their standard of living.

Government to consider developing and implementing strategies aimed at managing and reducing violence against widows and their children through policies and law enforcement.

There is need for more public awareness and sensitization about rights of widows in the society

There was need to improve the level of education of women in the society so as to empower them economically and enable them recognized the role of support groups.

5.6 Suggestions for further research

The study gave the following suggestions.

1. A similar study should be carried out in other areas to validate and compare the results of this study.
2. In addition to replicating study, future research should evaluate intervention mechanisms that stakeholders such as families and religious institutions have put in place to address the plight of widows in the society.
3. A study should be undertaken to establish the factors that influence public participation of widows in community projects.
- 4 A study should be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of widow groups in reducing their overdependence on society.
- 5 A study should be undertaken to examine issues surrounding widow's poverty and impact on their children development and education.

5.7 Contribution to knowledge

objectives	Contribution of knowledge
<p>Objective 1; To determine the extent to which family size influence participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District.</p>	<p>Family size was in form of number of children and members of the extended family who included parents in law, sisters/brothers in law and grandparents. 67% of the widows had more than three children and was the reason for dismal participation in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek.</p>
<p>Objective 2; To establish the extent to which poverty influence participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District</p>	<p>Poverty among widows influenced their participation in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District.</p>
<p>Objective 3; To examine how stigmatization influence participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District</p>	<p>stigmatization resulting from over dependence on husband influence widow's participation in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District.</p>
<p>Objective 4; To establish the extent to which infringement of women rights in the society Influence participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District.</p>	<p>The right to manage property and to make decisions regarding family size Influenced participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division in Koibatek District</p>

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1; Letter of transmittal

JEPKEMOI AYABEI

P.O. BOX 262

ELDAMA RAVINE

THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

KOIBATEK DISTRICT

P.O BOX 6

ELDAMA RAVINE

Dear Sir,

RE: REQUEST TO COLLECT INFORMATION FROM WIDOWS THROUGH CHIEFS

I am a post-graduate student at the University of Nairobi. In order to fulfill the requirements for the award of a Masters of Arts Degree in Project Planning and Management, I am conducting a research entitled "Influence of socio-cultural factors on the participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes in Eldama Ravine Division of Koibatek District"

The research targets widows in Eldama Ravine Division of Koibatek District.

The purpose of this letter therefore is to seek your permission to collect the relevant data in the said division which is within your jurisdiction. The information obtained will be treated with confidentiality and will be used only for the research purpose.

Thank you in advance.

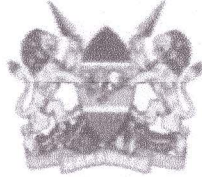
Yours faithfully,

Jepkemoi Ayabei

Cell phone: +254 722 554966

Appendix 2 Research authorization

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Telephone: 254-020-3113471, 3181349
254-020-318573, 2313123, 3119420
Fax: 254-020-318245, 318249
When replying please quote
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P.O. Box 30623-00100
NAIROBI-KENYA
Website: www.ncst.go.ke

Our Ref: **NCST/RCD/14/012/721**

Date: **22nd June 2012**

Jepkemoi Ayabei
University of Nairobi
P.O.Box 30197-00100
Nairobi.

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION

Following your application for authority to carry out research on *"Influence of socio cultural factors on participation of widows in selected non-governmental supported programs. A case of Eldama Ravine Division, Koibatek District,"* I am pleased to inform you that you have been authorized to undertake research in **Koibatek District** for a period ending **31st July, 2012**.

You are advised to report to the **District Commissioner and the District Education Officer, Koibatek District** before embarking on the research project.

On completion of the research, you are expected to submit **two hard copies and one soft copy in pdf** of the research report/thesis to our office.


SAID HUSSEIN
FOR: SECRETARY/CEO

Copy to:

The District Commissioner
The District Education Officer
Koibatek District.

Appendix 3 Research authorization

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



Telegrams "DISTRICTER" Eldama Ravine
Telephone Eldama Ravine 051 752066
Fax: 752451
When replying please quote

District Commissioner's Office,
Koibatek District,
P.O. Box 6 - 20103
ELDAMA RAVINE

Ref. ADM. 15/12/VOL. 1/121
And date

3RD JULY, 2012

**DISTRICT OFFICER
ELDAMA RAVINE DIVISION**

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION

IEPKEMOLAYABEI

This is to confirm to you that the above student is undergoing her course in the University of Nairobi.

She has been authorized to conduct research in your division entitled research study on **"Influence of socio cultural factors on participation of widows in selected non-governmental supported programs in Eldama Ravine Division.**

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to accord her the necessary assistance she requires while conducting the said research, ending 31st July, 2012.

Thanks.

**M. G. GICHARU
FOR: DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
KOIBATEK DISTRICT**

C.C.

**THE DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER
KOIBATEK DISTRICT**

Appendix 4 Questionnaire for widows

The purpose of this questionnaire is to obtain information that is relevant to my research title: Influence of Socio-cultural factors on widow's participation selected NGO supported programmes : The case of Eldama Ravine Division in Kiibatek District Kenya'. The information provided will be used purely for my academic research, and will be treated confidentially. I humbly request you to provide the information sort by this questionnaire as candidly as possible.

Kindly provide answers to questions in the spaces provided.

SECTION I: Personal information

1. Your name.....
2. Your Age
 - a) Between 25 and 29 []
 - b) Between 30 and 34 []
 - c) Between 35 and 39 []
 - d) Between 40 and 44 []
 - d) Above 45 []
3. What is your highest academic achievement?
 - a) Standard eight []
 - b) Form four []
 - c) College []
 - d) University []
4. What do you do in order to make a living?
 - a) Small business (kiosk) []
 - b) Small scale farming []
 - c) Vegetable vendor []
 - d) Others (specify)
5. Are you a member of any women group in your community?
Yes [] No []
6. If your answer is no, what are your reasons?
.....
.....

SECTION I (B)

Information on family size and participation of widows in selected NGO supported programmes.

1. How many children do you have?
 - a) Less than three []
 - b) Three []
 - c) More than three []
2. Age of children; between
3. Are there other members of the family who are not your children who live with you?
YES [] NO []

4. If the answer is YES, indicate their relationship and age;

<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Age</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

SECTION II: Information on poverty and widow's participation in selected NGO supported programmes.

1. What material is the house you live in made of?
 - a) Mud []
 - b) Wood []
 - c) Brick /stone []
 - d) Iron sheets []
2. How many rooms are in your house?
3. Are there washrooms inside or outside the house?
Toilet inside [] Toilet outside []
Bathroom inside [] Bathroom outside []
4. Is it pit latrine or flash toilet?
Pit [] Flash []

5. Do you have a television?
 YES [] NO []
6. Do you have a computer?
 YES [] NO []
7. Do you own a car?
 YES [] NO []
8. What do you use for cooking?
 a) Electricity [] b) gas []
 c) Stove [] d) Jiko []
 e) Firewood []
9. What is the source of water at home?
 a) Tap [] b) River [] d) Rain [] e) Water
 vendors []
10. If your answer is tap, does it flow into the house or you fetch from outside?
 Inside [] Outside []
11. Do you have electricity at your house?
 YES [] NO []
12. If your answer was NO what do you use for lighting ?

SECTION III: Information on infringement on women rights and widow's participation in selected NGO supported programmes.

1. Prior to the death of your husband, did you have the right to manage his property?
 Totally [] Not at all [] Partially []
2. After his death, who managed the property?
 Myself [] My in-laws []
3. During you past marriage who made decisions in determining the size of family (number of children) you had? Myself [] Husband [] Both of us []

4. Were you able to use any of the available family planning methods during your marriage?

YES [] NO []

5. If your answer is no, the reasons among others were;

Medical grounds [] Resistance from spouse []

Others.....
.....
.....

6. Did you ever experience any form of violence during your marriage?

YES [] NO []

7. a) Do you experience any form of violence now that you are a widow?

YES [] NO []

b) If your answer is yes, who causes this violence?

Relatives [] Strangers [] Former family friends []

c) What are the reasons for the violence you experience now?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

SECTION IV: Information on stigmatization among widows and participation in selected NGO supported programmes

1. Do you feel guilty about the death of your husband and sometimes think that there are some things that you did or did not do that triggered his untimely death?

YES [] NO []

2. If your answer was yes, give examples

.....
.....
.....

.....

3. Did you depend so much on your husband prior to his death?

YES [] NO []

4. During your married life did you have close relatives who were widows?

YES [] NO []

5. Did you think that you would become a widow like other widows that lived in your locality?

YES [] NO []

6. What are some of the things you worried about immediately after the death of your husband, list them in order of their magnitude;

.....

7. During those difficult times when you need help, how would you rate the following members of the community in relation to their reaction to your call for assistance? Tick where applicable.

<u>Members of the community</u>	<u>Does not care</u>	<u>Co-operative</u>	<u>Very co-operative</u>	<u>Not co-operative</u>
Mother in-law	[]	[]	[]	[]
Father in-law	[]	[]	[]	[]
Brothers in-law	[]	[]	[]	[]

Sisters in law	[]	[]	[]	[]
Your own father	[]	[]	[]	[]
Your own mother	[]	[]	[]	[]
Your own brother/sister	[]	[]	[]	[]
Male friends	[]	[]	[]	[]
Female friends	[]	[]	[]	[]
Female colleagues in place of work	[]	[]	[]	[]
Male colleagues in place of work	[]	[]	[]	[]
Your boss in your place of work	[]	[]	[]	[]

Appendix5 Focus Group Discussion Guide with leaders of different FOREWO groups

1. Do you know of women in your group who are widows?
2. Are they actively involved in all the activities taking place in the group?
3. Please describe briefly their level of participation
4. What is the educational background/level of the widows who join your groups?
5. Are there any challenges that are common among widows and not the other women in the group? Give examples.
6. What are some of the economic activities that widows engage in when they take loans from this group?
7. Are there widows who do not repay their loans as required by the group rules and regulations?
8. What measures are taken against widows who are unable to repay their loans promptly?
9. What in your opinion can be done to improve the widow's welfare?
10. Is there any possibility of FOREWO working with other organizations in order to help the widows?

Appendix 6 Sample size table

N_ n	N - n	N - n	N - n	N - n
10 - 10	100 - 80	280 - 162	800 - 260	2800 - 338
15 - 14	110 - 86	290 - 165	850 - 265	3000 - 341
20 - 19	120 - 92	300 - 169	900 - 269	3500 - 346
25 - 24	130 - 97	320 - 175	950 - 274	4000 - 351
30 - 28	140 - 103	340 - 181	1000 - 278	4500 - 354
35 - 32	150 - 108	360 - 186	1100 - 285	5000 - 357
40 - 36	160 - 113	380 - 191	1200 - 291	6000 - 361
45 - 40	170 - 118	400 - 196	1300 - 297	7000 - 364
50 - 44	180 - 123	420 - 201	1400 - 302	8000 - 367
55 - 48	190 - 127	440 - 205	1500 - 306	9000 - 368
60 - 52	200 - 132	460 - 210	1600 - 310	10000 - 370
65 - 56	210 - 136	480 - 241	1700 - 313	15000 - 375
70 - 59	220 - 140	500 - 217	1800 - 317	20000 - 377
75 - 63	230 - 144	550 - 226	1900 - 320	30000 - 379
80 - 66	240 - 148	600 - 234	2000 - 322	40000 - 380
85 - 70	250 - 152	650 - 242	2200 - 327	50000 - 381
90 - 73	260 - 155	700 - 248	2400 - 331	75000 - 382
95 - 76	270 - 159	750 - 254	2600 - 335	100000 - 384

Source: Krejcie & Morgan, 1970 sample size table.

Appendix 7 FOREWO Groups found in Eldama Ravine Division .

GROUP NAME	NO. OF MEMBERS	NO. OF WIDOWS
Ushindi	21	1
Mission	30	3
Luita	26	2
Umoja Kibasiso	20	0
Green belt	30	2
Rossey	19	1
Koibatek herbal Health	20	1
Shauri yako	15	2
Lalang	20	0
Tegik	12	12
Bidii	35	1
Benonin	19	1
Kaptembwo	29	2
Tilya	30	2
Evergreen	32	3
Kamelilo	28	1
Taunet	18	0
Sinende	21	2
Sergaa	20	1
Matunda	15	0
Huruma Shauri	12	0
Tulwonin	20	2
Shinners	11	1
Kasa Moi	15	1
Kaptich	23	2
Vison young mothers	35	3
Kaplelechwa	21	1
Luru alwafag	32	3
Family hope	18	0
Ripgaa	33	2
Milimani biashara	33	3
Si tupendane	31	2
Totals	744	57

Appendix 8: Consent to Participate in Focus Group Discussion

You have been asked to participate in a focus group discussion whose purpose is to try to understand why some widows are not actively involved in selected NGO supported programmes. The information learned in the focus group will be used strictly for research purposes. You can choose whether or not to participate in the focus group and stop at any time. Your responses will remain anonymous and no names will be mentioned in the report. There is no right or wrong answers to the focus group questions. We want to hear many different viewpoints and would like to hear from everyone. We hope you can be honest even when your responses may not in agreement with the rest of the group. In respect for each other, we ask that only one individual speak at a time in the group and that responses made by all participants be kept confidential.

I understand this information and agree to participate fully under the conditions stated above:

Signed _____

Date _____

Appendix9 Focus Group Discussion Confirmation Letter

Dear _____

Thank you for your willingness to participate in this focus group. I would like to hear your ideas and opinions about Influence of socio-cultural factors on widows participation in selected NGO supported programmes. Your responses to the questions will be kept anonymous. A Kshs. 200.00 honorarium will be paid at the end of the focus group discussion to facilitate your transport to and from your respective homes. The date, time, and the venue are listed below.

DATE: 29th June, 2012.

TIME: 10.00 am.

VENUE: Eldama Ravine Town Hall

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