

OSSREA KENYA CHAPTER

NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE WORKSHOP – JUNE 2015 REPORT

PRELIMINARIES

The OSSREA national Policy Dialogue workshop was held on 25th June, 2015 at Moi University, PDN Building in Eldoret.

The call for papers attracted a total of 13 papers up above the 10 papers were selected for the one day workshop (find the attached Workshop programme). Among these, one participant requested to present her 2 papers that had been submitted late; consequently 12 papers were presented during the workshop. There were 11 participants who presented a paper each except for one participant who presented two papers. These papers covered a range of topics distributed among the five thematic areas for the national policy dialogue workshop, these were:

- a) Climate Change
- b) Disaster Risk Management
- c) Social Protection
- d) Land and Social Development
- e) Water and Sanitation

The workshop was well attended by invited guests and discussants (view the list of attendance attached) with a representation from various relevant government officers and university staff with particular reference to: National land Commission of Kenya, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Moi University and University of Eldoret.

Prof. Peter Barasa, the OSSREA Kenya Chapter Liaison Officer, called workshop meeting to order at 9.45am, gave opening remarks and welcomed all participants and discussants to the workshop. Due to lost time, presentations began soon after the opening remarks.

OPENING CEREMONY

The workshop was officially opened by Prof. Joshua Akonga from the School of Arts and Social Sciences, Department of Anthropology, representing the DVC (A, R & E) Moi University, Prof. Bob Wishitemi, who was engaged in another official function of the University. He noted in his opening remarks:

- a) OSSREA from 2011 has been active in facilitating National workshops on policy issues in Kenya

- b) The presentations should engage the policy makers and implementers to have societal issues addressed
- c) The main aim of the workshop was to generate dialogue on what needs to be done.
- d) The workshop was also to inform people on what is happening to contribute to policy. Therefore the role of researchers is central; academicians must take their place and provide voice of reason, rationale and presentation of facts based on evidence. They must establish the avenues of sharing knowledge and information.
- e) All presenters were congratulated for making it to present their ideas in the workshop. He further thanked the University board of management through the VC for allowing the OSSREA workshop to be held at Moi University. He also noted that, in past Moi University has had the opportunity of facilitating PhD Research Workshops organised by OSSREA.
- f) He extended his gratitude to OSSREA and the Moi University for facilitating the workshop and finally welcomed all participants and presenters to the workshop and declared the OSRREA Kenya Chapter National Policy Dialogue 2015 officially opened.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

MORNING SESSION

1. First Presentation: Dr Felix Ngunzo Kioli –Maseno University

Topic: Traditional Protection Mechanisms to Adolescent Sexuality vis a vis Contemporary among the Akamba People in Kenya

Session Chair: Prof Joshua Akonga

The paper mainly focused on the erosion of the traditional cultural protection fibre for the adolescents in the contemporary society. There is the manifestation of a challenge due to observable behaviour among the young people in Kenya who are unable to guard their sexuality. Traditionally there were mechanisms of guiding young people through sexuality and associated behaviours. The paper focused on the idea that traditional education was geared to an ideal society through role models, grandparents among others. Ideally, the child belonged to the community but in today's society the child is a property of the micro-family unit, where the traditional mechanisms seem to have become obsolete. The findings of the study showed that the churches, parents, siblings among others are not available to guide the youth, instead the peers and the media are the dominant educators. Furthermore, the results showed that girls were more affected by issues like: HIV, pregnancy, school dropout, early marriages among others. The conclusion was: first, the young people engage in sexuality at early ages, second, the community, family and parental supervision, guidance and counselling on sexual issues not

available. Therefore, it was recommended that: sex education should be introduced at an early age and be formally included in the school curriculum.

Policy Recommendation

- a) It was suggested that policy should protect the girl in issues of sexuality; available policy is not being implemented to the letter in this regard.
- b) Children' Act and the Sexual Offences Act should be applied strictly

2. Second Presentation: Rosh Allan Were – Maseno University

Topic: The impact of Social Protection on People with Disabilities in Bungoma County, Kenya

Session Chair: Prof Joshua Akonga (Leading Anthropologist in Africa)

The paper focused on the concept that People with Disabilities are vulnerable due to number of issues, these include: ignorance, fear, causes beyond human understanding, superstition, neglect and thus lack adequate access to services and facilities. However, the challenge is in the fact that the perception to People with Disabilities is a health issue; therefore little is done under the social protection policy, although increasingly People with Disabilities are being in cooperated into social protection services in Kenya. The findings of the study showed that social protection programmes served the People with Disabilities in many spheres of life, and they participate in community activities, enjoy improved health status. However, they are not involved in decision making regarding policies on social protection for People with Disabilities. Most social protection programmes are handled within health facilities, thus the perception that People with Disabilities are sick people. More so, there is little information available on social protection regarding People with Disabilities.

Policy Recommendations

It was suggested that:

- a) There should be sensitization on social protection information regarding People with Disabilities
- b) People with Disabilities should be engaged in the process of decision making on social protection issues in there sphere of life.

3. Third Presentation: Dr. Carolyn Omulando – Moi University

Topic: Linguistic Divergence in enhancing Social Protection: A Synthesis of Language Power

Session Chair: Dr. Eric Okwako

The presentation focused on the issues of language power and how this ability in language has the ability the control so much around people and in their lives. It was noted that when there are issues of segregation and denial of social protection, besides the appropriation of political or economic power over resources in among a people, the other tool that is utilized in this process is language power in the context of non-accommodation of others. In the process Social power relationships of different nature are born out of this process. In this context, language is assigned a new role of segregating and denying people a right to social protection linguistically, socially, politically, economically and culturally. Language is not used as a tool of enhancing social responsibility; instead it is used as a tool of social domination. If only language was consciously put to use, this would be the beginning towards mind liberation and societal liberation. The question is: what does policy on language and social protection has to offer in this context? What does policy on social protection demarcate as the scope for social protection? Social protection Policies and actions include: deprivation of decent work, education, health care, food security, income security; issues of poverty and vulnerable to access to affordable healthcare, social security and social assistance. Why not focus on language appropriation as one of the areas to encompass the scope of social protection in Kenya and internationally?

Policy Recommendations

- a) Policy on social protection should include language appropriation within its scope of operation
- b) Social protection should clearly state and stipulate guidelines on how society can be protected against the vulnerability brought about by language power

4. Fourth Presentation: Dr. Constance Rose Ambasa – Kenyatta University

Topic: Food Security and Nutrition in the Context of Climate Change: A Blessing and Curse in Tea Producing Areas in Kenya

Session Chair: Dr. Gephias Simiyu

The paper begins from the premise that policy on food security exists however, it does not focus on the link between climate variability/change, food security and nutrition. The data collected showed that most land in the study region was under tea production and little was under food production. Women had no ownership of land and therefore were unable to contribute positively towards food production for food sustainability in the family, Climate

change was a great determinant of reduced food sufficiency leading to poor nutritional value in food utilized. A number of issues including higher income, education and occupation were determinants of levels of food security in a family or region. Due to poverty and low levels of income, family land is leased out rather than kept for food production.

Policy recommendations

- a) Climate smart agricultural food production should be encouraged in the tea growing regions
- b) Knowledge and capacity of women in decision making should be built to improve feeding patterns of children and family at large
- c) Diversification of food crops and livelihoods be encouraged to minimize negative effects of food security
- d) Food supplements should be provided to children who are severely malnourished

5. Fifth Presentation: Mark Okowa– Maseno University

Topic: Socio-Cultural Determinants to adoption of Safe Water Sanitation and Hygiene Practices in Nyakach Kisumu County

Session Chair: Dr. Gephass Simiyu (Environmentalist UoE)

The focus of the presentation was based on the fact that sanitation and water are societal issues that are in dire need, yet receive very little concern from people. Little attention is given to sanitation issues, and social cultural factors are interference to safe water and sanitation in the study area. The residents were not keen on water treatment and other pertinent sanitation issues. The findings established that: latrines were not available for everybody due to cultural beliefs and practices; water storage facilities and systems were traditional in nature and lastly, washing of hands was a very rare practice. It was concluded that: Socio-cultural practices have effect on the populations' health and sanitation practices and levels.

Policy Recommendations

- a) Knowledge on the detriments of the socio-cultural issues on uses of water and sanitation should shape the policy on healthy living and sanitation.
- b) Encourage greater dialogue between county officials, researchers and local civil society organisations on issues of water and sanitation
- c) Cultural and religious custodians be provided knowledge on the values of safe water and sanitation within an environment

6. Sixth Presentation: Rose Atieno Opiyo and Rashid Kawawa – Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology

Topic: Causes, Impact and Adaptability Measures to Climate Change in Western Kenya

Session Chair: Dr. Gephas Simiyu (Environmentalist UoE)

The paper focused on the causes of climate change and the effects of these to human life, these include: human health, agricultural yield, delivery on ecosystem services among others. Mitigation measures would include: use of renewable sources of energy to take care of environmental issues. This particular presentation did not offer straightforward policy recommendations on adaptability measures to climate change in Western Kenya. Author was asked to work on this and provide information for documentation.

7. Seventh Presentation: Dr. Jepkemboi R. Choge – Maasai Mara University

Topic: Reducing Risk and Vulnerability to Climate Change in Kenya: Gender Capacities and Policy Implications

Session Chair: Dr. Gephas Simiyu (Environmentalist UoE)

The paper was based on the premise that the genders react differently to issues of climate change and display vulnerability in different ways. The vulnerabilities vary at different levels: at childhood, the youth, old age and reproductive maturity. The women in the Maasai community have no direct ownership to land and its produce. This has been compounded by climatic change issues that relate to floods, draughts, flash floods, soil erosion and poverty. The findings and conclusion of the study did not directly relate to the topic of discussion and climate change issues except the last one. Therefore the following suggestions no policy directions were offered, then presenter asked to skew these towards policy recommendation and implementation.

Policy Recommendations

- a) Women should be empowered in the process of decision making and be provided with relevant knowledge be able to deal with climate change challenges
- b) Women should be allowed access to resources within their local community.
- c) Women should be sensitized on disaster risk management procedures

AFTERNOON SESSION

8. Eighth Presentation: Annah Konuche – Moi University

Topic: The ability of the National Land Commission to fulfil its mandate of Management and Administration of Public Land as Set Out in the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and the National Land Commission Act, 2012

Session Chair: Dr. Fibian Lukalo (National Land Council)

The paper mainly focused on providing a detailed analysis of the policy framework on land in the Kenya constitution perspective. It details issues to do with public and private land ownership through historical development of land policy in Kenya. It clearly outlines areas that present challenges and do not offer Kenyans clear guidelines on land ownership and transfer from one person to another and the government administration of leasehold parcels of land. The conclusion is that there is no clear National land policy in Kenya; it presents a number of loop holes and therefore the many unresolved land ownership conflicts experienced in Kenya. Consequently, there is lack of proper records on land ownership in Kenya and no clear guidelines on transitional land ownership.

Policy recommendations

- a) There should be a clear demarcation of roles between the National Land Commission and the Ministry of Lands in Kenya to avoid overlap.
- b) Policy on Land should be revised to clearly state conditions and rights to land ownership in Kenya; be it private, public or leasehold in nature.
- c) Policy on land should be clear about the role of the national and county governments in issues of land ownership processes
- d) There should be proper records on land ownership to establish true ownership of land parcels

9. Ninth Presentation: Desire Njamwea – Moi University

Topic: Land Question: The Legal and Institutional Challenges Bedevilling the Administration and Management of Public Land in Kenya

Session Chair: Dr. Fibian Lukalo (National Land Council)

The paper mainly dwells on the debate that exists between the National Land Commission, the Ministry of Lands and County Government roles in issues of land transfer and ownership. The current legal framework does not provide for land ownership in Kenya at different levels, stipulating the rightful institution to handle various issues at different levels. The management of community land lacks a community land law, besides the community is not engaged at any one point. Land ownership process seems to have been politicized, the role played by the National Lands Commission is not very clear. Kenyans do not seem to have the knowledge regarding the

process of land transfer and ownership, thus the many land ownership disputes experienced. This has encouraged fraud in land sale and ownership in Kenya.

Policy recommendations

- a) The clash in land ownership laws in Kenya should be resolved
- b) The clash in mandate of the various government institutions should be resolved and each one of them given a clear set of roles and mandate avoiding clashing in the process of implementation.
- c) Provide a clear framework of consultation between the National Land Commission, National and County Governments regarding administration of public land
- d) Provide clear and concise procedures for administration of public land

10. Tenth Presentation: Dr. Emma Anyika – Mount Kenya University

Topic: Developing the African Content with the Three sixty Dimension Populous Turn

Session Chair: Dr. Fibian Lukalo (National Land Council)

The paper mainly highlighted on issues that affect Africa living it at the bottom of development on the international face. A number of issues were highlighted as the factors dragging Africa behind, these include: wars, conflicts, unrests, bomb attacks, epidemics like ebola, corruption, inequality, homicides and human development among others. The discussions in the paper point to the reality that human resource development cannot be attained in an environment dominated by these issues. How does Africa focus on these issues in the effort to solve the problem?

Policy Recommendations

African nations should come up with policy that will help curb, control or eliminate these issues as a way forward in the turning Arica towards development.

11. Eleventh Presentation: Dr. Jepkemboi R. Choge – Maasai Mara University

Topic: The Role of Education in Social Protection and Climate Change Resilience in Kenya: A Case of Maasai Mara University

Session Chair: Dr. Fibian Lukalo (National Land Council)

The paper presentation was premised on the ideas that Maasai Mara University is situated in a region where climate change and its effects are prevalent. It is acknowledged that a number of policies on environmental concerns support the issue of climate change and how the effects

can be handled, however, the question in this paper is: what role does education and institutions of higher education learning on providing education on climate change and social protection? The main challenge that presents with the policies that already exist is that policy gaps are seen, there is no harmonization from National Government to County Government in the implantation process. Besides that, there is inadequate financial support, political interference, cultural and attitudinal changes among others.

Policy Recommendation

- a) There should be harmonization of the climate change policy in the implementation process between the National Government and the County Government.
- b) Here is need to organize sensitization programmes for both the University and local communities on climate change issues in order to enhance social protection.
- c) Information on social protection should be provided for both the University and local communities in the region

12. Twelfth Presentation: Kweya J. Opande – Garissa University College

Topic: Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction in Learning Institutions through the eyes of the Survivors: The Case of Garissa University College

Session Chair: Dr. Gephass Simiyu (Environmentalist UoE)

The paper looks at the issues of terrorism attack and preparedness from the perspectives of the university students and staff of Garissa University College. This was done from the back drop of an overview of the nature of common disasters in Kenya. Terms central to the discussion were defined in terms of the disaster management process and phases in the context of Garissa University College disaster. The following areas were highlighted in the discussion: causes of terrorism, methods of executing terrorism, indicators of terrorists, how to react when law and security enforcers arrive and security roles.

Policy Recommendations

- a) Kenyans should get training in security drills and basic military life skills
- b) Screening of persons getting into the country and any institutions should be enhanced
- c) Have enough armed security in any institution
- d) Nyumba kumi should be initiated among university and college students
- e) Introduction of a course at tertiary level on security and disaster risk management

CLOSING REMARKS

Prof Peter Barasa, the OSSREA Kenya Chapter Liaison Officer, after all the 12 presentations thanked all the discussants, participants and paper presenters for enabling a fruitful day and discussions on the various issues affecting our Kenyan society with a focus on the five thematic areas of the workshop.

Prof. Joshua Akonga, in his closing remarks once again noted the following:

- a) Thanked all presenters and appreciated the fact that all papers were well detailed and presented.
- b) Thanked all participants who took their time to attend the workshop
- c) Thanked Dr. Fibian Lukalo a commissioner with the National Land Commission in Kenya who attended and provided valuable information regarding land policy issues in Kenya and a way forward in the issues raised during the discussions on Land and other related issue during the workshop.
- d) Thank the other discussants: Dr. Gephass Simiyu from University of Eldoret, Dr. Eric Okwako from Masinde Muliro University, and representative of the Head of the Geography Department, Moi University who all were very instrumental in directing the discussions on the various topics within their area of specialization as presented during the workshop. He noted that all the relevant Regional/County government Ministers had been invited by the DVC (AR&E) and had confirmed their participation but had not showed up.
- e) Thanked Prof. Barasa and the organising committee for good organisation and a successful workshop
- f) Thanked the DVC, (A, R & E) secretariat for their facilitation and good work
- g) Thanked the catering group for having provide good meals for the day
- h) Declared the OSSREA Kenya Chapter National Policy Dialogue Workshop – June 2015, officially closed.

Rapporteur's notes taken by Dr. Carolyn Omulando

Report prepared by Prof. L P Barasa Liaison Officer Kenya-Chapter