

**PERFORMANCE OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES AND SOCIO-
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: A CASE OF CARITAS INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMME IN HOMA BAY COUNTY, KENYA**

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DECLARATION

This research project is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other University.

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This project has been submitted for examination with my approval as the University Supervisor.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this research to my wife Cento Awuor, mother, Florence Achieng Omollo and sisters: Irene Adhiambo Omollo and Vivian Atieno Omollo for their prayers, understanding, support and encouragement.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the performance of poverty alleviation programmes and socio-economic development: a case of Caritas International in Homa Bay County within Kenya. The independent variable under study were youth vocational training, capacity building, livestock and crop development. The study was anchored by the empowerment theory; supported by the human capital theory and the restricted opportunity theory. The study adopted the descriptive study design to describe the social and economic characteristics of the target population. The target population was 1,142 household heads out of which through stratified random sampling, 92 respondents were selected to be part of the study sample. Proportionate sampling was then employed to ensure that the three sub counties under study were proportionately represented in the sample. The data was collected through questionnaire. The questionnaire was validated and pre-tested before the actual data collection. Data analysis was done through the use of Statistical Packages for Social Science (SPSS) version 29. Descriptive and inferential statistics were generated to help in summarizing data to aid in making meaningful conclusions and recommendations. Tables, charts and percentages were used to present the summarized data. The researcher observed research ethics before the actual research, during the actual research and after the research. The findings of this study reveal that a youth vocational training has enabled the youth to gain useful skills which have enabled them to obtain gainful employment; capacity building has equipped households with resources and skills that have led to the attainment of self-reliance; proceeds from livestock production are a source of income used for investment and at the same time reduces food insecurity within households and crop development enhances household nutrition and on the other hand surplus realized from production is a source of income which can be used for investment in education, decent housing and access to better healthcare services. Recommendations from the study are as follows; Capacity building programs should include training on saving culture and financial management to enable households to use the income earned from the sale of farm products prudently and also to use their earnings to scale up their production. The national and county governments should supplement the efforts already made by Caritas in alleviating poverty through crop and livestock development. There is need for providing more resources to the poor households, so that crop and livestock production can be done in a large scale to enable commercialization. There is need to conduct a study on how land fragmentation affects household's level of production in terms of technical efficiency of agriculture and the sustainability of food production system.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AFDB	African Development Bank
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
COVID -19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
EAPN	European Anti-Poverty Network
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GSS	Ghana Statistical Services
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IIRR	International Institute for Rural Reconstruction
KCCB	Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
MPI	Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OPHI	Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
PLWHA	People Living with HIV/AIDS
SPSS	Statistical Packages for Social Sciences
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

- Capacity Building** : The process of changing attitude and behaviour through imparting knowledge and developing skills while maximizing the benefits of sharing experiences to build independence and self-reliance.
- Crop Development** : The application of appropriate technology and improved support services to increase crop production, to boost smallholder farmers' income.
- Livestock Development** : The application of appropriate technology and improved support services to increase livestock production, to boost smallholder farmers' income.
- Poverty Alleviation programs** : These are both measure or strategies that are meant to improve the social and economic well-being of people within the community.
- Socio-Economic Development** : This is the process of improving the living standards of the community through improved income, increased access to food and better access to clean and safe water.
- Youth Vocational Training** : Training that imparts skills and knowledge needed for a particular job.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This section elaborates the background of the study, the general objective and specific objectives. It outlines the research questions and justifies why this study is necessary and is of significance. It also explains the geographical area of the study and the target group.

1.1 Background of the study

According to European Anti-Poverty Network report, (2020) the number of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion in the EU in 2012 stood at 123 million (24.7% of the population) which represented an increase of 6.4 million compared to 2008. By 2019, the rate of poverty and social exclusion in the EU was estimated at 21.1% of the population, representing 92.4 million people (EAPN, 2020). This slight reduction of poverty incidence and social exclusion was caused by the reduction in numbers of people suffering from severe material deprivation. This report also posits that the rate of risk of poverty among women is high at 23.3% compared to that of men which stands at 21.6%.

According to the Multidimensional poverty measures, the extreme poverty rates experienced in Sub-Saharan Africa are as a result of deficiency in non-monetary dimensions such as access to clean drinking water, better sanitations, and access to education (World Bank, 2018). Sub-Saharan Africa performs poorly in extreme poverty rates when the multidimensional approach is used, 40% of the population are believed to be deprived of education and access to better infrastructure as compared to 11% in Latin America and 22% in Middle-East (World Bank, 2020).

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) indicates that there is a higher incidence of poverty in Kenya at 39.9% with 14.5% of the population experiencing severe multidimensional poverty (OPHI, 2017). Even though, Kenya has experienced a decline in poverty rate over the years, in absolute numbers, the number of poor people increased from 16.8 million people in 2005/2006 to 19.5 million in 2019 (KNBS, 2019). The COVID-19 pandemic has also increased food insecurity, which has increased poverty by 4% an equivalent of additional 2 million poor people in 2020 (World Bank, 2020). There is still a wide gap between the urban population and the rural

population with respect to access to education, electricity, water and sanitation, health and housing services which has promoted inequality in income and livelihood opportunities (OPHI, 2017).

Many agencies implementing poverty reduction strategies have shifted from providing funds to needy people to economic empowerment of the vulnerable in the society (Della & Diani, 2011). Across Sub-Saharan Africa 67.45% of development agencies no longer provide relief aid, but are implementing projects that lead job creation, creativity and better living conditions for households experiencing severe poverty. This shift has been seen in Angola, Senegal, South Africa and Lesotho where organizations such as Oxfam and UNEP have created employment opportunities, at the same time many businesses have been created for the locals. This is estimated to have elevated many people from poverty by around 47% in Senegal between 2008 and 2010 and 49% in South Africa between 2007 and 2010 (Harsh, Mbatia & Shrum, 2010).

1.1.1 Socio-Economic Development

Socio-Economic development involves the improvement of households' living conditions which is indicated by improved literacy levels, increased income, development of skills and reduced unemployment. Social development refers to the development of household's capacity to fulfill its aspiration while on the other hand economic development refers to the creation of wealth as evidenced by improved income (Jatin, 2020).

Ebere (2022) in her study titled, "Assessment of Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Nigeria", posits that for socio-economic development to be attained there is need to meet the various social development needs of people. The social development needs are derived from social development goals which mainly focuses on human deprivations like; Health Status since healthcare is critical in socio-economic development as it leads to higher living standard and increase productivity of labour. High cost of healthcare services and inadequate drugs remain a challenge to the health care system in many countries found in Africa; hunger and food insecurity as most countries found in Sub-Saharan Africa are experiencing climate variation and as a result the effects have led to a reduction in the production of staple foods such as maize, yam, cassava, sorghum, beans and millet. This inadequacy of food and micro-nutrients has led to undernourishment, poor physical and cognitive development and has also made food prices to be unaffordable, and finally Safe water and sanitation as many countries are faced with challenges such as inadequate access to adequate

and clean drinking water, poor hygienic practices and unavailability of access to sanitation services. This has made health status in most African countries to be poor, as people are exposed to illnesses due to consumption of contaminated water and exposure to poor hygienic practices.

Ogwumike, (2001) in his study “An Appraisal of Poverty Reduction Strategies in Nigeria”, has put forward the following approaches which can be used to implement programmes geared towards achieving socio-economic development; The first approach is the Economic Growth Approach which focuses on human capital development through acquisition of relevant employability skills through education and training. This helps in increasing the quality and productivity of labour which leads to youth empowerment. Secondly development agencies can use the Basic Needs Approach which emphasizes the improvement of living standards through providing basic needs such as food, safe drinking water, healthcare, basic education and better shelter. This helps in making life conducive for members of a household. Thirdly, the Rural Development Approach involves the provision of basic needs such safe drinking water, better healthcare, agricultural extension and training services and money generating enterprises to the households in the rural areas; and finally, the Target Approach which involves the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes that are directed towards specific groups within the community, for example school going children, women and the elderly. The programmes include school feeding programmes, micro-credit facilities and social safety nets e.g. cash transfer to the elderly.

According to a study by Swain (2015) on “Impact of poverty alleviation programmes on socio-economic development of rural people of Odisha – A statistical analysis” indicates that the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) a programme implemented in India within the state of Odisha State had a positive impact on the beneficiaries. The study observed that the uptake of food, education and healthcare services improved thereby improving the living conditions of the beneficiaries. The programme enabled 48.3% of the beneficiaries to increase their income, savings and assets levels. Through the programme women were significantly empowered socially as incidence of poverty among beneficiaries declined. However, the programme did not succeed fully in employment creation as most initiatives created employment opportunities on a regular basis while some created employment temporarily.

Gantner (2007) in his Study “PROGRESA: An integrated approach to poverty alleviation in Mexico”, noted that the Programa de Educacion, Salud, y Alimentacion was implemented to

alleviate poverty through the development of human capital. The programme's main role was to produce healthy and well-educated population who could break the intergeneration cycle of poverty through contributing to Mexico's socio-economic development. The initiative encouraged the rural poor to enroll their children school, visit healthcare centers regularly and attend group sessions geared towards improving health and nutrition, in exchange of cash. The conditional cash transfer has helped in removing practical barriers and costs incurred by the poor households when enrolling their children in school and when visiting healthcare centers. The programme has been successful in enhancing the living conditions of poor people in the community. The attendance in secondary school had increased by 20% and 10% for girls and boys in the beneficiary households respectively. The incidence of illnesses was lower by 12% among the beneficiaries compared to non-beneficiaries. The beneficiaries were also consuming food with higher quality and with more calories as a result of increased expenditure on food.

Tomsu et al (2018) in their Study "Impact of Poverty Alleviation Programme on Job Creation and Income Generation in Yobe State, Nigeria" affirms that programmes geared towards job creation for the youth have a positive effect on poverty reduction. Most of the youths interviewed asserted that they have gained skills and they are now able to start their own businesses. Most of the youth interviewed also asserted that they have gained employment as a result of the programme and were earning more income than before which has helped in improving their living conditions. According to these findings it is evident that poverty alleviation programmes carried out by the government in Yobe State created employment opportunities thus reducing the incidence of poverty in the state.

A study by Nkala (2013) on "The Impact of Tanzania social action fund on vulnerable household's poverty reduction: A case of Kigoma District Council", notes that the poverty reduction strategies have enhanced the poverty reduction efforts in Tanzania. For instance, net enrollment rate (NER) in primary school improved from 58.8% in 1990 to 90.5% in 2004. The framework has also led to the reduction of infant mortality, maternal mortality and incidence of malaria infections and malaria related mortality. These strategies also increased accessibility to clean water which is safe for domestic use by the rural poor to 55% in 2003. In Zanzibar the strategy has led to the decline in nutrition and food insecurity, increased enrolment in school and improved healthcare.

Wambui (2011) in her study titled "Analysis of Poverty Alleviation Initiatives among Small Scale Farming Communities in Rural Naivasha" notes that poverty alleviation initiatives being

implemented by various development agencies have had positive effect on living conditions of the rural poor population in Kenya. For instance, Africa Now an NGO promoting entrepreneurship and linking farmers to sustainable markets through business skills training and provision of linkages to export markets has had positive impact on small-scale farmers. Through the initiative farmers were able to eliminate brokerage by having access to market directly and selling products at good prices. This had an overall effect of increasing household income leading to economic development of the targeted households. The study also postulates that K-NOTE (Kenya National Outreach Counseling and Training Programme) has led to reduction in the prevalence and incidence of HIV/AIDS in rural Naivasha. K-NOTE also supported women in groups to run small business enterprises such as dairy farming and keeping of poultry, and through the income realized from such enterprises, the beneficiaries have been able to take care of household needs.

Kidiga (2017) in her study “An Impact Assessment of Poverty Reduction Strategies in Kenya: Case of Kenya Agricultural and Sustainable Land Management Programme (KAPSLM) in Nyandarua County” notes that the programme helped farmers to increase milk production leading to increased income thus helping the households to reduce food shortage. The yields from the dairy herds provided households with a cheap source of protein thus helped the households to remain food secure. The programme also helped farmers to bargain for higher prices of milk by selling their produce in groups. With the increased income the farmers were able to start other projects on the farms while others spent the income on healthcare and on education of their children. Thus, the programme will help the farmers to break the vicious cycle of poverty in the long run.

The government of Kenya has made numerous attempts to ease the incidences of poverty without considerable success. The elimination of extreme poverty in Kenya has become a challenge whose alleviation needs the collaboration of the government and the non-governmental organizations. This call for cooperation has led to the emergence of various non-state organizations who are implementing various interventions in Kenya to promote social and economic development of poor Kenyans in rural areas, urban slums and marginalized areas such North Eastern (Nair, 2011).

1.1.2 Youth Vocational Training

According to a study by Ogunyinka, Olaniran and Adeoti (2019) on “The impact of vocational training on youth employability in Nigeria” youth vocational training significantly improves youth’s employability skills. The study also confirmed that vocational training programmes that involves on-the-job training and practical experience are more effective than the one that involves theoretical knowledge.

Yousaf and Bhatti (2022), in their study “Impact of Technical and Vocational Education and Training on Poverty alleviation through Skill Acquisition”, asserts that vocational training leads to reduced poverty incidences as a result of the availability of more employment opportunities and earnings. This study reveals that enhanced vocational training has the potential of empowering the youth in terms of imparting skills demanded in the job market, thereby leading to improved earnings. Vocational training creates more opportunities for the youth hence making them to earn better wages which significantly contributes to poverty alleviation.

Awuor, Mutongu, Mkutu and Omollo (2021), in their study “The role of vocational training centers in socio-economic empowerment of women in Nakuru, Kenya”, revealed that vocational training creates employment opportunities for women and increases their access to the job market. The findings from this study show that as a result of vocational training, women and girls have increased their earnings, they now have access to more employment opportunities.

1.1.3 Capacity Building

Capacity building has been found to be of significance in helping households to gain knowledge of mobilizing resources, planning and evaluating projects initiated within the community (Nikkhah & Redzuan, 2010). It allows beneficiaries to coordinate and plan different community programmes. Through this, the problem of unsustainable impact of poverty alleviation programmes is mitigated and thus independence and self-reliance among members of household within rural areas is enhanced thereby making socio-economic development sustainable.

Hilif (2024), in his study “The Role of Capacity Building on Economic Development of women in Mogadishu Somalia”, asserts that capacity building enhances the social and economic capacities of women hence improving their livelihood. The findings from this study reveals that when

capacity building is adopted and implemented as poverty alleviation strategy, women's financial status is enhanced, thus improving their chances of improving their well-being.

Ouma (2019), in his study "Effects of Non-financial and Capacity building services on the welfare of households: Evidence from Homabay Town Sub-County, Homabay County Kenya", asserts that capacity building strategies such as training services, seminars and interactive sessions have a positive and significant influence on the welfare of households. The empirical evidence from this study reveal that capacity building has the potential of enhancing the social infrastructure owned by an individual or a community hence empowering households to be self-reliant.

1.1.4 Livestock Development

In rural areas characterized by low precipitation and irregular rain fed crop production, livestock keeping is an essential strategy of enhancing the livelihood of households. According to Davis et al. (2007), around 68% of households across the developing world earn income from livestock. Livestock such as poultry and cattle are important assets that can be used to store wealth which when sold by the population in the rural households can be a source of income that can be used to settle costs associated with school fees, health care and cushion against calamities such as drought.

Du-Pont, Vilakazi, Thondhlana and Dedeld (2020), in the study "Livestock income and household welfare for communities adjacent to the Great Fish River Nature Reserve, South Africa", revealed that poor household excessively depend on livestock income. Findings from this study show that normally there is an increase in poverty gap and poverty incidence whenever livestock income is absent. The study also reveal that livestock products are a source of proteins which leads to better nutrition and the use of dung as manure reduces the dependence on in-organic fertilizer for crop production which enables households to save part of their income.

According to a study by Ngongolo, Omary and Andrew (2021), titled "Socio-economic impact of chicken production on resource constrained communities in Dodoma, Tanzania", posit that chicken keeping is a key source of income for the poor people whose are resource constrained. Chicken product such as eggs and meat provide a source of cheap animal protein thus improving the level of nutrition within households. Income from the sale of chicken and chicken products provides support to the households in meeting healthcare expenses, paying school fee and meeting other social needs.

Radeny, Rao, Ogada, Recha and Solomon (2022) in their study “Impacts of climate-smart crop varieties and livestock breeds on the food security of smallholder farmers in Kenya”, revealed that adoption of improved and resilient breeds of livestock like the Galla goats led to improved household dietary diversity by 38% and on the other hand reduced household food insufficiency by 90%. Tolerant livestock breeds have led to improved livestock production, leading to nutritional benefits from eggs, meat and milk. Households have enhanced opportunities of increasing their income by selling the surplus from livestock production to purchase other farm products not produced on-farm.

1.1.5 Crop Development

Extreme food insecurity in most countries in Africa is caused by nutrients deficiency in most soils and erratic rainfall patterns, which has led to low productivity of arable lands. In light of this constraint, there is need to support farmers with interventions geared towards increasing food production and building resilience against the effects of climate variability (Vanlauwe & Zingore, 2011).

Mujei, Mudhara and Mutenje (2021), in their study “The impact of climate smart agriculture on household welfare in smallholder integrated crop-livestock farming systems: evidence from Zimbabwe” attributes low crop production in most of the countries found in Sub-Saharan Africa to climate change. In order to increase agricultural productivity, there is need of adopting climate smart technologies which can enable farmers to optimize agricultural production thereby withstanding the negative impact of climate change on crop yield.

Radeny, Rao, Ogada and Solomon (2022) in the study “Impacts of climate-smart crop varieties and livestock breeds on food security of smallholder farmers in Kenya”, revealed that the adoption of varieties of crops such as sorghum and cowpea, which stress-tolerant led to improved household dietary diversity score by 40% and reduced food insecurity by 75%. The study also revealed that the crop varieties which tolerant to stress have the potential of minimizing the failure of crops and increasing crop yield, thereby increasing food availability to the households and improving dietary diversity. The farmers can also sell the surplus from crop yield in order to earn extra income which can allow them to acquire crop products which are not produced on-farm.

1.1.6 Influence of Non-Governmental Organizations on Community development

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are important players in the implementation of poverty alleviation initiatives, as they play a key role in providing solutions to variety of problems facing poor household such as poor healthcare, inadequate access to clean and safe water, poor sanitation and inadequate access to basic education. According to World Bank (2019) NGOs are contributing to the building of resilient communities, empowerment of marginalized households and promotion of inclusive and sustainable development.

In Africa NGOs are at the forefront of promoting initiatives geared towards reducing illiteracy levels and enhancing community empowerment through education. The NGOs are reducing illiteracy levels through the distribution of educational materials (Adekunle & Nzomo, 2021). The NGOs are also enhancing teacher capacity to deliver instructions through teacher training programs (Mwangi & Kamau, 2019).

The NGOs are also implementing strategies aimed at improving the delivery of health care services within communities. In the developing countries the NGOs are promoting child immunization campaigns and enhancing maternal and child clinics with a view of improving health outcomes of households (Kamau & Wangari, 2019). NGOs are also promoting health literacy and behavior change among the population through health education workshops (Mbithi & Nzuki, 2020).

Mutisya and Mogote (2024), in their study “Non-governmental organizations’ development interventions and community empowerment in Kitui County, Kenya”, posits that strategies being implemented by NGOs have led to improved access to education, improved healthcare services and outcomes, and have enhanced women empowerment through entrepreneurship training and women’s right advocacy.

1.1.7 Caritas International

Caritas International was founded in 1897 by Lorenz Werthmann. The organization draws its memberships from 162 Catholic social services and development entities. Their collective and individual call is to put in place an environment that is better for people who are poor and oppressed. Caritas was established in Kenya, in the year 1973. It is an arm of the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB) that deals with humanitarian and development issues affecting the

community. Caritas Kenya is found in 25 Catholic Dioceses covering the 47 Counties and it works with the poor households and the Kenyans who are vulnerable in rural and marginalized areas. Through the Diocese of Homa Bay, Caritas is mandated to implement and coordinate poverty alleviation programmes in order to promote socio-economic development. In an effort to promote socio-economic development in Homa Bay County, Caritas is implementing projects in key areas which include youth vocational training, health quality improvement, capacity building, livestock development and crop development.

1.2 Statement of the problem

The incidence of extreme poverty continues to rise in Kenya; this is the case despite the numerous efforts in recent years by the central government, county governments, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, corporate organizations and philanthropists in alleviating the incidence of extreme poverty (Nyamboga et al, 2014). According to Zikhali (2024) in her study “Poverty and Social Exclusion in Kenya” 36.1% of the Kenyan population lives in absolute poverty. This translates to 40.1% of the population living in rural areas compared to 29.1% of the population living in the urban areas (Zikhali, 2024). According to a study by Ambale B, (2018) on “Perception on Food Insecurity and Coping Strategies Among Fishing Communities Living in Homa-Bay County, Kenya” 48% percent of the population living areas within Homa Bay County are extremely poor against National Poverty Indicator which stands at 45%.

Poverty alleviation as a need for socio-economic development was recognized before independence; however, the myriad programs that have been developed and implemented since then have not had specific, clear and realistic poverty alleviation measures (World Bank, 2007). In order to reduce the incidence of poverty, development agencies and national governments have implemented a number of strategies, which includes but not limited to education and skills development projects, microfinance projects, vocational training projects, provision of essential medical services and the improvement of water and sanitation facilities (Ahmad, Fatima & Tariq, 2023).

According to Bongo, (2003) many of the strategies being implemented by various development agencies have focused on emergency and relief aid without taking into account the importance of minimizing affected households' vulnerability by enhancing their resilience through capacity building. Bartle, (2007) postulates that over reliance on development and humanitarian aid seems

to have weakened the community's resilience in the face of risks over time. Despite many development agencies and the government implementing various poverty alleviation programmes in Homa Bay and other parts of the country, the community living in this area is still lagging behind in socio-economic development (Ayoo, 2022). The community is still vulnerable to illness, economic exclusion, and natural disasters such as drought and climate change. This is supported by multidimensional poverty index of 78% and monetary poverty of 33% (KNBS, 2020).

Radeny et al (2022), Ouma (2019), Awuor et al (2021) and Mujeyi et al (2021) conducted studies on the influence of poverty alleviation programmes on poverty reduction; however, these studies majorly focused on the individual influence of such programmes on community livelihood and none focused on the context of the cumulative influence of such programme in enhancing socio-economic development. This study will seek to fill the knowledge gap that has been created by this shortage in empirical evidence. This knowledge gap, coupled with the slow progress in poverty alleviation (Muguchu, 2010 & Republic of Kenya, 2011) which has become a source of concern formed the basis for carrying out this study, Performance of Poverty Alleviation Programmes and Socio-Economic Development: A Case of Caritas International Programme in Homa Bay County, Kenya.

1.3 Objectives

The study was guided by the following objectives;

1.3.1. General objective

The general objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of Poverty Alleviation Programmes on Socio-Economic Development focusing on Caritas International Programme in Homa Bay County, Kenya.

1.3.2 Specific objectives

The following were the specific objectives of the study;

- i. To investigate how youth vocational training affects socio-economic development in Homa Bay County, Kenya.
- ii. To evaluate how capacity building affects socio-economic development in Homa Bay County, Kenya.
- iii. To establish how livestock development affects socio-economic development in Homa Bay County, Kenya.
- iv. To examine how crop development affects socio-economic development in Homa Bay County, Kenya.

1.4 Research questions

The following research questions were used to address these objectives.

- i. How does youth vocational training affect socio-economic development in Homa-Bay County, Kenya?
- ii. To what extent does capacity building affect socio-economic development in Homa-Bay, County Kenya?
- iii. How does livestock development affect socio-economic development in Homa-Bay County, Kenya?
- iv. To what extent does crop development affect socio-economic development in Homa-Bay County, Kenya?

1.5 Justification of the Study

The study will benefit the National Government through provision of knowledge and insights on aspects of development that need strengthening in order to reduce citizens' vulnerability to incidences social exclusion and extreme poverty. The findings from this study will also provide insights on the gaps that should be addressed so as to promote socio-economic development of communities. This study will be valuable in providing insights on whether the project is succeeding in reducing incidences of poverty. The findings of this study will also be valuable in further project designs after learning the perceived benefits by the beneficiaries.

The findings from this study will provide a foundation on which governments can formulate pro-poor policies, which are geared towards the improvement of assets and capabilities of the poor. The study will also help in designing policies that take care of needs, preferences and capabilities of the poor within the community. The study will influence education by informing the adoption of an enterprise-based training curriculum which will make poor people to have flexible and transferable skills which are tailored to the local labour market. With this approach the curriculum will be developed to take care of the needs of the informal economy where job opportunities are identified and skills are transferred through mentorship.

Researchers and academicians will use findings from this study to fill the gaps in the literature on the topic under study; this is because the topic being studied has not been studied broadly thus the findings are adding to the existing literature. This has informed the need for further research.

1.6 Scope

The research was conducted in Homa Bay County. Homa Bay County is found in western Kenya along the Lake Victoria Basin. The County covers an area of 3,154.7 km² and has a population of 1,131, 950.

Homa Bay Town, Suba North and Ndhiwa sub-counties formed the study area since they are receiving the highest number of poverty alleviation programmes being carried out by Caritas within Homa Bay County. This therefore made the sub-counties to have the characteristics the researcher was interested in. One thousand one hundred and forty-two (1,142) households had participated in the programmes being implemented by Caritas between 2020 and 2023 (Caritas, 2023) and thus they formed part of the target population. The study was conducted between August and October 2024.

1.7 Chapter Summary

This section has elaborated the background of the study, the general objective and specific objectives. It has outlined the research questions and justification why this study is necessary and is of significance. It also explains the geographical area of the study and the target group.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This section outlines the various literature already existing concerning the role played by poverty reduction initiatives on promoting socio-economic development. This review has been organized into sub-headings drawn from the specific objectives. It also outlines the theoretical literature and conceptual framework to understand how variables are influencing one another.

2.1 Theoretical Literature Review

This research study was centered on the Empowerment theory since in order for a community to be socio-economically developed, households should be empowered through the creation of opportunities that can enable them to improve their well-being. Such opportunities may include increased access to food, better healthcare services and access to training opportunities to acquire skills.

2.1.1 Empowerment Theory

This theory was put forward by Julian Rappaport in 1981 and later on by Marc Zimmerman in the year 2000. They both believed that empowerment involves the process of giving individuals or groups who are marginalized the power or control over their lives. Empowerment employs the use of strength-based approach, where individuals are seen as competent and can act independently but they still need resources and opportunities within the environment to explore and utilize them. It involves giving people social structures and resources which enables them to take control of their lives (Rappaport, 1981).

According to Zimmerman (2000), empowerment theory has both processes and outcomes. The processes are activities, structures and actions which enables a person or individuals to gain skills and resources which can enhance their ability to solve problems affecting them within the community. For instance, an individual may be facilitated to attend a training session where he/she develops skills which can help him/her improve the living conditions. The outcomes are the measurable attributes that can be seen in an individual after the implementation of an intervention (process) that was meant to empower. Some of the potential outcomes may be the use of the newly

developed skill to earn income or increased accessibility to community resources e.g. safe drinking water or improved healthcare services.

Therefore, citizens in an empowered community should have skills, desires and resources which can help them engage in activities that can improve community life (Iscoe, 1974). The citizens should have access to resources such as better sanitation, proper healthcare services and better diet and nutrition.

Mutisya and Mogote (2024), in their study “Non-governmental organizations’ development interventions and community empowerment in Kitui County, Kenya”, used the empowerment theory to explain how non-governmental organizations are empowering individuals and communities in Kitui County through interventions in education, health and women empowerment. The theory was used to explain how such interventions facilitate access to resources which enables individuals to assert control over their circumstances and make informed choices.

Kasturirangan (2008), in her study “Empowerment and programs designed to address domestic violence” criticized the empowerment theory for failing to conceptualize the meaning of empowerment and instead assuming that empowerment programs themselves are empowering. Henderson (2003) in his study “Power imbalance between nurses and patients: a potential inhibitor of partnership in care”, criticized this theory for failing to clearly demonstrate who determines what is empowering. The theory has put more power on development agencies to determine what poor households need to feel empowered, a norm that development practitioners should change.

This theory relates to this research study since poverty alleviation strategies includes processes whose outcomes normally creates opportunities for the poor to be empowered economically and enable them acquire skills and knowledge. The outcomes from programmes includes opportunities for self-employment and better investment hence improving the socio-economic well-being of poor households thus promoting sustainable development.

2.1.2 Restricted Opportunity Theory

The theory of restricted opportunity was first introduced by an economics named Bradley Schiller in the year 1972. Schiller posits that “the poor are poor because they do not have adequate access

to good schools, jobs and income” (Schiller, 1972). This theory states that people remain poor because of circumstances and conditions that are beyond their control. These circumstances are caused by lack of opportunities or lack of access to such opportunity whenever they exist (Schiller, 1972).

The theory asserts that poor people are disadvantaged socially and do not have the capability to access economic opportunities available to them, which includes employment and therefore the well-being of poor people cannot be improved unless their economic opportunities are improved. Schiller explains that restricted opportunities exist where some people in the society cannot have access to the equal opportunities being enjoyed by others because of social class, race, religion, status in the society or tribal affiliations. The central aspect of this theory is the assumption that opportunities in the society are not available to all in equal measures; and those people who do not have suitable and abundant access to socio-economic opportunities such as access to quality education, better healthcare services, better sanitation, safe drinking water, better nutrition and a safe community cannot avoid poverty (Nwakanma & Igbe, 2020).

Nwakanma and Igbe (2020) in the study “Poverty and coping strategies of unemployed youths in Cross River State, Nigeria”, used this theory to explain the causes of under development in communities. Their findings reveal that, lack of opportunity to gain access to education, gainful employment and credit facilities are the main causes of poverty within households.

Sheldon Danziger criticized this theory by asserting that restricted opportunity is as a result of faults in the economy (Pear, 1993). He posits that labour market forces create and contribute to incidences of poverty. The forces determine the demand for labour, and the value of human capital features, the skills and the abilities that are brought to the labour markets by individuals. Therefore, we have individuals with skills and cannot get jobs because none exists and others who work and are not able to earn enough to improve their poverty situation.

Schiller contends that people who lack access to socio-economic opportunities can only improve their underprivileged circumstances if their chances of developing economically is enhanced. This theory is relevant to this study since poverty alleviation programmes have the capacity to create access to opportunities which can improve the economic status of households through training of the youth to get employable skills, improving crop and livestock production to end hunger and

building capacity of households to ensure that socio-economic development is sustainable to benefit the future generation.

2.1.3 Human Capital Theory

The theory of human capital was proposed by Becker in 1962. The theory posits that training increases a person's useful knowledge and skills which ultimately increases an individual's productivity and income in the long-run. The theory assumes a positive and significant relationship between training and an individual's productivity which translates to economic growth and subsequently socio-economic development. Therefore, vocational education facilitates the creation of knowledge and skills through social, contextual and experiential methods in the real-world environment. The theory considers both the physical and mental abilities (skills, knowledge acquired and dexterity) of the human component which has the ability to enhance productivity. This theory has demonstrated and established a linkage between human skills development and capacity and the growth in income for socio-economic development.

Ullah, Babar, Muzaffar, Khattak, Khan and Ashraf (2021) in their study "Impact of Vocational Training on Employment and Earning of Federally Administered Tribal Area's Youth in Pakistan", used this theory to explain how vocational training influences youth employment and earning. Findings from this study revealed that through acquisition of skills through vocational training youth employment increases by 1.94 times while monthly earnings are increased by 1.63 times.

Marginson (2019), in his study, "Limitation of Human Capital Theory", criticized this theory, by asserting that the human capital theory is not a realistic theory. He posits that the theory cannot explain how education enhances productivity, or why different people with same skills earn unequal salaries, or the role of status in the determination of earnings.

In relation to this study, vocational training is a variable that influences socio-economic development of a society. Through the training, the youth are able to gain mental and physical abilities that enhances their productivity and this enables them to earn income thus leading to socio-economic development.

2.2 Empirical Literature Review

2.2.1 Youth Vocational Training and Socio-Economic Development

Yousaf and Bhatti (2022), in their study “Impact of Technical and Vocational Education and Training on Poverty alleviation through Skill Acquisition”, asserts that vocational training leads to reduced poverty incidences as a result of the availability of more employment opportunities and earnings. This study reveals that enhanced vocational training has the potential of empowering the youth in terms of skill demanded in the job market, thereby leading to improved earnings. Vocational training creates more opportunities for the youth hence making them to earn better wages which significantly contributes to poverty alleviation.

Loyalka et al (2016), in their study titled, “The impact of vocational schooling on human capital development in developing countries, evidence from China”, contends that vocational training improves livelihoods, increases productivity of the youth and enhances the employability of the youth population in developing countries. Kareem et al (2015) in the study “Technical vocational education and training for national industrial development and economic growth” came to a conclusion that vocational education and training significantly plays a role in developing human capital through the generation of skilled workforce, improving the quality of life and promoting industrial and economic growth. Programs geared towards skills development may provide the youth with general employability skills, basic competencies and technical skills which cannot be learnt through formal learning.

According to a study by Fatima and Saleem (2016), in the Study “The impact of vocational education on economic growth of Pakistan”, vocational education refers to training that prepares people for the job market and makes them more productive thus enhancing human potential in order to promote self-employment. Vocational training enhances employability by improving the skills of the youth thereby reducing unemployment. Better vocational training and education protects the youth from unemployment as the skills possessed by the youth are refined, increasing their suitability for the job market thus earning income and creating self-satisfaction (Fatima & Saleem, 2016).

Ullah, Babar, Muzaffar, Khattak, Khan and Ashraf (2021) in their study “Impact of Vocational Training on Employment and Earning of Federally Administered Tribal Area’s Youth in Pakistan’,

examined the influence of vocational training on youth employment and earning. Findings from the study revealed that by acquiring skills through vocational training, youth employment is increased by 1.94 times while monthly earnings are increased by 1.63 times.

Oyebolu (2011), in his Study “Roles of Technical and Vocational Education (TVE) in Alleviating Poverty in Nigeria” posits that vocational education and training develops occupational competency which helps the youth in getting employed by business enterprises or for being self-employed. Youths possessing vocational skills have the capability of being productive, creating wealth and attaining individual prosperity, this is according to Ekpo and Okon, (2014), in their study “Vocational Education and Economic Development in Nigeria”.

Karki (2011) in a study titled “Employment, Skills and Education in Nepal: A brief account”, contends that hard skills and soft skills have a significantly positive association with employment. He asserts that a productive workforce can only be achieved if the necessary skills are developed. Palmer, (2009) in a study titled “Skill development, employment and sustained growth in Ghana: Sustainability challenges” asserts that people who are skilled and productive have access to labour market for descent jobs which helps in economic growth. Bhurtel (2015) in his study “Technical and vocational education and training in workforce development”, contends that people with the necessary skills and knowledge have the opportunity to progress economically. Vocational training provides the youth with skills which facilitates employability. In the long run the youth engaged in descent jobs earn income which leads to economic progress.

A Study by Ahmed et al (2020) on “Tracer study of socio-economic and demographic impacts of Technical and Vocational Education and training provision for women empowerment in rural and urban areas of Baluchistan, Pakistan”, show that people with vocational training in this case women have the skills to get into gainful employment which enables them to increase their earnings thereby leading to improved living standards. The study shows that women who have TVET qualifications can earn between \$37 and \$222 per month. Therefore, it implies that with vocational training the youth have a higher prospect of earning some income thus leading to socio-economic development.

According to a study by Ogunyinka, Olaniran and Adeoti (2019) on “The impact of vocational training on youth employability in Nigeria” youth vocational training significantly improves

youth's employability skills. The study also confirmed that vocational training programmes that involves on-the-job training and practical experience are more effective than the ones that involves theoretical knowledge.

Pongo, Effa, Osei-Owusu, Obinnim and Sam (2014), in their study on "The impact of TVET on Ghana's socio-economic development: A case study of Integrated Community Center for Employable Skills (ICCES) in two regions of Ghana" posits that through vocational training the youth in Ghana have received economic benefits. This study revealed that ICCES programmes have led to the improvement in economic standards of the communities concerned. In order to empower and reduce incidences of poverty among the youth within the poor communities, access to technical and vocational training must be made the core intervention. This has been supported by Famiwole et al (2012) in their study "Potentials of vocational technical education: empowering youths and vulnerable adults for poverty reduction in Nigeria" who opine that if the youth are equipped with employable skills which can enable them to have access to the labour market, then incidences of unemployment, poverty and economic exclusion would be reduced in Nigeria.

There is need to pay a close attention to the training of the workers in the informal sector, as this sector is normally underserved by training opportunities; this is according to Adams et al, (2013) in their study "Improving skills development in the informal sector: Strategies for Sub-Saharan Africa". In many countries the informal sector is composed of small informal training enterprises which are run privately. The training offered by such non-formal units are usually of questionable quality and as a result the situation needs to be resolved if skill development is to be achieved, as there is evidence that supports the role of skill development in improving employment prospects for the youth. This assertion has been supported by the Government of Uganda, which has recognized the skills development in the informal sector as one of the Country's Poverty Eradication strategies (Republic of Uganda, 2014).

Opiyo (2013) in his study "The contribution of youth enterprise development fund on youth empowerment in Kangundo Constituency, Machakos County" postulates that to solve unemployment in Kenya in the long term, there is need to equip the youth with technical and vocational skills. In order to achieve this target, the government began reviving and equipping various youth polytechnics. By reviving the youth polytechnics, the youth are being facilitated

with training on technical skills with a view of making them more productive within the labour market.

Awuor, Mutongu, Mkutu and Omollo (2021), in their study “The role of vocational training centers in socio-economic empowerment of women in Nakuru, Kenya”, revealed that vocational training creates employment opportunities for women and increases their access to the job market. The findings from this study show that as a result of vocational training, women together with girls get to enjoy improved earnings, increased job opportunities and better social transformation.

All these studies have failed to look into what happens after the youth have been trained in terms and job placement and continuous in-service training to improve on skills. This study will help in filling this gap.

2.2.2 Capacity Building and Socio-Economic Development

According to Topolsky (1996) in his study “Measuring Community Capacity Building: A workbook in progress for rural communities”, community capacity refers to the combined influence of a community’s commitment, resources and skills that can be used to enhance community strengths and solve community problems while exploiting the available opportunities. Frankish (2003) in his study “Conceptualization and Measurement of Capacity Building” asserts that community capacity can be analyzed through three dimensions which include financial capacity (resources, opportunities and knowledge), social capacity (networks, shared trust, bonding and inclusion) and human capacity (skills, motivation, ability to relate and confidence).

Capacity building is a strategy that aims to build independence and self-reliance among members of household within rural areas in order to make socio-economic sustainable. According to Horton, Alexaki, Brice, Campilan et al. (2008) in their study “Evaluation of Capacity Development: Experiences of research and development organizations around the world” asserts that capacity building as a strategy is a mix of top-down development approach where poor people are provided with financial and physical resources and bottom-up development approach. It also refers to the ability of development organizations to strengthen the development capabilities of the local communities through training, education and organizational support; this is according to Langran (2002) in his study “Empowerment and Limits of Change: NGO and Heal Decentralization in the Philippine”.

Through the provision of skills, education and knowledge, many development organizations are building the capacity of many households towards being self-reliant and being resilient amidst challenge of poverty. Kelly and Villaire (2002) in their study titled “The Michigan Militia and Emerson’s Ideal of Self-Reliance argues that self-reliance which is an outcome of capacity building makes the population to depend on their own resources which are independent of resources sourced outside the household.

Ulleberg (2009) in his study “The role and impact of NGOs in Capacity Development from replacing the state to reinvigorating education” did a case study of development organizations in Afghanistan and asserts that through capacity building the population in the rural areas have received skills training, technical advices and exchange of experiences which has contributed immensely to their socio-economic development. Through the provision of skills and knowledge to the population found in the rural areas, development organizations are playing a vital role in the promotion of sustainable socio-economic development as reliance on external expertise to champion development projects is reduced (Ulleberg, 2009).

Noya, Clarence and Craig (2009) in their study “Community Capacity Building: Creating a Better Future Together” contends that community capacity building should be focused on enabling poor and vulnerable households within the community to acquire capability and skills in order to have the ability to control what affects their lives and also take part in community development.

Hilif (2024), in his study “The Role of Capacity Building on Economic Development of women in Mogadishu Somalia”, asserts that capacity building enhances the social and economic capacities of women hence improving their livelihood. The findings from this study reveals that when capacity building is adopted and implemented as a poverty alleviation strategy, women’s financial status is enhanced, thus improving their chances of improving their well-being.

According to Diebie (2014) in the Study “The Dichotomy of Capacity Building and Unemployment in Ethiopia”, for people to experience positive impact from poverty alleviation interventions, capacity building should ensure that the interventions are sustainable and that equity is achieved in socio-economic development. Capacity building is seen as a tool for enhancing the capability of poor individuals to attain social and economic security thereby achieving a livelihood of good quality.

Ikharehon, (2007) carried out a study on “Capacity Building for National Sustainable Development: The Nigerian Experience” and the empirical results showed that capacity building is an important tool that helps the poor to achieve sustainable development through making them to attain skills that can help them be self-reliant beyond the termination of poverty alleviation programmes.

According to a study by Mulei and Gachengo (2021) titled “Community Capacity Development and Sustainability of County Government – Funded Water Projects in Makueni County, Kenya”, enhancing project skills of the people in the community positively influences the chances of poverty alleviation strategies becoming sustainable in the long run. This ensures that people are able to enjoy the outcome of poverty alleviation interventions even beyond the termination of such interventions by the donors.

Korten (2009) in his study “Getting to the 21st Century: Voluntary Action and the Global Agenda” asserts that capacity building is one of the strategies used by development organizations to help people meet their needs through a self-reliant local action. For people to be self-reliant, there is need to encourage them to use locally available initiatives, and their own resources and abilities to improve their living conditions. Korten (2009) acknowledges that lack of knowledge, lack of skills and exclusion are the major factors that are hindering many communities from utilizing their potential energy in creating wealth for poverty eradication. Therefore, there is need to help the community realize its potentials through the provision of education, training, and awareness creation.

Long – term socio-economic development is only achieved when institutions and communities continue to benefit from the outcomes of interventions without the support of external sources. Rambo and Mbugua (2021) in their study “Influences of Community Participation on School Infrastructure Policy Implementation and Performance of Construction Projects”, reveal that when household are not provided with support structures, food projects normally stall and the impact of such projects are never felt by the beneficiaries.

Ouma (2019), in his study “Effects of Non-financial and Capacity building services on the welfare of households: Evidence from Homabay Town Sub-County, Homabay County Kenya”, asserts that capacity building strategies such as training services, seminars and interactive sessions have

a positive and significant influence on the welfare of households. Empirical results from the study show that capacity building has the potential of enhancing the social infrastructure owned by an individual or a community hence empowering households to be self-reliant.

Wabwoga and Wakhungu (2013) in their study “Factors Affecting Sustainability of Community Food Projects in Kiambu County, Kenya”, indicated that the impact of food projects in Kiambu County are never felt by the beneficiaries after the withdrawal of donor support. Empirical results revealed that farmers are never given skills to enable them make food projects sustainable. Therefore, with this inadequacy in sustainable farming skills, the intended impacts of food projects are never felt when the donors withdraw support and the projects are terminated.

2.2.3 Livestock Development and Socio-Economic Development

In rural regions, that receive low precipitation and practice irregular rain fed crop production, livestock keeping has a positive influence on livelihood enhancement. Livestock play many roles in promoting better livelihood in many communities globally.

According to a study by Davis, Winters, Carletto et al. (2007), in their study “Rural Income Generating Activities: A Cross Country Comparison”, around 68% of households across the developing world earn income from livestock. Empirical results from a study titled “Looking into the Future of agriculture and AKST (Agriculture, Knowledge, Science and Technology)” by Rosegrant, Fernandez, Sinha, Alder et al. (2009), show that the urban consumers in developing countries have increased the consumption of milk, eggs and meat and this will double by the year 2050. This rise in the consumption of animal products has created employment opportunities within different livestock production sectors such as the sale of inputs, animal production, and animal product processing to sale of finished products.

According to Carter and Barret (2006) in their study “The Economics of Traps and Persistent Poverty: An Asset-Based Approach”, ownership and control of an asset are key aspects to achieving socio-economic development. Within the rural households, livestock are one of assets being owned. Herrero, Grace, Njuki, Johnson, Enahoro, Silvestri and Rufino (2013) in their study “The Roles of Livestock in Developing Countries” investigated the influence of keeping livestock on rural livelihoods and the economies of developing countries. Empirical findings from the study revealed that people keep livestock as assets which acts as a store of wealth; which can be sold by

the population in the rural households to meet costs related to payment of school fees, health care and cushion against calamities such as drought. Animals such as cattle and poultry are assets which when sold, earns a household income. The income earned can be used in making investments, such as buying land or starting a business enterprise. Livestock promotes food security in different ways, which includes, (i) provides cash from the sale of livestock and livestock products to buy food during period of food shortage; (ii) is source of animal food protein; (iii) livestock provides manure which can be used to increase crop production; and increased livestock production can lead to lower prices of livestock products thereby increasing access of the poor to such products especially those living in the urban areas (Herrero et al., 2013).

Poverty restricts people majorly to a vegetarian diet, which is deficient of nutrients and vitamins which as a consequence makes the poor susceptible to medical conditions such as poor growth in infants, anaemia and impaired cognitive and motor performance. Murphy and Allen (2003) in their study “Nutritional Importance of Animal Source of Foods” confirms that animal source foods are a source of essential micronutrients such as essential fatty acids, vitamin A, zinc, calcium, iron, vitamin B12 which cannot be obtained from crop-based foods alone in adequate quantities.

Du-Pont, Vilakazi, Thondhlana and Dedeld (2020), in their study “Livestock income and household welfare for communities adjacent to the Great Fish River Nature Reserve, South Africa”, revealed that poor household excessively depend on livestock income. Findings from this study show that normally there is an increase in poverty gap and poverty incidence whenever livestock income is absent. The study also reveals that livestock products are a source of proteins which leads to better nutrition and the use of dung as manure reduces the dependence on in-organic fertilizer for crop production which enables households to save part of their income.

According to a study by Ngongolo, Omary and Andrew (2021), titled “Socio-economic impact of chicken production on resource constrained communities in Dodoma, Tanzania”, chicken keeping is a vital source of revenue for those individuals who are resource constrained. Chicken product such as eggs and meat provide a source of cheap animal protein thus improving the level of nutrition within households. Earnings realized from selling chicken and chicken produce provides support to the households in meeting healthcare expenses, paying school fee and meeting other social needs.

Tefera (2007) in his study “Improving Women Farmers’ Welfare through a Goat Credit Project and its Implications for Promoting Food Security and Rural Livelihoods” investigated the impact of a goat development project on socio-economic development of women benefiting from goat development projects in eastern Ethiopia in 2006. Findings from this impact study reveal that most of the beneficiaries increased their annual income earnings by selling goats. The income earned enabled the beneficiaries to acquire assets and as a result they were able to diversify their livelihoods. The project enabled women keeping goats to become economically empowered, thus enabling them gain control over their resources and positioning them to have a say when decisions are being made on issues affecting households.

Peacock and Hasting (2011) in their study on “Meru Dairy Goat and Animal Healthcare Project”, reveal that FARM-Africa has been implementing agricultural interventions based on livestock to promote socio-economic development of the poor households through dairy goat breeding and interventions that are aimed at improving the health and yield of livestock. Through this project, FARM-Africa is using exotic dairy breeds of goats from Europe to improve the yield of goats in Meru County and the farmers are also given high level training to ensure that the cross-breeds perform to their potential. Empirical results show that the project has led to increase in milk production which has led to more income to farmers, as they are able to yield sufficient milk for family consumption and the surplus is sold to retailers. The farmers are also capable of pay school fees for their children attending school, as the money meant for buying milk is used for this purpose. Other community members have also obtained gainful employment within the Dairy Goat Enterprises.

According to Sonaiya (2007) in the study “Family Poultry, Food Security and the Impact of HPAI”, poultry keeping is one of the key drivers that households in Sub-Saharan Africa can use to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of ending poverty in all its forms, ending hunger; achieving food security and improved nutrition. Hailemichael et al. (2016) in their study “Analysis of Village Poultry Value Chain in Ethiopia: Implications for Action Research and Development” recognizes the role of poultry keeping as a potential instrument that can be used to alleviate poverty as a result of its influence on improving community livelihood and resilience.

Sodjinou (2011) in his study “Poultry-Based Intervention as a Tool for Poverty Reduction and Gender Empowerment: Empirical Evidence from Benin”, investigated the impact of poultry-based

interventions on poultry performance (profitability and poultry survival rate efficiency) and on the livelihoods of the rural households (poverty, vulnerability, education and gender empowerment). He asserts that poultry keeping in the rural villages plays a fundamental role in improving income generation for the population that has limited skills to engage in other income generating activities and has also been proved to be effective in poverty alleviation. The study confirms that poultry-based projects allow the poor households to gain skills and income that can help them escape abject poverty.

The study “Poultry-Based Intervention as a Tool for Poverty Reduction and Gender Empowerment: Empirical Evidence from Benin” by Sodjinou (2011) has also shown that poultry production positively influences the economy of poor communities; it has also revealed that poultry production reduces food insecurity, and helps in the reduction of the effects of HIV/AIDS on the households found in the rural areas. According to Alders and Pym (2009), in their study “Village Poultry: still important to millions, eight thousand years after domestication”, poultry keeping in the rural areas is a source of quality animal protein and income without spending much on labour or financial resources for those households missing able-bodied workers, especially those affected by HIV/AIDS.

Radeny, Rao, Ogada, Recha and Solomon (2022) in their study “Impacts of climate-smart crop varieties and livestock breeds on the food security of smallholder farmers in Kenya”, revealed that the adoption of improved and resilient breeds of livestock like the Galla goats led to improved household dietary diversity by 38% and on the other hand reduced household food insufficiency by 90%. Tolerant livestock breeds have led to improved livestock production, leading to nutritional benefits from eggs, meat and milk. Households have enhanced opportunities of increasing their income by selling the surplus from livestock production to purchase other farm products not produced on-farm.

2.2.4 Crop Development and Socio-Economic Development

According to Chauvin and Mulangu (2012) in their study “Food Production and Consumption Trends in Sub-Saharan Africa: Prospects for the Transformation of the Agricultural Sector”, crop production in Sub-Saharan Africa has remained low compared to other regions in world. Deblock and Haji (2008) in their study “Strategies for Sustained Growth and Inclusive Development”

estimate that in Sub-Saharan Africa on average a farmer produces only one ton of cereals per hectare which is less than a fourth of what a Chinese farmer produces and less than a fifth of a farmer's output in America. Empirical results from the study "On being a smallholder" by Conway (2011), show that in Sub-Saharan Africa, agricultural production is being affected negatively by climate change as agricultural production is heavily dependent on rain-fed agriculture. Therefore, there is need to come up with smart farming methods that can shield farmers from the consequences of climate change.

Empirical Analysis from the Study "The Opening of the Pandora's Box: Climate Change Impacts on Soil Fertility and Crop Nutrition in Developing Countries" by St. Clare and Lynch (2010) show that as a result of drought, flash flood and rising temperatures linked to climate change most soils in Africa normally have little or no nutrients and this is hindering the mitigation measure meant to enhance food security. Soil nutrients deficiency has led to low productivity of arable lands which has led to extreme food insecurity in most countries. Giller et al (2011) in their study "Communicating Complexity: Integrated Assessment of Trade-Offs Concerning Soil Fertility Management Within African Farming Systems to Support Innovation and Development" asserts that there is need to support farmers with interventions geared towards increasing food production and building resilience against the effects of climate variability and change.

Mujei, Mudhara and Mutenje (2021), in their study "The impact of climate smart agriculture on household welfare in smallholder integrated crop-livestock farming systems: evidence from Zimbabwe" attributes low crop production in most of the countries found in Sub-Saharan Africa to climate change. In order to increase agricultural productivity, there is need of adopting climate smart technologies which can enable farmers to optimize agricultural production thereby withstanding the negative consequences of climate change on crop production.

Chinsinga (2011) in his study "Seeds and Subsidies: The Political Economy of Input-Programmes in Malawi" investigated the relationship between input subsidy provision and crop productivity in Malawi. Through the Agricultural Input Subsidy Programme (AISP) 1.5 million maize farmers received farm input subsidy. Empirical results showed that the AISP programme successfully improved maize yield and this ensured Malawi had enough maize yield. Chinsinga (2011) states that through the programme farmers were able to produce more maize than the annual demand for

maize in Malawi which stood at 2.1 metric tons. This programme has improved food security in Malawi by reducing reliance on food assistance for households.

Becerril and Abdulai (2010) in their study “The Impact of Improved Maize Variety on Poverty in Mexico: A propensity Score-Matching Approach” examined the influence of adopting germplasm an improved breed of maize on poverty in Oaxaca and Chiapas regions. The study investigated the influence of adopting germplasm on income earned by households and poverty mitigation. The empirical results showed that adopting a maize breed that is improved has a positive impact on a farmer’s household livelihood indicated by per capita expenditure. The research revealed that farmers who adopted the improved maize variety increased their household per capita expenditure by 7.96 – 10.12 USA Dollars on average. This reduced the likelihood of households dipping under the poverty line by a margin of 19% - 31%.

Tiwari et al (2010) in their study “Rapid Gains in Food Security from New Maize Varieties for Complex Hillside Environments through Farmer Participation”, examined the impact of adopting improved crop varieties on household food security in Nepal. This research revealed that on average the adoption of improved maize variety in Nepal increased production by 50% compared to local maize varieties. This represented an improvement in food security by 24% for farmers yearly. The food deficit households had a higher food availability as compared to those households that had food surplus. This study showed that as a result of adopting improved maize varieties in Nepal, food availability with poor farmers’ households improved and as a result they are enjoying more benefits compared to the rich farmers.

Adolwa, Mutegi, Muthamia, Gitonga, Njoroge and Nchanji (2023) in their study “Enhancing Sustainable Agri-Food Systems using Multi-Nutrient Fertilizers in Kenyan Smallholder Farming Systems” underscored that fact that, in almost all the countries found in Africa, food insecurity is caused by rising rates of soil infertility and the use of farm inputs inappropriately. The study investigated the association between the application of multi-nutrient fertilizers blends on yield response and profits made from farm proceeds. Empirical results from the study show that the application of improved fertilizers increased maize yield significantly. This represented an increase of 108% on maize yield compared to when ordinary fertilizers are used. The improved fertilizers blend led to an increase in profits from crops; this was experienced in the production of potatoes

where the ratio of Benefit to Cost stood at above 2. Therefore, the multi-nutrients have a positive impact on reducing food insecurity by increasing crop yield.

Mango, Makato, Mapemba and Sopo (2018) in their study “The Role of Crop Diversification in Improving Household Food Security in Central Malawi” contends that within Sub-Saharan Africa, a higher percentage of countries rely on agriculture production as the foundation of achieving economic growth. The agricultural sector depends on rain-fed agricultural production which is being faced with a challenge of diminishing soil fertility. Malawi experiences what scientist call “Maize Poverty Trap”, where famers produce maize without considering whether the land is suitable or not; and when there is an occurrence of drought, the production of maize normally fails leading to food insecurity. Empirical results from this study revealed that when crops are diversified, household food consumption is impacted positively. This study revealed that crop diversification is significant at 5% level. Through crop diversification the farmers had access to a diversity of diet, their level of income improved and their households had better nutrition security. The findings show that crop diversification is a realistic tool that can be used to reduce household food insecurity through establishing agricultural production systems that can withstand the effects of climate change especially drought.

Zakari, Ibro, Moussa and Abdoulaye (2022) in their Study “Adaptation Strategies to Climate Change and Impacts on Household Income and Food Security: Evidence from Sahelian Regions of Niger”, asserts that Sahelian countries like Niger are faced with vulnerability to the effects brought about by climate change and their agricultural production systems are dependent on rain and as such the countries have a problem of low crop yield which makes farm households food insecure. They examined how strategies used to withstand the effects of climate change influence the amount of income earned by households and the general household’s food security. Empirical results from the study reveal that crop diversification as a strategy for adapting to climate change has a likelihood of raising income earned by households by \$12.57 on average. Further to this, the probability of those household that adopt climate adaptation strategies specifically crop diversification, attaining food security is 7% to 9% more in relation to non-adopters.

To protect smallholder farmers from the effects of drought, the African Agricultural Technology Foundation, introduced the drought tolerant maize hybrid known as DroughtTEGO in Kenya in 2018 (Marechera et al., 2019). A study by Marechera et al. (2019) titled “Impact of DroughtTEGO

hybrid maize variety on agricultural productivity and poverty alleviation in Kenya.” revealed that the smallholder farmers who adopted the hybrid maize improved their income significantly by 82% as compared to the farmers who failed to adopt the maize variety. The poverty headcount in households which failed to adopt the maize variety was found to be 1% higher than households which adopted the variety. The results showed that adoption of DroughtTEGO improved household poverty situation by a margin of 46 points.

Radeny, Rao, Ogada and Solomon (2022) in the study “Impacts of climate-smart crop varieties and livestock breeds on food security of smallholder farmers in Kenya”, analyzed how climate smart agricultural technologies influences household dietary diversity and food security in Kenya. The findings of this study revealed that adopting stress-tolerant crop varieties such as sorghum and cowpea led to enhanced household nutritional diversity score by 40% and also led to a reduction in food insecurity by 75%. The study also revealed that the stress-tolerant crop varieties have the potential of minimizing the failure of crops and increasing crop yield, thereby increasing food availability to the households and improving dietary diversity. The farmers can sell the excess crop produce in order to earn extra income which can allow them to acquire crop products which are not being produced on-farm.

2.2.5 Socio-Economic Development

According to Niaz (2022) in his study “Socio-Economic development and sustainable development goals: a roadmap from vulnerability to sustainability through financial inclusion”, development involves people having access to economic resources to improve their social status. The study shows that financial inclusions lead to improved and sustainable livelihood. This is because households that had access to finances had growth in per capita income. Consequently, such household had better housing conditions, the rate of enrolment in school increased, access to safe and adequate water used for cooking and drinking improved, ability to spend on medical services and clothes improved.

Therefore, socio-economic development is a process through which a society’s livelihood improves both socially and economically. Niaz (2022) postulates that socio-economic development can be measured using indicators such as levels of income, literacy levels, access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation.

A study by Majerova (2019) on “Socio-economic development and its impact on health personnel in regions of Visegrad Group Plus countries” confirms that factors such as high income, low rates of unemployment and better health influence the quality of life of individuals which ultimately leads to economic development within the society.

He and Collins (2021), in their study “Optimal dynamic electricity consumption function estimation; An institutional experimental evidence from Guangzhou, China”, posits that socio-economic development is shown by improved infrastructure, better household assets, access to clean drinking water, sanitation and electricity. Rajbanshi et al (2015), in their study “Measuring microfinance: Assessing the conflict between practitioners and researchers with evidence from Nepal”, revealed that improvement in income has the possibility of reducing poverty which in the long-term leads to improvement in the quality of life.

Kinyanjui and Misaro (2013) in their study on “Socio-economic status and participatory development in Kenya”, points out that socio-economic development is enhanced through the implementation of poverty alleviation projects. Poverty reduction strategies which are implemented by the Constituency Development Fund have made a contribution in improving socio-economic status of communities by reducing incidence of poverty experienced in the study area before their inception. Before the implementation of these projects, households had couldn't access essential amenities such as safe water, hence these projects have had a cumulative socio-economic impact in the various households.

2.3 Summary of Research gaps

Table 1 Summary of research gaps

Author (s)	Year	Title of study	Methodology	Findings	Knowledge gap	Focus of this study
Yousaf & Bhatti	2022	Impact of Technical and Vocational Education and Training on Poverty alleviation through Skill Acquisition: Evidence from Developing Countries	Quantitative Methods, Descriptive research design	Vocational training leads to better wages. Vocational training provides skills demanded in the job market	The study failed to outline whether the youth have the ability to be self-employed after training (scope gap)	Acquisition of employability skills to enhance self-employment
Ouma	2019	Effects of Non-financial and Capacity building services on the welfare of households: Evidence from Homabay Town Sub-County, Homabay County Kenya	Quantitative Methods, Descriptive research design	Capacity building has the potential enhancing the social infrastructure owned by an individual or a community hence empowering households to be self-reliant	The study failed to show how these skills and advices are being applied by the poor to improve their living conditions. (scope gap)	How the population applies the skills and advices from capacity building to turn crop and livestock production into money generating activities

Table 1 Summary of research gaps

Author (s)	Year	Title of study	Methodology	Findings	Knowledge gap	Focus of this study
Radeny, Rao, Ogada, Recha and Solomon	2022	Impacts of climate-smart crop varieties and livestock breeds on the food security of smallholder farmers in Kenya	Quantitative methods, Cross-sectional survey	<p>There has been increased milk production, which has led to more income. Households' income has increased</p> <p>The farmers are able to make savings from money which could have been used in buying milk for household consumption to pay school fee.</p>	The study failed to show how the farmers would continue production beyond the project. (Scope gap)	Sustainability of livestock development projects.

Table 1 Summary of research gaps

Author (s)	Year	Title of study	Methodology	Findings	Knowledge gap	Focus of this study
Marechera et al.	(2019)	Impact of Drought TEGO hybrid maize variety on agricultural productivity and poverty alleviation in Kenya.	Quantitative methods, Descriptive research design	Adoption of hybrid maize improved income significantly by 82%. The poverty headcount in households which failed to adopt the maize variety was found to be 1% higher.	The study failed to show how the farmers would continue production beyond the project. (Scope gap)	Sustainability of crop development projects.

2.4 Conceptual framework

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2019) a conceptual framework refers to the precise description of analysis development, that's gives, a visual illustration of the variables being studied. The variables under study in this research are youth vocational training, capacity building, livestock development and crop development.

Independent variables

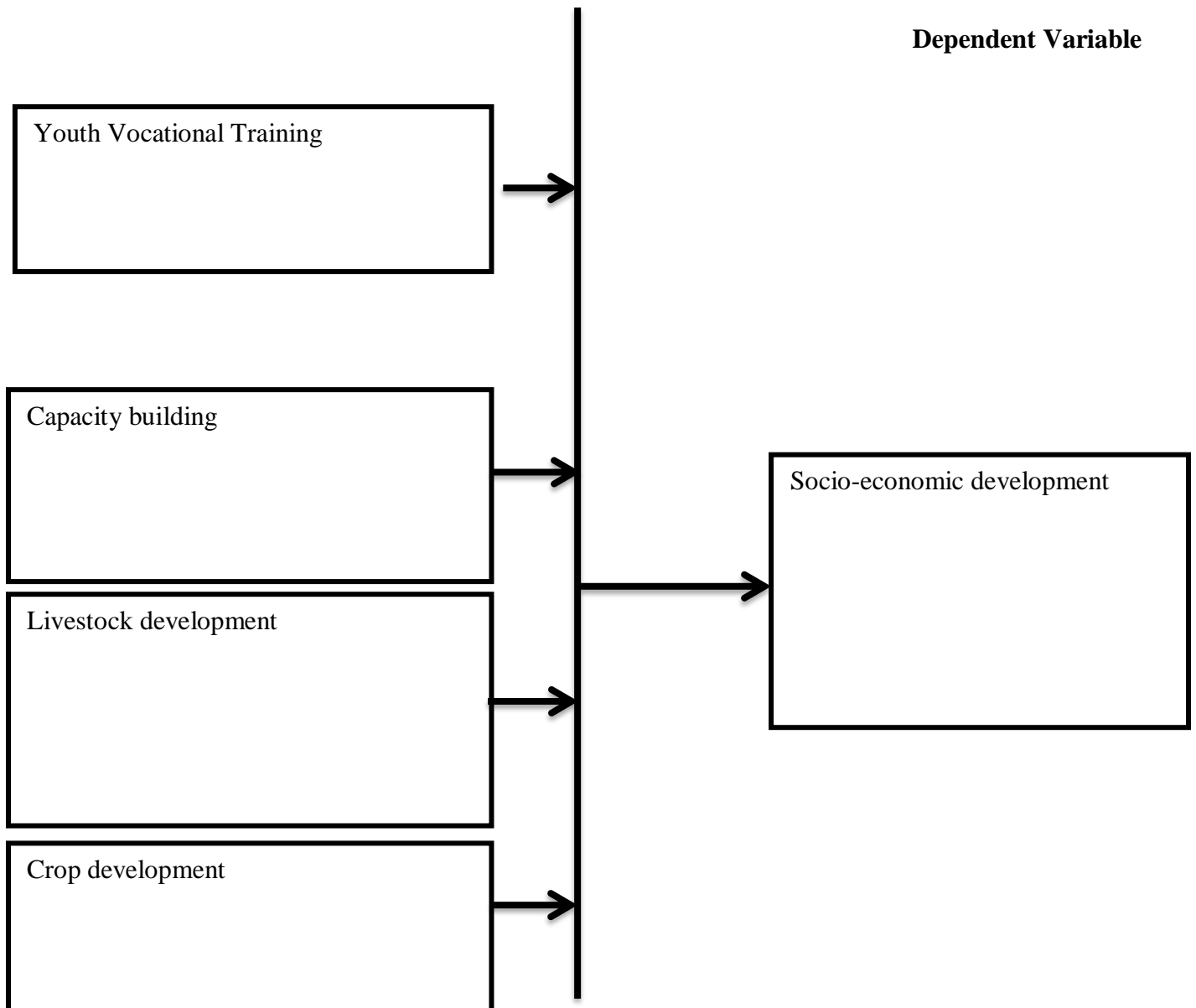


Figure 1 Conceptual Framework

2.5 Operationalization of variables

Table 2 Table Showing Operationalization of Variables

Variable (s)		Indicators	Instrument	Measurement scale	Tools of analysis
Youth Vocational Training		- Technical skills gained	Questionnaire	Nominal scale	Descriptive statistics
		- Employability skills mastered		Ordinal scale	Inferential statistics
Capacity building		- Number of youths completing vocational training	Questionnaire		
		- Number of workshops organized		Nominal scale	Descriptive statistics
		- Number of participants		Ordinal scale	Inferential statistics
Livestock development		- Benefits obtained from the workshops	Questionnaire		
		- Variety of livestock kept		Nominal scale	Descriptive statistics
		- Products from the livestock		Ordinal scale	Inferential statistics
		- Strategies employed to improve breeds of livestock			
		- Benefits obtained from the livestock and livestock			

Table 2 Table Showing Operationalization of Variables

Crop development	- Variety of crops planted	Questionnaire	Nominal scale	Descriptive statistics
	- Duration crops take to mature		Ordinal scale	Inferential statistics
	- Benefits of the crops within the household			

2.6 Chapter summary

This section has outlined the various literature already existing concerning the role played by poverty reduction initiatives on promoting socio-economic development. It also outlined the theoretical literature and conceptual framework to understand how variables are influencing one another.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

The chapter outlines the research methodology and research design. It explains the procedures of collecting samples and calculating the sample size, reliability and validity of research instruments. It outlines the procedure of collecting data, analyzing data and presenting data. It also elaborates the ethical considerations to be observed throughout the process of the research.

3.1 Research Design

According to Gorard (2013) a research design refers to the overall strategy that a researcher chooses to use in integrating different components of a study in a coherent and logical way, to ensure that the research effectively addresses the problem under consideration. The study employed a descriptive research design to give a description of characteristics associated with variables being studied. A descriptive research design is a systematic, empirical inquiry where the researcher has no direct control of independent variables since their manifestation has already occurred or because they cannot be manipulated (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2019). Mugenda and Mugenda (2019) posits that a descriptive research design is essential in determining and reporting the way things are and its useful in describing characteristics, attitude, values and behaviour. The descriptive research design was chosen for the study since it allowed the researcher to examine the variables in a manner that manipulation of variables and bias are not possible (Kombo & Tromp, 2006). The study employed quantitative techniques to collect data, analyse data, interpret and present results. Data collection was done through administration of questionnaires to household heads. The questionnaire was validated and pre-tested before the actual data collection.

3.2 Target Population

A target population is the totality of objects or individuals under consideration of which statistical attributes can be estimated by the study of sample or samples drawn from it (Gubbins, 1998). According to Kothari (2004) a target population is a well-defined set of people, services, elements, and events, groups of things or households that are being investigated. The target population was all the beneficiaries from the three sub-counties within Homa Bay County, where Caritas operates. Homa-Bay Town, Ndhiwa and Suba North sub-counties were chosen, since they are the highest recipient of development programmes being implemented by Caritas International. The

target population was 1,142 household heads, whose household have benefited from the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes implemented by Caritas between 2011 and 2021.

Table 3 Target Population

The table below show the target population for the study.

Category of Population Component	Target Population	Percentage
Household Heads	1,142	100
Total	1,142	100

Source: Caritas (2024)

3.3 Sample and Sampling Technique

A sample is a segment of the population that is selected for investigation while sampling technique is the procedure used in selecting the population units that constitute a sample (Bryan & Bell, 2003). According to Kochari (2006) a sample is a representative part of the population. Orodho and Kombo (2002) assert that sampling is a process of collecting a number of individuals or objects from a population such that the selected group contains elements which are representative of the characteristics found in the entire group. Sampling techniques have been categorized into 2, non-probability and likelihood sampling techniques (Saunders et al., 2014). Likelihood sampling, involves giving an equal chance of selection to all household in a target population to participate in the analysis while in non-probability sampling, the households within the target population have no pre-set probability of being chosen. Stratified random sampling was used in selecting a sample in order to give each household within the target population equal opportunity of being part of the sample. The sub-counties where programs are being implemented formed the strata from which sampling units were selected. To ensure that all sub-counties are represented proportionately, proportionate sampling was employed to arrive at the right number of households from each sub-county to be included in the sample. The Yamane formula of 1967 was used in determining the sample size as below;

A confidence level of 90% and P=0.1 were assumed where n was responses needed, N represented the size of the population while e represented the precision level needed.

The Yamane Formula:
$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N (e)^2}$$

Where:

n = number of responses required (Sample size)

e = error limit (Level of precision)

N = Population size

Source: Yamane (1967; 258)

A confidence level of 90% with the error limit at 10% led to;

$$n = \frac{1,142}{1 + 1,142 (0.1)^2}$$
$$n = 92$$

Therefore 92 responses were the minimum number of responses acceptable to satisfy the condition of a confidence level of 90% with the error limit at 10%.

Table 4 Sample Size

The table below shows the calculated sample size for the study.

Category of Population Component	Target Population	Sample Size
Household Heads	1,142	92
Total	1,142	92

Source; Research Data, (2024)

Table 5 Summary for proportionate sampling

The table below show proportionate samples for each sub-county.

Sub-Counties	Population (Households) (n)	Proportion (p) (n/N)	Number to be sampled (n/N) * 92
Homa-Bay Town	491	0.43	40
Suba North	400	0.35	32
Ndhiwa	251	0.22	20
Total (N)	1,142	1	92

Source; Research Data, (2024)

3.4 Instruments

The researcher adopted a questionnaire as an instrument of data collection. The questionnaire consisted of two sections; namely section one which helped in gathering the respondents' demographic features. Information about the independent and dependent variables was found in section two. Some of questions were presented on a 5-point Likert Scale, which is normally used in research to measure attitude and perception (Upagade and Shende, 2012).

3.5 Pilot Study

According to Kothari (2009) a pilot study refers to a small-scale study carried out to evaluate the feasibility of a study in terms of cost, time, and adverse events (Kothari, 2009). A pilot study informs improvements to the research design before study goes full scale by assessing whether questions are logical, simple and clear for easy understanding. Mugenda and Mugenda (2019) assert that a pilot study allows errors to be identified hence allowing for the effective revision of data collection instruments. It helps in determining respondents' interests and perceptions, discovering whether the respondents understand the meaning of questions, assessing how the respondents are modifying the intention of questions and whether what is being measured is what was intended. Mugenda and Mugenda (2019) recommends that a sample of between 10 and 20 respondents can be selected from the target population; however, they are not included in the sample selected for the main study. The researcher randomly selected 12 respondents to take part in the pilot study; however, they were not included in the final research. Respondents were drawn from all the sub-counties where Caritas international is implementing poverty alleviation programmes.

3.5.1 Validity

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2019) validity refers to the meaningfulness and accuracy of inferences derived from the findings of a study. It assesses the degree to which findings derived from data analysis actually represents the variable being considered in a study. To ensure that the research instrument was valid, a review of the instrument by the Programme Manager and Caritas International was sought in order to confirm face and content validity. Results from the pilot study were also correlated to other similar studies to test construct validity. The tests for validity evaluated whether the questions are appropriate and this was used to modify research instrument before setting out for actual data collection.

3.5.2 Reliability Test

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2019) reliability is a measure of research instrument's ability to yield consistent results or data after repeated trials. To minimize errors during actual data collections, data from pilot study was subjected to tests of relevancy and consistency. The researcher administered a questionnaire to 12 respondents at an interval of one week to test whether the findings were consistent. The Cronbach's Alpha reliability coefficient was used to determine the consistency of the questionnaire in producing similar responses every time it was administered. Cronbach's Alpha reliability coefficient normally ranges between 0 to 1. The closer Cronbach's Alpha reliability coefficient is to 1.0 the greater the consistency in test items producing similar results (Gliem, 2003). An Alpha coefficient of between 0.65 and higher is recommended and this study set a coefficient of 0.7 as the minimum threshold to determine reliability of the questionnaire (Saunders et al, 2015).

3.6 Data Collection Procedure

The use of questionnaires was employed to collect data. A research permit was obtained from NACOSTI and permission was sought from Caritas International in Homa Bay before proceeding to the field. Further, a letter of authorization was obtained from the Management University of Africa indicating the background of the research, its significance and potential respondents were invited to take part in the research by providing information. The researcher trained 5 research assistants to help in the collection of data. The researcher together with the research assistants visited all the sampled households physically to administer questionnaires and all completed questionnaires were carried back. The researcher gave each respondent adequate time to fill the questionnaire before collecting them and using them for appropriate analysis.

3.7 Data Analysis and Presentation

Data analysis seeks to examine data collected from the field for purposes of interpretation and making conclusions to aid generalization to the entire population (Kothari, 2017). The researcher employed the use of Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 29.0 for data analysis in order to generate descriptive statistics and inferential statistics for all the four variables. Descriptive statistics was generated using standard deviation and mean while regression analysis and correlation coefficient were employed to generate inferential statistics. The regression analysis model of the research was as below;

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + E$$

Where

Y = Socio-Economic Development

β = Regression Coefficient

β_0 = Constant term (The point of intersection on the Y axis)

E = Error Term

X_1 = Youth Vocational Training

X_2 = Capacity Building

X_3 = Livestock Development

X_4 = Crop Development

This study used the regression analysis to ascertain the strength of independent variables as was outlined by r^2 and r adjusted to inform the conclusion and recommendations. From the Model, Y is the dependent variable while β_0 is the regression coefficient. The β s (β_1 , β_2 , β_3 and β_4) represent the slopes of the regression equation while the X s (X_1 , X_2 , X_3 and X_4) represent the independent variables. E represents the error term which captures all the important variables excluded from model because they are not observable in the set of data being analyzed. This model applied a confidence level of 95%. Data presentation was done using tables, charts and percentages to aid in easy comparison and communication.

3.8 Ethical Considerations

Ethical guidelines enable researchers to make individual ethical judgments and decisions that comply with research principles (Social Research Association, 2003). Proper permission was obtained before carrying out the research. The researcher made effort to eliminate any influence on data collection and analysis that may have arisen from personal bias and opinion. Ethical issues put into considerations included;

3.8.1 Informed Consent

The respondents were provided with an informed consent form so that they could be able to understand their rights before agreeing to participate in the study. A letter introducing the researcher and the background of the study was attached to the informed consent form. The consent of the target respondents was therefore sought-after before they were allowed to participate in the research.

3.8.2 Voluntary Participation

There was no coercion of respondents into participating in the research. The researcher informed all respondents about the objectives of the study and the researcher expectations to enable them decide whether to participate or not. The respondents were allowed to retreat from participating in the study whenever they felt uncomfortable.

3.8.3 Confidentiality

Names of the respondents were not revealed, instead codes were used to hide the identity of the participating respondents. The respondents were assured of the confidentiality of the information they offered during the study.

3.8.4 Privacy

According to Kothari (2017) any individual who decides to participate in any research study is entitled to privacy. The questionnaires were administered within areas of respondents' personal preference. The researcher ensured that there was no external interference from people not participating in the research.

3.8.5 Anonymity

All the information given by the respondents were used only for drawing conclusions of this research and not for any other purpose.

3.9 Chapter Summary

This chapter outlined the research methodology and research design. It has explained the procedures of collecting samples and calculating the sample size, and the procedure of testing the reliability and validity of research instruments. It has outlined the procedure of collecting data, analyzing data and presenting data. It has also elaborated the ethical considerations to be observed throughout the process of the research.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter provides a summary of the findings of the study. The summary of data collected has been presented using percentages, mean, standard deviation and frequency tables. The data was collected through the use of questionnaires and analyzed using SPSS version 29. The findings have been explained based on the research questions and study objectives. Regression and correlation were carried out to establish the relationship between variables.

4.1 Presentation of Research Findings

4.1.1 Response Rate

This study targeted a total of 92 respondents drawn from farming households. The researcher successfully subjected 82 respondents to the questionnaire, translating to a response rate of 89.13%. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2008), a response of rate of 50% is deemed sufficient for data analysis and reporting of findings; a response rate of 60% is termed good and a response rate of 70% and above is deemed exceptional. This therefore means that the researcher achieved remarkable response rate sufficient for explain findings of the study.

Table 6 Response rate

The table shows the response rate.

	Targeted Respondent	Respondents successfully interviewed	Response rate
Total	92	82	89.13%

Source: Research Date, (2024)

4.1.2 Reliability Test

The study employed the use of the Cronbach's Alpha reliability coefficient to determine the consistency of the questionnaire in producing similar responses. Cronbach's Alpha reliability coefficient normally ranges between 0 to 1. The closer Cronbach's Alpha reliability coefficient is to 1.0 the greater the consistency in test items producing similar results (Gliem, 2003). An Alpha coefficient of between 0.65 and higher is recommended and

this study set a coefficient of 0.7 as the minimum threshold to determine reliability of the questionnaire (Saunders et al, 2015). The study items met the minimum threshold of 0.7 as shown below;

Table 7 Reliability Test

The table below shows the Cronbach’s Alpha values.

Variable	Cronbach’s Alpha	Number of Items
Youth Vocational Training	0.818	4
Capacity Building	0.815	4
Livestock Development	0.827	4
Crop Development	0.862	4
Socio-Economic Development	0.802	3

Source: Research Data, (2024)

4.1.3 Demographic Information

4.1.3.1 Gender

The gender of the respondents was as follows;

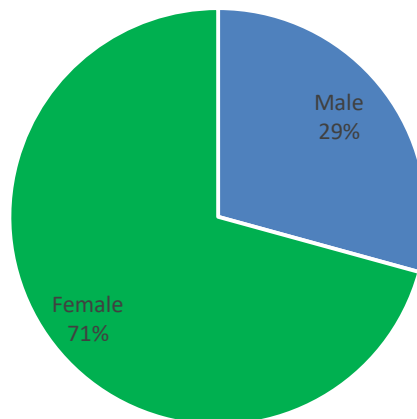


Figure 2 Gender of Respondents

Source; Research Data, (2024)

Findings from this study revealed that more females participated in the study as compared to males. The number of females was at 71% way above the males at 29%. This is as result of most household having females as the heads were actively involved in farming.

4.1.3.2 Age

Findings from this study revealed the age of respondents as follows;

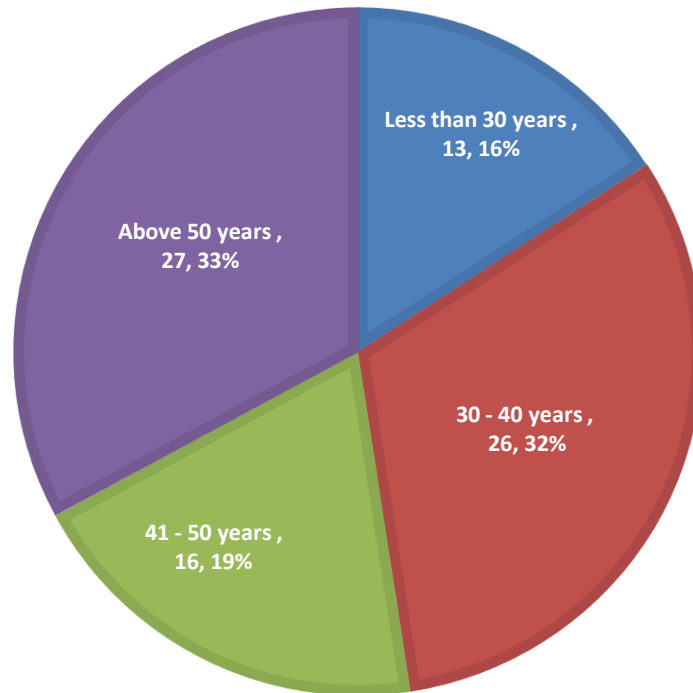


Figure 3 Age of Respondents

Source; Research Data, (2024)

The findings from this study showed that most of the respondents (33%) were above 50 years old. The respondents who were between 30 – 40 years old stood at 32%, 41-50 years was 19% while less than 30 years was represented by 16%. The findings from this study implies that the programmes being implemented by Caritas are of benefit to all the age groups within Homa-Bay County.

4.1.3.3 Level of Education

The study determined the level of education of respondents and the results are as follows;

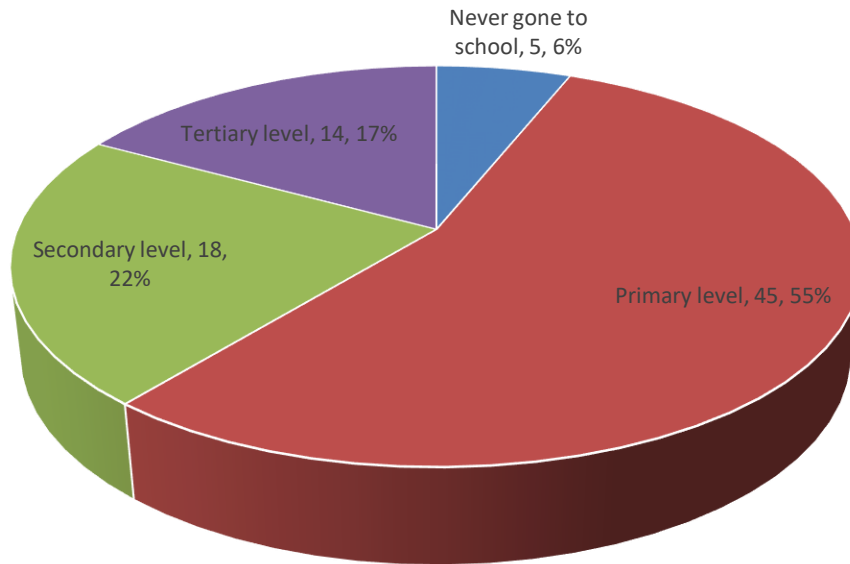


Figure 4 Respondent's Level of Education

Source; Research Data, (2024)

The study showed that majority (55%) of the respondents had attained the primary level of education, secondary level was represented by 22%, tertiary level was represented by 17%, while 6% of the respondents had never gone to school. This implies that majority of the respondents had attained the basic level of educations to enable them understand and implement projects being carried out by Caritas in Homa-Bay County.

4.1.3.4 Source of Livelihood

Findings from the study revealed the respondents' source of livelihood as follows;

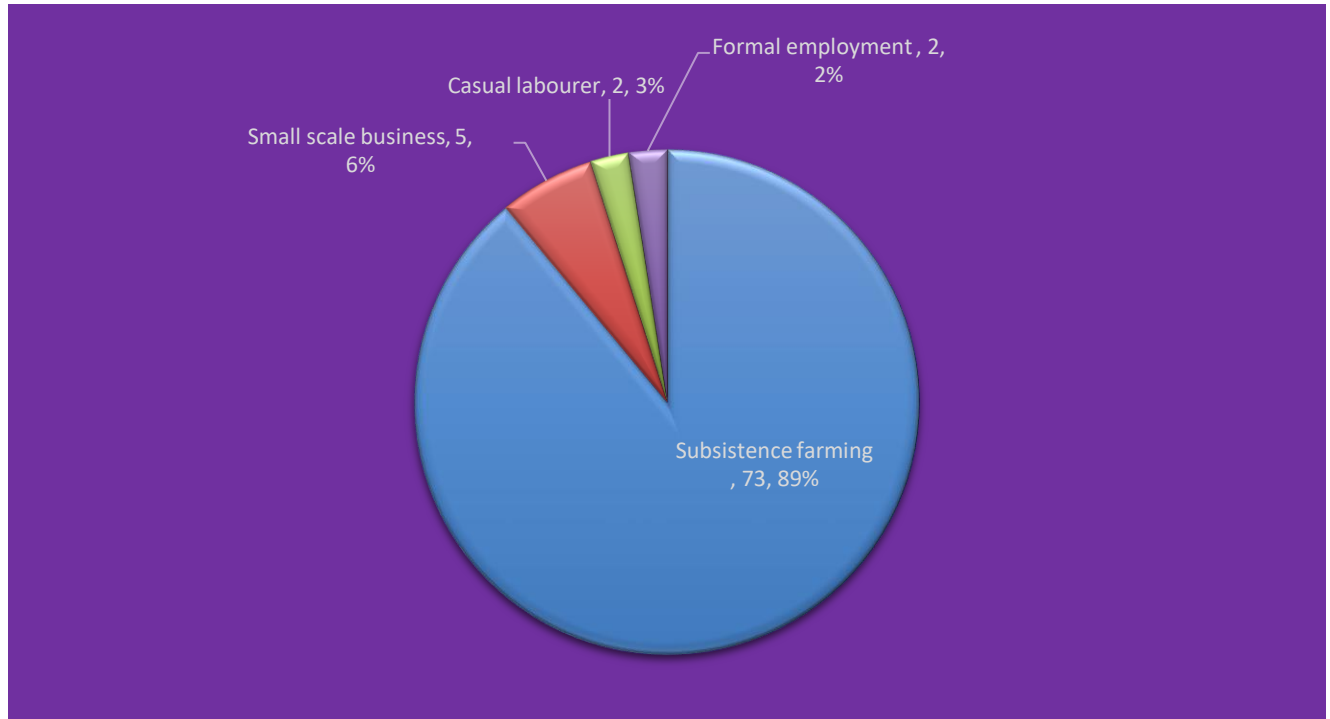


Figure 5 Respondents' Source of Livelihood

Source; Research Data, (2024)

The findings of the study showed that most of the respondents were farmers represented by 89%, small scale business was represented by 6%, casual labourer 3% while formal employment was represented by 2%. The study revealed that majority of people living in Homa-Bay County are subsistence farmers.

4.1.4 Descriptive Statistics

4.1.4.1 Youth Vocational Training and its Influence on Community Livelihood

The respondents were subjected a 5 point Likert scale questionnaire to provide their perception on the influence of youth vocational training on community livelihood. Their feedback was as follows;

Table 8 Influence of Youth Vocational Training on Community Livelihood

Statements	Disagreed	Strongly Disagreed	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	Standard Deviation
Vocational training equips the youth with skills and knowledge that supports them to live better life in future.	11%(9)	11%(9)	9%(8)	43%(35)	26%(21)		3.61	1.284
Youth vocational training has assisted the youth in gaining technical skills	8%(7)	15%(12)	12%(10)	37%(30)	28%(23)		3.61	1.274
Youth vocational training has equipped the youth with employability skills	6%(5)	20%(16)	12%(10)	46%(38)	16%(13)		3.46	1.157
Youth vocational training has equipped the youth with skills thus enabling them obtain gainful employment.	7%(6)	14%(11)	12%(10)	40%(33)	27%(22)		3.66	1.219
Average							3.585	1.234

Source; Research Data, (2024)

Majority of the respondents, represented by 43%, Mean=3.61, Standard Deviation=1.284, agreed with the statement that youth vocational training equips the youth with skills and knowledge that supports them to live better life in future, 26% strongly agreed with the statement, 9% were undecided, 11% disagreed and 11% strongly disagreed. These findings agree with the findings of Ahmed et al (2020) who established that vocational training increases peoples' earnings thereby leading to improved living standards.

Majority of the respondents, represented by 37%, Mean=3.61, Standard Deviation=1.274, agreed with the statement that youth vocational training has assisted the youth in gaining technical skills, 28% strongly agreed with the statement, 12% were undecided, 15% disagreed and 8% strongly disagreed. These findings were supported by the findings of Yousaf and Bhatti (2022) who showed that vocational training empowers the youth in terms of skills demanded in the job market, thereby leading to access to employment opportunities thereby leading to improved earnings.

Majority of the respondents, represented by 46%, Mean=3.24, Standard Deviation=1.157, agreed with the statement that youth vocational training has equipped the youth with employability skills, 16% strongly agreed with the statement, 12% were undecided, 20% disagreed while 6% strongly disagreed. These findings agree with those of Yousaf and Bhatti (2022), that contended that vocational training equips the youth with skills needed for the job market and enhances employability of the youthful population in the developing countries.

Majority of the respondents, represented by 40%, Mean=3.66, Standard Deviation=1.219, agreed with the statement that youth vocational training has equipped the youth with skills thus enabling them obtain gainful employment, 27% strongly agreed with the statement, 12% were undecided, 14% disagreed and 7% strongly disagreed. These findings are supported by those of Awuor, Mutongu, Mkutu and Omollo (2021) that revealed that vocational training creates employment opportunities for women and increase their access to the job market. The findings from this study show that as a result of vocational training, girls and women are now enjoying increased earnings, enhanced employment opportunities and most of them are socially transformed.

4.1.4.2 Capacity Building and its Influence on Community livelihood

The respondents were subjected to a 5 point Likert scale questionnaire to provide their perception on the influence of capacity building on community livelihood. There responses were as below;

Table 9 Influence of Capacity Building on Community Livelihood

Statements	Disagreed	Strongly Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	Standard Deviation
Capacity building has enhanced people’s resilience towards poverty.	0%(0)	6%(5)	3%(2)	56%(46)	35%(29)	4.21	.766
Through capacity building households have received entrepreneurial skills which have enabled them to turn crop and livestock production into money generating activities.	0%(0)	9%(7)	9%(7)	40%(33)	42%(35)	4.17	.914
Through capacity building households have gained skills and resources for effective project implementation which have enabled them to continue enjoying benefits without donor’s assistance.	5%(4)	7%(6)	7%(6)	32%(26)	49%(40)	4.12	1.137
Through capacity building households have gained skills which have adequately empowered them on sustainable farming methods.	6%(5)	5%(4)	7%(6)	42%(34)	40%(33)	4.05	1.110
Average						4.138	0.9817

Source: Research Data, (2024)

Most of the respondents, represented by 56%, Mean=4.21, Standard Deviation=.766, agreed with the statement that capacity building has enhanced people's resilience towards poverty, 35% strongly agreed with the statement, 3% were undecided, 6% disagreed while none strongly disagreed. These findings are supported by those of Ouma (2019) which revealed that capacity building has the potential of enhancing the social infrastructure owned by an individual or a community hence empowering households to be self-reliant.

Majority of the respondents, represented by 42%, Mean=4.17, Standard Deviation=0.914, strongly agreed with the statement that through capacity building households have received entrepreneurial skills which have enabled them to turn crop and livestock production into money generating activities, 40% agreed with the statement, 9% were undecided, 9% disagreed and none strongly disagreed. The findings, agree with those of Hilif (2024), which revealed that through the implementation of capacity building as poverty alleviation strategy, women's financial status is enhanced, thus improving their chances of improving their well-being.

A higher proportion of the respondents at 49%, Mean=4.12, Standard Deviation=1.137, strongly agreed with the statement that through capacity building households have gained skills and resources for effective project implementation which have enabled them to continue enjoying benefits without donor's assistance, 32% agreed, 7% were undecided, 7% disagreed with statement while 5% strongly disagreed. Rambo and Mbugua (2021), supports these findings, as their study revealed that when households are provided with support structures, food projects normally carried out to completions and the impact such projects are normally felt by the beneficiaries even after the withdrawal of funding.

Most respondents at 42%, Mean=4.05, Standard Deviation=1.110, agreed with the statement that through capacity building households have gained skills which have adequately empowered them on sustainable farming methods, 40% strongly agreed, 7% were undecided, 5% disagreed and 6% strongly disagreed. The findings of Mulei and Gachengo (2021), supports the findings of this study, since the study showed that enhancing project skills of the people in the community positively influences the chances of poverty alleviation strategies becoming sustainable in the long run.

4.1.4.3 Livestock Development and its influence on Community Livelihood.

The respondents were subjected to a 5 point Likert scale questionnaire to provide their perception on the influence of livestock development on community livelihood. Their responses were as below;

Table 10 Influence of Livestock Development on Community Livelihood.

Statements	Disagreed	Strongly Disagreed	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	Standard Deviation
Through the livestock development project, livestock productivity has improved.	11%(9)	16%(13)	9%(8)	42%(34)	22%(18)		3.49	1.298
Through the livestock development project farmers can now produce for sale.	11%(9)	27%(22)	2%(2)	38%(31)	22%(18)		3.33	1.370
The livestock development project has improved farmers' income.	4%(4)	22%(18)	5%(4)	43%(35)	26%(21)		3.67	1.197
The livestock development project has improved household nutrition.	5%(4)	9%(7)	16%(13)	29%(24)	41%(34)		3.94	1.169
Average							3.608	1.259

Source; Research Data, (2024)

A higher proportion of the respondents, at 42%, Mean=3.49, Standard Deviation=1.298, agreed with the statement that through livestock development project, livestock productivity has improved, 22% agree with the statement, 9% were undecided, 16% disagreed and 11% strongly disagreed. The findings of this study agree with those of Radeny, Rao, Ogada, Recha and Solomon (2022) which showed that improved livestock breeds have led to increase in milk production enough for family consumption and surplus for sale to retailers.

Majority of the respondents, represented by 38%, Mean=3.33, Standard Deviation=1.370, agreed with the statement that through livestock development project, farmers can now produce livestock products for sale, 22% strongly agreed, 2% were undecided, 27% disagreed and 11% strongly disagreed. The findings agree with the findings of Radeny, Rao, Ogada, Recha and Solomon (2022) which revealed that livestock development projects have the capability of improving production leading to surplus after family consumption which can be taken to the market for sale hence earning income for the farmers.

Most respondents, at 43%, Mean=3.67, Standard Deviation=1.197, agreed with the statement that the livestock development project has improved farmers' income, 26% strongly agreed, 5% were undecided, 22% disagreed and 4% strongly disagreed. These findings agree with those of Ngongolo, Omary and Andrew (2021), which showed that village poultry plays fundamental role in income generation for the population that has limited skills to engage in other income generating activities. Ngongolo, Omary and Andrew (2021), confirms that poultry-based projects allow poor households to gain income that can help them escape poverty.

Most respondents, represented by 41%, Mean=3.94, Standard Deviation=1.169, strongly agreed with the statement that the livestock development project has improved household nutrition, 29% agreed with the statement, 16% were undecided, 9% disagreed while 5% strongly disagreed. The findings of Radeny, Rao, Ogada, Recha and Solomon (2022) supports these findings, as empirical evidence from their study revealed that livestock promotes food security as livestock is a source of animal food protein.

4.1.4.4 Crop Development and its Influence on Community Livelihood.

The respondents were subjected to a point Likert scale questionnaire to provide their perception on the influence of crop development on community livelihood. Their responses were as below;

Table 11 Influence of Crop Development on Community Livelihood.

Statements on Crop Development	Disagreed	Strongly Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	Standard Deviation
The crop development project has improved crop production.	2%(2)	4%(3)	10%(8)	41%(34)	43%(35)	4.23	.865
The crop development project has enabled farmers to plant crop varieties that are drought resistant hence.	9%(7)	21%(17)	7%(6)	35%(29)	28%(23)	3.54	1.326
The crop development project has enabled farmers to produce for sale.	4%(3)	17%(14)	6%(5)	46%(38)	27%(22)	3.76	1.139
The crop development project has improved farmers' income.	2%(2)	8%(7)	6%(5)	40%(33)	44%(35)	4.17	.966
Average						3.925	1.074

Source; Research Data, (2024)

Most respondents, represented by 43%, Mean=4.23, Standard Deviation=.865, strongly agreed with the statement that the crop development project has improved crop production, 41% agreed with the statement, 10% were undecided, 4% disagreed and 2% strongly disagreed. These findings are supported by those of Adolwa et al (2023), which showed that crop development through the use of improved fertilizer increased maize yield. This represented an increase of 108% on maize yield compared to when ordinary fertilizers are used.

Most respondents, represented by 35%, Mean=3.54, Standard Deviation=1.326, agreed with the statement that the crop development project has enabled farmers to plant crop varieties that are drought resistant, 28% strongly agreed, 7% were undecided, 21% disagreed and 9% strongly disagreed. These findings, are in agreement with those of Marechera et al (2019), which revealed that the farmers who adopted DroughtTEGO, a hybrid maize tolerant to drought improved income significantly by 82% compared to the farmers who failed to adopt the maize variety.

Most respondents, represented by 46%, Mean=3.76, Standard Deviation=1.139, agreed with the statement that the crop development project has enabled the farmers to produce for sale, 27% strongly agreed, 6% were undecided, 17% disagreed while 4% disagreed. The findings are supported by those of Mango et al (2018), which revealed that crop diversification leads to increased yield, hence surplus can sold thereby improving income of the household.

Majority of the respondents, represented by 44%, Mean=4.17, Standard deviation=.966, strongly agreed with the statement that the crop development project has improved farmers' income, 40% agreed with the statement, 6% were undecided, 8% disagreed and 2% strongly disagreed. These findings are in agreement with those of Adolwa et al (2023), which revealed that crop development through the use of improved fertilizer blend led to an increase in profits of crops, hence improved income for farmers.

4.1.5 Inferential Statistics

Inferential analysis has been used in this study to show the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable, and also to show the impact of the relationship.

4.1.5.1 Correlation between Independent Variables and Dependent Variable

4.1.5.1.1 Correlation between Youth Vocational Training and Socio-Economic Development

The table below shows the correlation between youth vocational training and socio-economic development.

Table 12 Correlation between Youth Vocational Training and Socio-Economic Development

		Youth Vocational Training	Socio-Economic Development
Youth Vocational Training	Pearson Correlation	1	.538**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		<.001
	N	82	82
Socio-Economic Development	Pearson Correlation	.538**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<.001	
	N	82	82

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source; Research Data, (2024)

At a significance level of 0.01, the correlation between youth vocational training and socio-economic development was determined at 0.538, implying a strong positive association of 53.8% between youth vocational training and socio-economic development. The positive correlation implies that when the youth are equipped with technical and employability skills through training, their level of socio-economic development always improves.

4.1.5.1.2 Correlation between Capacity Building and Socio-Economic Development

The table below shows the correlation between capacity building and socio-economic development.

Table 13 Correlation between Capacity Building and Socio-Economic Development

		Capacity Building	Socio-Economic Development
Capacity Building	Pearson Correlation	1	.436**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		<.001
	N	82	82
Socio-Economic Development	Pearson Correlation	.436**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<.001	
	N	82	82

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source; Research Data, (2024)

At a significance level of 0.01, the correlation between capacity building and socio-economic development was determined at 0.436, implying a moderate positive association of 43.6% between capacity building and socio-economic development. The positive correlation implies that when households are provided with resources and skills, their ability to achieve self-reliance is enhanced and this makes it possible for the community to achieve sustainable development.

4.1.5.1.3 Correlation between Livestock Development and Socio-Economic Development

The table below shows the correlation between livestock development and socio-economic development.

Table 14 Correlation between Livestock Development and Socio-Economic Development

		Livestock Development	Socio-Economic Development
Livestock Development	Pearson Correlation	1	.418**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		<.001
	N	82	82
Socio-Economic Development	Pearson Correlation	.418**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<.001	
	N	82	82

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source; Research Data, (2024)

At a significance level of 0.01, the correlation between livestock development and socio-economic development was determined at 0.418, implying a moderate positive association of 41.8% between livestock development and socio-economic development. The positive correlation implies that livestock development improves the well-being of households since household's income and nutrition is improved. This leads to increased income for investment and food security within households.

4.1.5.1.4 Correlation between Crop Development and Socio-Economic Development

The table below shows the correlation between crop development and socio-economic development.

Table 15 Correlation between Crop Development and Socio-Economic Development

		Crop Development	Socio-Economic Development
Crop Development	Pearson Correlation	1	.514**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		<.001
	N	82	82
Socio-Economic Development	Pearson Correlation	.514**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<.001	
	N	82	82

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source; Research Data, (2024)

At a significance level of 0.01, the correlation between crop development and socio-economic development was determined at 0.514, implying a strong positive association of 51.4% between crop development and socio-economic development. The positive correlation implies that crop development normally improves the well-being of households since household's income and nutrition levels is improved. This leads to increased income for investment and food security within households.

4.1.5.2 ANOVA between Independent Variables and Dependent Variable

The table below shows the ANOVA statistics for the model.

Table 16 F-Test on ANOVA

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	29.004	4	7.251	20.390	<.001 ^b
	Residual	27.382	77	.356		
	Total	56.386	81			

a. Dependent Variable: Socio-Economic Development

b. Predictors: (Constant), Crop Development, Youth Vocational Training, Livestock Development, Capacity Building

Source; Research Data, (2024)

From the ANOVA, it has established that the factors enclosed in the model are useful predictors of socio-economic development since the p value (<0.001) is less than 0.05. This implies that, the model used in this analysis is critical in predicting socio-economic development.

4.1.5.3 Model Summary

The table below shows the regression model summary.

Table 17 Regression Model Summary

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.717 ^a	.514	.489	.59633526390

a. Predictors: (Constant), Crop Development, Youth Vocational Training, Livestock Development, Capacity Building

Source; Research Data, (2024)

In this model, the predicted variable is socio-economic development, while the predictor variables include youth vocational training, capacity building, livestock development and crop development. The analysis established the coefficient of determination (R^2) at 0.514 with the standard error of the estimation being 0.59633526390. The implication is, 51.4% of variation in socio-economic development can be explained by the predictor variables, which include youth vocational training, capacity building, livestock development and crop development. This means that 48.6% of variations in socio-economic development can be attributed to other factors apart from the independent variables under study.

4.1.5.4 Regression Coefficients

The table below shows the regression coefficients for the model.

Table 18 Regression Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized		Standardized	t	Sig.
		Coefficients		Coefficients		
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-.656	.597		-1.099	.275
	Youth Vocational Training	.305	.076	.352	4.008	<.001
	Capacity Building	.308	.145	.186	2.116	0.38
	Livestock Development	.164	.075	.189	2.188	0.32
	Crop Development	.366	.100	.320	3.640	<.001

a. Dependent Variable: Socio-Economic Development

Source; Research Data, (2024)

The following model was used in this study for the following variables, namely youth vocational training, capacity building, livestock development, and crop development.

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4$$

Where

Y = Socio-Economic Development

β = Regression Coefficient

β_0 = Constant term (The point of Intersection on the Y axis)

E = Error Term

X_1 = Youth Vocational Training

X_2 = Capacity Building

X_3 = Livestock Development

X_4 = Crop Development

$$Y = - 656 + (0.305X_1) + (0.308X_2) + (0.164X_3) + (0.366X_4)$$

This implies that, when the four independent variables are excluded, socio-economic development would be - 656. These findings reveal that a unit change in youth vocational training would lead to 0.305 change in socio-economic development, a unit change in capacity building would lead to 0.308 change in socio-economic development, a unit change in livestock development would lead to 0.164 change in socio-economic development and a unit change in crop development would lead to 0.366 change in socio-economic development. These findings also established that the four variables are statistically significant since their p values were less than 0.05.

4.2 Limitations of the study

The researcher encountered respondents who felt this study is of no benefit to them directly and as such were unwilling to participate in the study. This was solved by reassuring the respondents that the findings of the study would help Caritas to improve project designs meant to benefit them. The study area was wide and locating the respondents was difficult; this was solved by engaging household heads not participating in the study to help in locating the respondents.

4.3 Chapter Summary

This chapter has provided a summary of the findings of the study. The summary of data collected has been presented using percentages, mean and standard deviation. Data analysis was done using SPSS version 29. The chapter has outlined the findings based on research objectives and the relationship between variables has been explained using correlation and regression analysis.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter outlines the summary of the key findings implied by the analyzed quantitative data. It also outlines the conclusion drawn from the findings and recommendations suggested.

5.1. Summary of Findings

5.1.1 Youth Vocational Training and Socio-Economic Development

Findings reveal that there exists a strong positive association between youth vocational training and socio-economic development. Youth vocational training is a statistically significant variable in predicting the level of socio-economic development in the society. The respondents indicated that through youth vocational training, they have gained useful skills which have enabled them to obtain gainful employment. This has been supported by Ahmed (2020), whose findings revealed that people with vocational training, normally have skills which can enable them to be in gainful employment hence increasing their earnings and ultimately improving the living standards. This study has also revealed that, it's of significance to support the youth beyond training, by linking those who are able to start income generation activities to different markets where they can sell what they are producing.

5.1.2 Capacity Building and Socio-Economic Development

The study has established that capacity building has the capability of providing resources and skills that are essential in helping poor households build resilience towards poverty. Through capacity building household have obtained entrepreneurial skills which have enabled them to turn farming activities into income generating activities thereby increases the income earnings of the said households. Empirical evidence from this study also shows that capacity building is a key pre-requisite for the attainment of sustainable development. There is a positive association between capacity building and socio-economic development, which implies that resources and skills gained through capacity building normally leads to the attainment of self-reliance beyond donor funding. These findings are in agreement with Mulei and Gachengo (2021), who revealed that when people's project skills are enhanced, the chances of poverty alleviation strategies becoming sustainable in the long run is positively enhanced.

5.1.3 Livestock Development and Socio-Economic Development

The findings showed that as a result of the livestock development project, livestock productivity has improved. The increase in productivity has led to surplus production of animal product which are normally sold by farmers leading to increased earnings. The animal products are also a source of protein which has led to improved nutrition levels within the households. There is a positive relationship between livestock production and socio-economic development, which implies that livestock development is a predictor of socio-economic development. Proceeds from livestock production are a source of income used for investment and at the same time reduces food insecurity within households. This study has also revealed that sustainable livestock production can be enhanced through keeping enhanced breed of animals that can survive during harsh weather conditions. This was seen in Homa-town sub-county where farmers are keeping improve breeds of poultry, which have higher chance of surviving to maturity compared to other breeds. These findings are supported by those of Ngongolo, Omary and Andrew (2021), who asserts that keeping of poultry plays a fundamental role in revenue generation for the population that cannot engage in other income generating activities because of lack of skills. Empirical evidence from the study reveal that poultry-based projects allow the poor households to gain income that can help them avoid poverty.

5.1.4 Crop Development and Socio-Economic Development

The findings have revealed that crop development project being implemented by Caritas has improved crop production significantly. The respondents indicated that they are now planting crop varieties that are drought resistant thus they have been able to minimize loses. Due to improved crop production, farmers are now able to produce surplus for sale and this has enhanced their income significantly. Empirical evidence from this study indicates that there is a strong positive relationship between crop development and socio-economic development. This positive association implies that crop development normally improves household nutrition and on other hand surplus realized from production is a source income which can be sued for investment in education, descent housing and access to better healthcare services. These findings are in agreement with those of Zakari et al (2022), which showed that crop diversification has the likelihood of raising household income by \$12.57 on average. Further to this assertion, crop diversification increases the probability of households attaining food security by 7% to 9%.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, following recommendations were made;

Capacity building programs should include training on saving culture and financial management. This is to enable the households to have the capability of using the income earned from the sale of farm products prudently and also to use their earnings to scale up their production.

The national and county governments should supplement the efforts already made by Caritas in alleviating poverty through crop and livestock development. This should be done in an attempt to increase coverage of poverty alleviation programmes so that more households can directly benefit and improve their well-being.

The poor households have an opportunity of attaining financial independence through crop and livestock development. However, this can only be done if crop and livestock production are commercialized. There is need for providing more resources so that crop and livestock production is done in a large scale to enable commercialization.

5.3 Conclusion

Empirical evidence from this study, has informed the conclusion that the four independent variables are statistically significant in predicting socio-economic development and hence have a positive association with socio-economic development.

In relation to objective one, the study concludes that youth vocational training is an essential tool that enhances the ability of the youth to be engaged in gainful employment. This helps in increasing the income earned by the youth in the long run, leading to better living conditions.

Sustainable development is a goal that can only be achieved if people acquire the necessary skills and resources which can enable them to undertake poverty reduction strategies even after the termination of projects. Capacity building is effective in enhancing the ability of people to attain economic and social security.

Finally, empirical evidence from this study, has informed the conclusion that crop development and livestock development are statistically significant in enhancing household food security, nutrition level and level of earnings.

5.4 Suggestion for Further Study

The findings of this study clearly show that the independent variables are statistically significant in predicting socio-economic development. However, there is need to conduct a study on how land fragmentation affects household's level of production in terms of technical efficiency of agriculture and the sustainability of food production system

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LIST OF APPENDICES
APPENDIX I: LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

OMOLLO OCHIENG COLLINS
P.O Box 100-40404
RONGO.
20TH AUGUST, 2024

Dear Respondent,

RE: REOUEST TO PROVIDE RESEARCH INFORMATION

I am a student at the School of Management and Leadership at the Management University of Africa, Nairobi. I am currently conducting a research study to partially fulfill the requirements for the award of the degree of Masters of Development Studies (Economic Development Option) on ***Performance of Poverty Alleviation Programmes and Socio-Economic Development: A Case of Caritas International Programme in Homa Bay County, Kenya***.

You have been selected as one of the respondents to assist in providing the requisite data and information for this undertaking. I am kindly requesting you to spare a few minutes and respond to the questions in the attached questionnaire as completely, correctly and honestly as possible.

The information obtained will be used for academic purposes only, and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Your identity will be anonymous and your name shall not be recorded.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

OMOLLO OCHIENG COLLINS
0711694869

APPENDIX II: INFORMED CONSENT FORM

Dear Respondent,

I am Omollo Ochieng Collins, a student at the School of Management and Leadership at the Management University of Africa, Nairobi. I am currently conducting a research study to partially fulfill the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Development Studies (Economic Development Option) on **“Performance of Poverty Alleviation Programmes and Socio-Economic Development: A Case of Caritas International Programme in Homa Bay County, Kenya”**.

You have been selected as one of the respondents to assist in providing the requisite data and information for this undertaking. The information obtained will be used for academic purposes only, and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. I would appreciate your participation in this research study and your identity will be anonymous.

Kindly sign this consent form if you accept to participate in this research study.

Respondent’s Unique Code:.....

Signature:.....

Date:.....

APPENDIX IV: PLAGIARISM REPORT



Similarity Report ID: oid:2945:208628672

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APPENDIX V: UNIVERSITY INTRODUCTION LETTER



Date: 1ST JULY 2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

COLLINS OMOLLO MDS/11/00054/3/20

This letter serves to introduce the above named who is a (**Masters of Arts in Development Studies**) student and is interested in carrying out research on **Performance of Poverty Alleviation Programmes and Socio-Economic Development: A Case of Caritas International Programme in Homa Bay County.**

Any assistance accorded to him in pursuit of this study will be greatly appreciated.



Dr. Peter Nyaga
Dean, School of Management and Leadership

APPENDIX VI: RESEARCH STUDY QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire will be used to collect data on **Performance of Poverty Alleviation Programmes and Socio-Economic Development: A Case of Caritas International Programme in Homa Bay County, Kenya**. The information collected will be used for academic purposes only. Please answer the questions as guided. The responses you provide will be confidential and no reference will be made to any individual (s) while reporting the findings of this study.

Instructions:

Please place a tick mark (✓) in the box next to your preferred answer or write in the spaces provided as the case might be.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. State your gender

a) Male

b) Female

2. How old are you

a) Less than 30 years

c) 41 – 50 years

b) 30 – 40 years

d) Above 50 years

3. State your highest level of education

1 Never gone to school

2 Primary level

3 Secondary level

4 Tertiary level

5 Other (Specify).....

4. State your main source of livelihood (Pick one only)

1 Subsistence farming

2 Small scale business

3 Casual Labourer

4 Other (Specify).....

SECTION II: INFLUENCE OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY CARITAS ON COMMUNITY LIVELIHOOD

a) **Youth Vocational Training**

5. The following statements relate to youth vocational training. Kindly indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree that youth vocational training has influenced community livelihood.

KEY

1 = Strongly Disagree (SD); 2 = Disagree (D); 3 = Undecided (UD); 4 = Agree (A); and 5 = Strongly Agree (SA)

Statements	1	2	3	4	5
	SD	D	UD	A	SA
Youth vocational training equips the youth with skills and knowledge that supports them to live better life in future.					
Youth vocational training has assisted the youth in gaining technical skills					
Youth vocational training has equipped the youth with employability skills					
Youth vocational training has equipped the youth with skills thus enabling them obtain gainful employment.					

b) Capacity Building

6. The following statements relate to capacity building. Kindly indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree that capacity building has influenced community livelihood.

KEY

1 = Strongly Disagree (SD); 2 = Disagree (D); 3 = Undecided (UD); 4 = Agree (A); and 5 = Strongly Agree (SA)

Statements	1	2	3	4	5
	SD	D	UD	A	SA
Capacity building has enhanced people’s resilience towards poverty.					
Through capacity building households have received entrepreneurial skills which have enabled them to turn crop and livestock production into money generating activities.					
Through capacity building households have gained skills and resources for effective project implementation which have enabled them to continue enjoying benefits without donor’s assistance					
Through capacity building households have gained skills which have adequately empowered them on sustainable farming methods.					

c) **Livestock Development**

7. The following statements relate to livestock development. Kindly indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree that livestock has influenced community livelihood.

KEY

1 = Strongly Disagree (SD); 2 = Disagree (D); 3 = Undecided (UD); 4 = Agree (A); and 5 = Strongly Agree (SA)

Statements	1	2	3	4	5
	SD	D	UD	A	SA
Through the livestock development project, livestock productivity has improved.					
Through the livestock development project farmers can now produce for sale.					
The livestock development project has improved farmers' income.					
The livestock development has improved household nutrition.					

d) **Crop Development**

8. The following statements relate to crop development. Kindly indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree that crop development has influenced community livelihood.

KEY

1 = Strongly Disagree (SD); 2 = Disagree (D); 3 = Undecided (UD); 4 = Agree (A); and 5 = Strongly Agree (SA)

Statements	1	2	3	4	5
	SD	D	UD	A	SA
The crop development project has improved crop production.					
The crop development project has enabled farmers to plant crop varieties that are drought resistant.					
The crop development project has enabled farmers to produce for sale.					
The crop development project has improved farmers' income.					

SECTION III: INFLUENCE OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY CARITAS ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

9. The following statements relate to socio-economic development. Kindly indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree that poverty alleviation programmes have influenced socio-economic development

KEY

1 = Strongly Disagree (SD); 2 = Disagree (D); 3 = Undecided (UD); 4 = Agree (A); and 5 = Strongly Agree (SA)

Statements	1	2	3	4	5
	SD	D	UD	A	SA
Poverty alleviation programs have led to improved food security.					
Poverty alleviation programs have led to acquisition of employability skills.					
Poverty alleviation programs led to increased income for investment in basic education, construction of decent houses and the ability to afford quality healthcare.					

Thank you for your participation.