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### The Nexus between Family Dispute and Socio-Economic Development of Women in Alego Usonga Sub-County, Siaya County, Kenya

Jared Aineah Ngutu, PhD<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, P. O. Box 190-50100, Kakamega, Kenya.

\* Author's Email: [ngutujared@gmail.com](mailto:ngutujared@gmail.com)

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*Family Dispute,  
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Psychological Violence,  
Social Violence.*

Family disputes have continued to be a global epidemic that kills and tortures humans physically, psychologically, economically and socially. The prevalence of family disputes is higher in Kenya and many other nations as well. This study sought to investigate the nexus between family disputes and the socio-economic development of women in Alego Usonga Sub-county, Siaya County, Kenya. The research employed was a descriptive survey, a simple random technique was applied to sample 300 women, while a purposive sampling strategy sampled 40 representatives from women's groups and 13 Social Workers in Alego Sub-County, Siaya County, Kenya, making a total sample of 350 respondents. The study was grounded in social learning theory. The study was mainly qualitative, in which questionnaires and interview schedules were used for data collection, analysis and tabulation of data, hence documented. The findings revealed that many households experience emotional abuse, family violence that included verbal abuse, threats, manipulation and economic abuse. Women's rights towards economic growth and development remain a challenge in the Alego Usonga Sub-County of Kenya.

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## INTRODUCTION

Family violence, also known as family dispute, spousal abuse, battering, family violence, and intimate partner violence (IPV), is defined as a pattern of abusive behaviours by one partner against another in an intimate relationship, such as marriage, dating, family, or cohabitation. Family violence is manifested in many forms that include physical aggression or assault that including: hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, restraining, slapping, throwing or covert abuse and economic deprivation. Awareness, perception and documentation of family disputes differ widely from country to country, and from era to era. Family disputes and abuse are not limited to obvious physical violence but can also manifest as endangerment, criminal coercion, kidnapping, unlawful imprisonment, trespassing, harassment, and stalking. Understanding gender violence requires a situation analysis that recognises the effects of the larger social context on gender performances. He may view the violence as discipline that the woman deserves or has provoked. International activists continue to expand the scope of violence against women, to include cultural practices such as female genital cutting, illegal acts such as dowry deaths, the trafficking of women as sex workers, the effects of internal wars such as displaced people and the vulnerability to violence experienced by migrants in the context of contemporary globalization (Sally 2009).

Caroline (1989) asserts that male violence towards women has been a major and well-documented contribution from radical feminism that exposes women's oppression by men and advocates for protection. It has not been possible to address these atrocities not only in Western societies but also in many other parts of the world where women are dependent on men and are physically abused by men. The possible of rape, wife beating or sexual

harassment at work cuts across the boundaries of nationality, class, race and religion. Family disputes may also include murder and rape as in the case of dowry death in India where young wives are murdered because of inadequate dowries. Marijkr *et al.* (2003) assert that family dispute is one of the most widespread human rights abuses and public health problems in the world today, affecting as many as one out of every three women. It's also an extreme manifestation of gender inequality, targeting women and girls because of their subordinate social status in society. Clarion (2004) asserts that whenever conflict occurs within a country, the female gender is usually exposed to more suffering than the male gender. In many countries, including Kenya, women are socialised not only to accept, tolerate and rationalise family disputes but to remain silent about such experiences. The Kenya Demographic Health Survey (KDHS) of 2008/9 indicates that one third (31.8%) of women aged 15-49 years in Coast Province had experienced violence in the 12 months preceding the survey (KNBS & Macro, 2010). Women living in poor households, especially those in urban informal settlements, are more likely to have experienced violence at the hands of their spouses (Scott *et al.*, 2009). Studies carried out by NGOs in Kenya indicate that over half of all reported cases of intimate partner violence occur in urban informal settlements, which are characterised by high levels of unemployment, poverty and physical insecurity (Crichton *et al.*, 2008).

In Canada, 29% of women reported being physically assaulted by a current or former partner since age 16. In Japan, 59% of 796 women surveyed in 1993 reported being physically abused by their partner, and in the USA, 28% of women (a national representative sample of women) reported at least one episode of physical violence from their partner (UNICEF 1991). In Cambodia, 16% of women

reported being physically abused by a spouse, and 8% reported being injured. India, to 45% of married wives, acknowledged physically abusing their wives, according to a 1996 survey of 6902 men in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Thailand, 20% of husbands (a representative sample of 619 husbands) acknowledged physically abusing their wives at least once in their marriage (UNICEF 1991). In Egypt, 35% of women reported being beaten by their husbands at some point in their marriage. In Uganda, 41% of women reported being beaten or physically harmed by a partner; 41% of men reported beating their partner. Zimbabwe; 32% of 966 women in one province reported physical abuse by a family or household member since the age of 16, according to a 1996 survey and in Kenya; 42% of 612 women survey in one district reported having been beaten by a partner of those 58% reported that they were beaten often or sometimes. Regional Monitoring Report (UNICEF 1991). International Journal of Multidisciplinary and Current

In Turkey, violence results from socio-cultural, socio-economic, and psychological factors (Vahip & Doganavsargil, 2006). These factors include low education level, low family income, unemployment of the husband and wife, cultural background of the family, history of childhood abuse and either the man's or the woman's approval of violence (Awino & Ngutu, 2023). The study conducted by (Mayda *et al.*, 2005) showed that the level of education of women increases, violent behaviour against men decreases, while the low educational level of women subjects then to all types of family violence. This has been reflected through patriarchal norms that dominate Turkish society, with challenges in spousal relationships (Erturk, 2007). These internalised social norms lead women to perceive that violence, they believe, such behaviour must be endured to preserve the marriage (Gulcur, 1999). Also, in patriarchal societies, men do not allow their wives to work outside since they believe that a working woman would neglect her in-house duties and increase her decision-making authority to challenge them. Women who have experienced

violence at home in their childhood perceive violent acts as a normal behaviour for punishment when conflicts occur. This psychological factor increases women's tolerance towards their spouses. (Ergin *et al.*, 2006). In Turkey, such violence was perceived as a normal aspect of family life, including women themselves (Jewkes, Watts, Abrahams, Penn-Kekana, Garcia-Moreno, 2002). A Turkish Demographic and Health Survey (2003) asked a sample of women whether a husband was justified in beating his wife if she argued with him, if she spent too much money, if she burned the food, if she neglected the children or if she refused to have sex with him. Overall, 39.2% of women accepted at least one of these reasons as a justification for wife battering (Erturk, 2007). Approximately 29% of women and 10% of men in the USA have experienced rape, physical violence, and stalking by an intimate partner and reported at least one measured impact related to these forms of violence in the relationships (Black, 2011). According to Johnson & Leone, (2005), victims of repeated violence experienced serious consequences than victims of one-time incidents.

Apart from physical violence by an intimate partner is associated with a number of adverse health outcomes, including several health conditions in the form of bruises, knife wounds, broken bones, and traumatic brain injury, pelvic pain, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, endocrine and chronic stress (Crofford, 2007). Physical injuries inflicted on women cause medical difficulties such as arthritis, hypertension and cardiac diseases women of which 50-70 per experience gynaecological, central nervous system and chronic stress-related problems (Campbell *et al.*, 2002).. Victims often lose their jobs because of absenteeism due to illness as a result of the violence. Economic dependence on a partner can also be a critical obstacle in ending violent family relationships (Evans, 2007). Victims of family dispute sometimes face social consequences, restricted access to services, strained relationships from social networks and a situation of homelessness (Heise, Garcial & Mureno, 2002).

In Kenya, women engage in a variety of socio-economic activities to support their families and communities. These activities are often influenced by cultural and economic factors. Women farm through growing crops such as maize, millet, sorghum, and vegetables; they also raise livestock like poultry and goats on a small-scale entrepreneurship. They are also involved in small businesses such as selling groceries, clothing, and handmade crafts in local markets, fishing and fish processing activities. On handicrafts and weaving, they create and sell traditional crafts, baskets, and other woven products, generating income for their households. In the section of education and healthcare, women work as teachers, nurses, and in the healthcare sector, thus contributing to the social and economic development of their families. Women often participate in local community organisations and may hold leadership roles in these groups, advocating for issues affecting women and their communities. Women also engage in the informal sector by engaging in hairdressing, tailoring, and food vending for the generation of income and job opportunities, as they are protected by the law. It's important to note that the specific socio-economic activities of women can vary within the county, depending on factors like location, education, and available resources, hence setting a background to investigate the nexus between family dispute and socio-economic development of women in Alego Usonga sub-county, Siaya County, Kenya.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Family dispute is a source of violence perpetrated against women and girls, subjecting them to human rights violations, inequality, insecurity, lack of dignity, self-worth and the right to enjoy their fundamental rights and freedom in the community. Family dispute is a major problem that affects women's socioeconomic development across the globe. According to a Public Health Service report of 1990, 18% of homicides in Africa occur within families in which 1:3 of women experience family violence by husbands, thus hindering their

socioeconomic development. Straut & Gelles (1988) opined that about 1.8 million women in Kenya are battered by their husbands each year without legislative redress by the state. This scenario of injustice continues to cause family disputes against women, as well as undermining their livelihood and economic development. It's on this ground that the study sought to investigate the nexus between family dispute and socio-economic development of women in Alego Usonga sub-county, Siaya County, Kenya.

### **Justification of the Study**

In Alego Usonga Sub-county of Siaya County, Kenya, intimate partner violence affects women's livelihood and socioeconomic development. Family disputes manifested in forms of physical, economic, social and psychological violence highly influence the socio-economic development of women across the globe. The study contributed significantly to new knowledge and tried to fill the gap on the nexus between family dispute and socio-economic development of women in Alego Usonga sub-county, Siaya County, Kenya. The study will also help women victims facing family disputes, policymakers and society in engaging a proactive legislation model for security and economic development.

### **Scope of the Study**

The study focused on the nexus between family dispute and socio-economic development of women in Alego Usonga sub-county, Siaya County, Kenya and was conducted in Alego Usonga sub-county, Siaya County, Kenya. The study took a period was 12 months to gather forms of violence and their implications on the socioeconomic development of women, analysing and documenting the results.

### **Social Learning Theory**

The social learning theory by Albert Bandura (1977) explains family violence as a learned phenomenon that begins in childhood and proceeds to adulthood. He believed that humans are active

information processors and think about the relationship between their behaviour and its consequences. The theory suggests that people learn new behaviours by observing and imitating others and emphasizes the importance of observational learning, where individuals acquire knowledge, skills, attitudes, and beliefs by watching the actions of others and the consequences that follow, leading to adoption of such observed behaviours hence was pivotal in investigating and documenting the study on the nexus between family dispute and socio-economic development of women in Alego Usonga sub-county, Siaya County, Kenya.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### Research Design

Patton (2011) defines research design terms of structure that are followed in the process of conducting research constitutes a blueprint for the collection, measurement and analysis of data. The study employed a descriptive survey research with a qualitative method of data analysis and presentation. Simple random, snowballing and purposive sampling methods were used to derive a sample size of 350 respondents (300 women, 40 representatives from women's groups and 13 Social Workers). The study was carried out in Alego Usonga Sub-county, Siaya County, Kenya.

Data was collected using Likert scale questionnaires and structured interview schedules as recommended by Cohen & Marion (1980). The questionnaire was administered to 300 women, while the interview schedules were administered to 40 representatives from women's groups and 10 social workers. The study applied content validity and the supervisor to validate the research instruments. Reliability is the degree to which results obtained from analysis of the data (Mugenda & Mugenda, 1999). The raw data was analyzed by coding into themes in accordance to the objectives and constructs of the study while the Likert scale questionnaire was analyzed into descriptive statistics and presented in frequencies, percentages and tables of tendencies using Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS) and documented in the report as recommended by Powell & Renner (2003).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Socio-demographic Information of the Respondents

The study sample was 350 respondents whose demographic information included employment status, age of women, educational level,

#### *Employment Status*

Respondents were asked to state their employment status, and they responded as shown in Table 1

**Table 1: Employment Status of Women**

Response	No of women	Percent
Employed	160	45.7
Not Employed	190	54.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Researcher (2024)**

From Table 1, the findings show a greater percentage of women 190 (54%) were unemployed and only 160 (45%) were employed, hence plays a greater role in generating family income, thus improving livelihood and helping to reduce family disputes.

#### *Age of Women*

Respondents were asked to state their ages and their responses were gathered in Table 2 that the majority of women aged between 26-33 were 120 (34.3%) of the total sample, 65 (18.6%) were between 18-25, 85 (24.3%) of women also were of ages 34-41, 45 (12.9%) were between 42-49 of age and 35 (10%)



of the women were 50 and above years hence appropriate for the study.

**Table 2: Age of Women**

Response	No of women	Percent
18-25	65	18.6
26-33	120	34.3
34-41	85	24.3
42-49	45	12.9
50-above	35	10.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Researcher (2024)

### *Educational Level*

The respondents were therefore asked to state their level of education, and the responses were as shown in Table 3 below:

**Table 3: Educational Level of Women**

Response	No of women	Percent
Below Primary	130	37.1
Primary	110	31.4
Secondary	40	11.4
College	50	14.3
University	20	5.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>

Researcher (2024)

Table 4 indicates that 130 (37.1%) of women were uneducated, 110 (31.7%) had a primary level of education, 40 (11%) attained secondary education, 50 (14%) had attained college education, and 20

(5%) of the women had university level of education. This was pivotal for the study.

### **Employment Status**

**Table 4: Distribution of Women by Employment Status**

Response	No of women	Percent
Government Employed	25	7.1
Self Employed	105	30.0
Unemployed	130	37.1
In Training	90	25.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Researcher (2024)

From the data collected, it was realised that the majority of the women, 130 (37.1%), were not employed, 105 (30%) were self-employed, 90 (25.7%) were in training, and only 25 (7.1%) of the women were government employed. This clearly indicated that most women who experienced

violence were merely housewives and depended on their husbands.

### **Nature of Family Disputes on Socioeconomic Development**

The qualitative data obtained from the field clearly show that the majority of women experienced family disputes in one way or another during the

course of their lifetime, with the most frequent being economic, psychological, emotional, physical and sexual abuse. On the issue of physical abuse, Table 3 shows that 248 (70.9%) of women reported physical abuse. Physical abuse took various forms, including direct assaults on the body resulting in severe injuries requiring significant medical intervention. Weapons were used in a number of cases, and others; there was the threat that weapons could be used. Forms of physical abuse included a wide range of behaviours: driving dangerously in the car, smoking in the house when the woman has a serious respiratory condition, the destruction of

property, abuse of pets in front of family members, physical assault of the children, women being locked out of the house on cold nights and left outside until the morning, and sleep deprivation. This made some of the women absent from work, which greatly interfered with their livelihood.

### *Sexual Violence*

Responses were gathered to determine the sexual abuse, and the information is shown in Table 4 below:

**Table 4: Sexual Abuse**

Response	No women	Percent
Sexually abused	155	44.3
Not Sexually abused	195	55.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Researcher (2024)**

In Table 4, sexual abuse was reported by 155 (44%) of the women. Sexual abuse ranged across the continuum from sexual pressure and coercion, comments about women's unattractiveness, being forced to take part in various sexual acts and penetrative rape. Sexual relations were often considered to be the woman's duty and were viewed as part of an exchange in the relationship. Sex was in some cases the price for keeping the peace. If women resisted engaging in sex, they were often accused of having sex with other people. The most extreme cases of sexual abuse involved women being beaten and raped. 195 (56%) of women reported not having been forced by their partners to engage in sex.

### *Psychological Violence*

From the results obtained in Table 5, the findings show that 243 (69.6%) of women reported having been psychologically abused. Psychological violence resulted in the attribution of blame and guilt to women for problems in the relationship. Constant comparisons with other women impacted on victims' self-concept and self-worth. Another form of emotional abuse used by both women and men was emotional withdrawal, such as long periods of silence which could continue for weeks, 'sulking' and withdrawal of any interest and engagement with the partner. Only 107 (30.4%) of women reported having never experienced emotional abuse. Respondents were asked to state whether they were subjected to psychological violence, and their responses are shown in Table 5

**Table 5: Psychological Violence**

Response	No of women	Percent
Emotionally abused	243	69.4
Not emotionally abused	107	30.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Researcher (2024)**

### *Social Violence*

It was important to find out from the respondents whether they were facing social violence, and they responded as shown in Table 6.

**Table 6: Social Abuse**

Response	No of women	Percent
<b>Socially Abused</b>	101	28.9
<b>Not Socially Abused</b>	249	71.1
<b>Total</b>	350	100.0

Researcher (2024)

Table 6 shows that 101 (28.9%) of women reported having been socially abused. Frequently reported forms of social abuse included the systematic isolation of women from family and friends. Techniques included perpetrators' ongoing rudeness to family and friends that gradually resulted in reluctance to maintain contact with the woman. Alternatively, women discontinued contact with family or friends because this contact triggered abuse from the perpetrator. Other means by which women were socially isolated included moving to new towns or to the country, where they knew nobody and were not allowed to go out and meet people. In some cases, women were physically prevented from leaving the home and were kept 'prisoners' in their own homes. A greater number of 249 (71.1%) of women were not socially abused. This had a greater impact on their socio-economic development.

### *Economic Violence*

Table 7 showed that 235 (67.1%) of women reported having been economically violated. This included complete control of all monies by perpetrators, no access to bank accounts, inadequate 'allowances' given to women, and, if the woman worked, her wages were used for all household expenses, whilst the perpetrator's wages were used completely on him. In many instances, the perpetrator controlled all access to food, with food being locked in cupboards and, in some instances, women and children going hungry. Often, the various forms of abuse overlapped in the experience of an abusive event. For example, one woman reported that if she resisted sex, her husband would put her in a headlock, hold her on the bed and rub his very rough, unshaven face against hers. Only a smaller number of women, 115 (32.9%), were not economically abused.

**Table 7: Economic Violence**

Response	Frequency	Percent
<b>With a joint account</b>	115	32.9
<b>Without a joint account</b>	235	67.1
<b>Total</b>	350	100.0

Researcher (2024)

### *Management of Family Disputes*

The respondents were asked where they sought help in case of abuse, and their responses were summarised in Table 8.



**Table 8: Where Women Sought Help**

Response	No of women	Percent
No response	120	34.3
Family	40	11.4
Friends	34	9.7
Women groups	28	8.0
Domestic violence orgs	42	12.0
Medical professionals	23	6.6
Police	63	18.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>

**Researcher (2024)**

The data in Table 8 indicates that the majority of the women, 120 (34.3%), were not aware of their rights, and that is why they never reported domestic violence to the relevant authorities whenever it occurred. In addition, most women 74 (21.1%) rely on their friends and family members to help them address the issues of violence. Other women preferred the women's groups for assistance. It was also realised that 63 (18.0%) were brave enough to

report domestic violence at the police station gender section. 23 (6.6%) sought assistance from the medical professionals, and only 42 (12.0%) went to domestic violence organisations.

Responses were gathered from the women to establish the ways of resolving conflicts and their responses in Table 9.

**Table 9: Ways of Resolving Disputes**

Response	No of women	Percentage
Dialogue	102	29.1
Physically	248	70.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Researcher, 2024**

Table 9 shows that only 102 (29.1%) of the households resolved their conflicts through dialogue, and 248 (70.9%) respondents resolved their disputes physically. Economic violence took several forms, including deprivation of women by their spouses, violence resulting from sex peddling transactions and denial of women by their male spouses to engage in any form of business. Economic deprivation mainly affects women who are housewives and are not engaged in gainful employment or business. Further, economic violence has to do with differences arising out of inheritance and succession issues. Table 8 shows that 26 (21.7%) of the women reported experiencing violence almost on a daily basis. 28 (23%) reported being rarely abused, 64 (53%) of the women

frequently experienced violence, and 2 (1.7%) did not respond whether they were being abused or not. This indicates that most women do not want to come up and express their views on domestic violence, they think that they might break their families.

In order to ascertain the extent of family violence experienced by women in the study, it was considered important to find out the frequency with which they experienced violence. The findings were as shown in Table 10, where 230 (65.7%) of women sought assistance from the relevant bodies, which included police, domestic violence organisations, medical professionals, friends and families. Only 120 (34.3%) of the women failed to seek assistance from relevant institutions.

**Table 10: Frequency of Seeking Assistance**

Response	No of women	Percent
Sought Assistance	230	65.7
Didn't Seek Assistance	120	34.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Researcher (2024)**

The police department has placed considerable effort in the area of domestic violence in recent years, and the benefits are now being recorded by those who provided positive feedback about the responsiveness of the police force. However, other females reported unhelpful responses, especially from male police. No women perpetrators reported helpful police responses.

Helpful responses included: Taking control of the situation by removing the perpetrator, helping with restraint orders, charging the perpetrator with assault, arresting the perpetrator, removing firearms (some women commented that, despite their

resistance at the time, such decisions made by the police had been for the best in the longer term); and helping the woman to leave the situation by returning with her to collect possessions. Unhelpful responses included: Believing the perpetrator, viewing the woman as provoking the abuse, not taking the matter seriously and providing inadequate protection for the victim.

In Socioeconomic development activities performed by women, Table 11 illustrates the distribution of socioeconomic activities performed by women in Alego Usonga Sub-county based on a sample size of 350.

**Table 11: Socioeconomic Development Activities by Women**

Socioeconomic activity	No of women engaged	Percentage
Agriculture	150	42.9
Retail business	80	22.9
Education services	50	14.3
Healthcare services	30	8.6
Manufacturing	20	5.7
Other (specify)	20	5.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Researcher (2024)**

Agriculture emerges as the most common activity, with 150 (42.9%) of women engaged in farming or related activities. Retail business and education services follow, with 80 (22.9%) and 50 (14.3%) of women involved, respectively. The smaller percentages in healthcare services, manufacturing, and other activities highlight additional sectors where women contributed to socioeconomic development. According to the findings, agriculture emerges as the predominant socioeconomic activity among women in Alego Usonga Sub-county, with 42.9% of women engaged in farming or related activities. This underscores the significant role women play in agricultural production, contributing to food security and rural livelihoods (FAO, 2020).

The high percentage of women involved in agriculture highlights the sector's importance in driving local economies and sustaining households. Moreover, it emphasises the need for targeted interventions and support mechanisms to enhance women's access to resources, technology, and markets within the agricultural sector (World Bank, 2019). Strategies aimed at empowering women in agriculture, such as providing access to credit, land tenure security, and agricultural extension services, can further enhance their productivity and socioeconomic well-being (UN Women, 2018). Overall, the findings underscore the centrality of agriculture in women's socioeconomic

empowerment and the broader development agenda in Alego Usonga Sub-county.

The research findings in Table 11 reveal that retail businesses are a significant socioeconomic activity among women in Alego Usonga Sub-county, with 80 (22.9%) of women engaged in this sector. Retail businesses play a vital role in providing goods and services to local communities, contributing to economic growth and employment opportunities. The substantial percentage of women involved in retail underscores their entrepreneurial spirit and capacity to drive local economies. Women-run retail businesses often serve as important sources of income and livelihood for households, particularly in rural areas where formal employment opportunities may be limited (Nwokocha, 2015) additionally, women's participation in retail businesses enhances their economic autonomy and decision-making power within their families and communities (Hossain, 2019), challenges such as access to capital, market competition, and gender-based discrimination may hinder women's full participation and success in the retail sector (Kabeer & Natali, 2013).

The research findings in Table 11 indicate that women's involvement in education services in Alego Usonga Sub-county is noteworthy at 50 (14.3%). Women's participation in education services encompasses various roles, including teaching, administrative positions, and educational support services. The presence of women in education contributes to the advancement of human capital development, fostering literacy, skills acquisition, and socio-cultural awareness within communities. Moreover, women's involvement in education services can serve as role models for girls and young women, encouraging them to pursue education and career aspirations (DiPrete & Buchmann, 2016). However, challenges such as gender disparities in educational attainment, limited access to educational resources, and cultural barriers may hinder women's full participation and impact in the education sector (Kabeer, 2005).

The research findings in table 11 indicate the significant involvement of women in healthcare services in Alego Usonga Sub-county, contributing to the delivery of essential health services and improving community health outcomes 30 (8.6%) women in healthcare play various roles, including nurses, community health workers, midwives, and caregivers (Campbell *et al.*, 2020). Their presence in healthcare services is critical for addressing maternal and child health needs, preventing and managing diseases, and promoting health education and awareness within communities (WHO, 2019). Moreover, women's participation in healthcare services is often linked to improved access to culturally sensitive and gender-responsive healthcare, enhancing healthcare utilisation rates and health-seeking behaviours among women and children. However, challenges such as limited resources, inadequate training, and gender-based discrimination may affect women's effectiveness and career advancement in the healthcare sector (Newman *et al.*, 2021).

The research findings in Table 11 suggest the involvement of women in manufacturing activities in Alego Usonga Sub-county 20 (5.7%). Women's participation in manufacturing encompasses various roles, including production, assembly, quality control, and management (Scott *et al.*, 2009). Their presence in the manufacturing sector contributes to job creation, skill development, and industrial diversification, driving economic growth and competitiveness. Moreover, women's involvement in manufacturing can promote gender equality in the workforce, challenging traditional gender roles and stereotypes. However, barriers such as limited access to finance, technical training, and supportive infrastructure may hinder women's participation and advancement in the manufacturing sector, therefore efforts to promote women's inclusion in manufacturing, including capacity-building programs, access to credit, and supportive policies, are essential for harnessing their potential and fostering inclusive industrial development in Alego Usonga Sub-county (ibid).

The research findings in Table 11 indicate that women in Alego Usonga Sub-county engage in various other activities beyond the sectors explicitly listed 20 (5.7%), these activities may include but are not limited to artisanal production, informal trading, household management, community volunteering, and cultural preservation, their contributions are significant for enhancing community resilience, social cohesion, and cultural heritage (Bebbington *et al.*, 2020). Women's involvement in other activities often reflects their diverse skills, talents, and interests, and underscores their agency and creativity in addressing local challenges and pursuing economic opportunities. However, the informal nature of many of these activities may pose challenges in terms of recognition, access to resources, and social protection for women (Chant, 2016). Therefore, efforts to support and empower women engaged in other activities, including access to training, market linkages, and social services, are essential for promoting their socioeconomic well-being and fostering inclusive development in Alego Usonga Sub-county.

## CONCLUSION

Economic deprivation mainly affects women not engaged in meaningful activities and employment or business to earn income for their households and upkeep. They have developed a vast range of skills, talents and interests that creativity addresses their economic needs. It's therefore important to note that efforts to promote women's inclusion in manufacturing, capacity-building programs, access to credit, and supportive policies are essential for harnessing their potential and inclusivity in socioeconomic development. The findings tried to fill the gap on the nexus between family dispute and socio-economic development of women in Alego Usonga Sub-county, Siaya County, Kenya.

## Recommendations

- The study recommended that women should be counselled to heal traumatic effects caused by in access socioeconomic needs in their families,

Alego Usonga Sub-county, Siaya County, Kenya.

- The study recommended that the government should empower women economically to foster entrepreneurship and management of microfinance businesses for the overall development of households in Alego Usonga Sub-county, Siaya County, and Kenya in general.
- The state government should proactively enforce legislation and policies against managing the socioeconomic development of Women in Kenya.

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