

**LINKAGE BETWEEN LABOUR EMIGRATION AND HOUSEHOLD WELL-
BEING IN MURANG'A COUNTY IN KENYA**

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DECLARATION

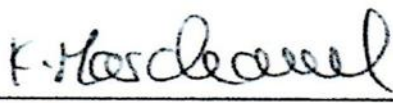
I declare that this research project is my original work and to the best of my knowledge has not been presented in any other higher institution of learning.

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This research project has been presented for examination with my approval as the institution's supervisor.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my family for their support during my studies.

May God bless you.

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To God thank you for the gift of life and enabling me to carry out this study.

I would like to appreciate the contribution of various individuals who contributed to success of this study. I thank my supervisor for devoting her time to give timely advice throughout and reviewing my drafts of this project.

I also thank my classmates for support I received from them all through our studies.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization of Management
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
NELM	New Economics of Labour Migration
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

ABSTRACT

Kenya has a net emigration rate with the main reasons for emigration being the search for jobs and education (IOM, 2018). As these migrants seek to better their lives, they also send support to their household members left behind. Labour emigrants' contribute both in financial and social remittances. Thus, the aim of this study was to evaluate the relationship between labour emigration and household well-being in Murang'a County. Guiding the study are two migration theories: the neoclassical theory of migration and the new economics of labour migration theories. They help with explaining the linkage between migration and socio-economic development aspects and how decisions to migrate are related to household well-being. The study adopted a qualitative approach, where interviews were conducted with heads of the household with labour emigrants in Murang'a County. Due to the geographical coverage cluster sampling was applied and then snowball sampling was used to identify the respondent due to the unique characteristic of being the head of a household with a labour emigrant. The study established that labour emigrants' support for investments was significant for the well-being of the family as it enabled the establishment of businesses for extra family income. The study further established that labour migrants' remittances enabled families to cater for school needs and ensure continuous class attendance and quality education. In regards to healthcare, responses indicated a significant relationship with family well-being in terms of affording medical services, emergency medical needs and care for terminal illnesses. The study thus concludes that labour emigrants support for investment, education and healthcare were significant in the well-being of household in Murang'a County.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

As of 2019, more than 271.6 million people lived outside their home countries as indicated in the World Data Portal by the United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs (UN DESA). Human beings are mobile and move for varied reasons, including economic, social, political and environmental. Some movements are voluntary while others are involuntary (UN DESA, 2019). Generally, many of these movements aim at improving their way of life (Castle, 2013). Yet, migrant's endeavors often go beyond self-improvement and they also try to help their families at home through financial and/ or social remittances (Ratha, 2013). Currently several studies exist that link migration to social economic development of countries of origin, but they refer to particular study areas and remittances effects differ across societies cultures and migration patterns.

The study seeks to establish if there is any linkage between labour emigration and the well-being of the household in Murang'a County, Kenya. Murang'a County is one of the counties created under Kenya constitution of 2010. It is in the central region of the Republic of Kenya (Murang'a County, 2018). Though it does not border the capital city it is of close proximity. This proximity to the capital city contributes to high rate of migration, internally and internationally. The major economic activity is subsistence agriculture and informal businesses in transport and shops. The County has a total population of 1,056,640 according to the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census as released by Kenya National bureau of Statistics (KNBS, 2020). Based on the interview carried out on 27

household, the study sought to answer the following research question: *In what ways does labour emigration relate to the well-being of households in Murang'a County, Kenya?*

The present study will be informed by two theories, the neoclassical theory of migration as formalized by Harris and Todaro (1970) and the New Economics of Labour Migration (NELM) theory whose major proponents are Stark and Bloom (1985). The neoclassical theory view migration as the most effective process of allowing redistribution of resources (de Haas, 2010). The NELM theory takes the assumption that the resolve to migrate is made in the family settings (O'Reilly, 2015). The two theories were instrumental in assessing the linkage between labour emigration and well-being of households in Murang'a County in Kenya.

1.1.1 International Migration

International Organization of Management (IOM) posits that international migration is the cross border movement of persons from their usual place of residence to a second country where they are not nationals. It must involve crossing of an international border (IOM, 2017). United Nation Department of Economics and Social Affairs (UN DESA) defines an international migrant as a person who crosses an international border changing his or her country of residence. The definition of the migrant does not consider the voluntariness of the movement, the course of the movement, duration of the stay or the legal status of the migrants. These factors are considered while classifying migrants to labour migrants, high and low skilled, irregular, permanent and temporary migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

Globalization and technological advancements have made international movements more accessible, and the access to information on the internet and mass media has increased people's awareness to available socio-economic opportunities across the world. This has also increased international migrant networks making migration distance shorter (de Haas, 2010). All this contributes to the dynamics of international migration and its potential effects on development.

In the Kenyan case the rate of emigration is, according to Kenya Migration Profile higher than immigration thus Kenya has a net emigration rate (IOM, 2018). As at 2014 this net emigration rate was -0.22per 1,000 persons. The main purpose of emigration appears to be labour related and education. Kenyan main destinations are the United Kingdom, the United States, and African states especially to the East African countries. In addition, there is increase of emigration to the Middle East for employment, according to Kenya Migration Profile 2018 (IOM, 2018). This forms the basis of this research which aims to understand the linkage between labour migration and household well-being.

1.1.2 Labour Migration

Labour migration in Africa continent is mostly intra-regional (80%) and characterized by the migration of low-skilled workers. Important in the region is the combination of significant migration corridors to neighboring labour markets in the search for a work and better wages (IOM, 2016). International Labour Organization (ILO) reports that if poorly governed, labour migration increase challenges for sustainable development and acceptable work standards, in countries of origin, transit and destination, especially for

low-skilled workers (ILO, 2017). When labour migration is well governed, it contributes to sustainable development to countries of origin, transit and destination, and can have positive impacts and opportunities for migrant workers and their families. It can also a balance to labour supply and demand, helping in developing and transfer of skills, can contribute to better social protection systems, enhance innovation and enrich communities culturally and socially.

1.1.3 Household Well-being

According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, 2016) household well-being is how well the people in the family are doing. The main indicators that highlight economic well-being of households include income, cash transfers, household consumption, savings, debts and unemployment. It further explains that household well-being can be described as households' material conditions, the quality of life and how it can be sustained. A multidimensional measure of development and household wellbeing as adopted by Zereyesus et al, (2016), uses indicators such as life expectancy, educational attainment and income. The present study has used indicators that include education, income and health.

1.1.4 Migration and Development

There is a compounded relationship between migration and development. Bryceson (2019) contended that migration may affect development positively or negatively depending on who is migrating into or out of a country. On the other hand development affects migration trends all over the world; this is where migrants tend to move from less developed areas to

more developed areas. The relationship can also be seen as reciprocal where migration is both a component part of development process and as a factor affecting development.

Migration was included in the 2030 Development Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognizing the role of well-managed migration can contribute to sustainable development. SDG 10 aims at reducing inequality within and among nations, and Target 10.7 specifically seeks for the facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration. Target 10.C seeks the reduction of cost for migrant remittances to less than 3% by 2030 (United Nations 2015). This was a change in global perspective from the view of migration as a negative aspect to development to a factor of development.

Migration patterns and trends may have profound consequences for demographic, social, political and economic conditions of a nation. These trends and patterns are critical for informing policymaking, for improved national accounting and planning and key factors for development strategic initiatives. The emigrants may contribute to wellbeing of households through skills transfer, direct investment, remittances and social and cultural changes. This study aims was to establish if there is relationship between the labour migration and households well-being in Murang'a County in Kenya.

1.2 Problem Statement

All over the world, migrants stay and work away from their native countries or territories of birth. Ratha (2013) contended that labour migration is normally viewed as economically benefiting the households through remittances. This may also have linkage to education,

health and socio- economic status of the household. Identifying the relationship of migration on well-being of households remains a challenging empirical question due to varying factors that influence both migration and household well-being.

Understanding the country's migration situation at State level and community level can play an important role in enhancing the nations' GDP, national security, household well-being and ensuring social economic development IOM, (2018). Migration may have impact on both household well-being and State welfare. The impact of migration on the household level is complex, it depends mostly on who in the household migrates and those who are left behind (especially age and gender) and on the duration of migration (Robin & Zubida, 2018). However, there is limited evidence on whether labour emigration was leading to wellbeing of households in Murang'a County in Kenya. This study seeks to add knowledge in this aspect by seeking to answer the question: *In what ways does labour emigration relate to the well-being of households in Murang'a County in Kenya?*

1.3 Research Questions

The research addresses the main research question posted above. Three sub-questions have been developed that will aid with answering this bigger question:

- i. What is the relationship between labour emigration and household's investment in Murang'a County?
- ii. What is the relationship between labour emigration and access to basic education in households Murang'a County?

- iii. What is the relationship between labour emigration and access to healthcare in households in Murang'a County?

1.4 Research Objectives

1.4.1 General Objective

The general objective of this study is to investigate the relationship between labour emigration and household well-being in Murang'a County in Kenya.

1.4.2 Specific Objectives

- i. To ascertain what kind of relationship, if any, there is between labour emigration and investment in households in Murang'a County.
- ii. To evaluate the relationship between labour emigration and access to basic education in households in Murang'a County.
- iii. To assess the relationship between labour emigration and access to healthcare in households in Murang'a County.

1.5 Relevance of the Study

The study is important to further the understanding of the contribution of labour emigration specifically to households in Murang'a County. The study will inform on the linkages between the labour emigration and the household well-being.

1.6 Value of the Study

This study is valuable to academics as they benefit from this study by furthering the understanding of labour migration and its relationship with well-being of migrants' households. Policymakers in Murang'a County and in Kenya would benefit as the relevant organs that can use this study to recommend, develop and implement relevant policies that would ensure maximum benefits of migration at the household level.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

In chapter there is a discussion on relevant theories, which are neoclassic migration theories and NELM. These theories are relevant for explaining the relationship between migration and household well-being. The chapter also includes a review of relevant literature on labour migration and household well-being. The chapter also provides the conceptual framework which helps to identify the independent of the analysis.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

These are theories that are instrumental in helping to explain the concept of labour emigration and how it may relate to household well-being.

2.2.1 Neoclassical Theory of Migration

Neoclassical theories discuss the relationship between labour migration and economic development. They explain the cause of migration through geographical differences between the demand and supply of labour (Massey et al, 1993). Though the law of supply and demand is applied, the neoclassical theories view the migrant as a rational being who makes informed choices. It carries the assumption that individuals weigh out the pros and cons of the available option before making a decision to migrate (O'Reilly, 2015).

Further, the theories foresee the relationship between the reason for migration and the condition that led to decision making. Migration is viewed as an effective process of allowing redistribution of resources. This happens when a migrant moves to more

productive areas or one where there are better opportunities (de Haas 2010). De Haas (2010) moves on to explain that the theory carries on strong assumption on development as a driver of migration. The first assumption is that the more developed a place or a nation is the less migration happens from that place. The second assumption is that the higher the developmental differences across the globe are, the higher the rate of migration. This theory will be applied in this study to help with understanding labour migration to areas with better opportunities and its linkage to household well-being.

2.2.2 The New Economics of Labour Migration Theory (NELM)

The New Economics of Labour Migration theory is based on the assumption that the decision to migrate is made in the household setting and may also be influenced by other network of friends (O'Reilly, 2015). The decision to move is not made by an individual alone but collectively by the household. The main aim to migrate, according to NELM, is to maximize income and to manage risks in case of market failures (Massey et al., 1993).

According to Massey et al. (1993), the NELM concept of family decision brings out remittances as a result of mutual beneficial arrangements made by the migrant and the household (Lucas and Stark, 1985). The fact that the decision to move is made with consultation of the household members, means that the migrant has obligations to meet after migration. In the present study, this theory will help to understanding the migration decisions of households and the contribution of migration to social and economic well-being of the households.

2.3 Empirical Review

This is a review on researches that have been done before that puts present study into context. In relation to the study on labour emigration and household well-being, the main indicators of well-being are education, investment come and health services. This is adopted from the study by Zereyesus et al. (2016) where they used the measure of household well-being as life expectancy, education and income. Thus the study seeks the literature of the empirical research on these topics in relation to labour migration.

2.3.1 Labour Emigration and Investment

Labour migrants have helped their families undertake investment in assets and businesses that has enhanced their well-being and living standards in many developing countries. A study by de Haas (2015) on rural Morocco revealed that households with international migrants enjoyed better living standard on average in terms of housing, sanitation, access to piped water and so on. Poeze,(2019) in a study done on Ghanaian transnational activities in Netherlands, indicates that remittances from labour migrants have enabled households to get into more risky but higher-return projects due to reduced household financial constraints. When successful, then migration is perceived to aid starting of different types of economic projects in the households possibly to increase income from local projects in the long term.

A study done in Kenya by Nyaoro et al. (2016) came to the conclusion that it is probably true that migration benefits the countries of origin but with a lot of variation. This is made possible by the fact that with migration, there is possibility of emerging markets where

people migrate, maintain their contacts, send remittances and also make various return movements. These ties are the ones that affect the well-being of the families. The maintained contact ensures family ties remain and remittances may be invested and lead to economic improvements.

Conversely, Démurger (2015) adds that migration leads to absence of a member of household who was actively contributing to the economic activities of the household. The emigrant former contribution in terms of labour, role and responsibilities may bring disruption in the way household operates. This may outweigh the remittance sent for there might not be another member of household to take up the role and ensure that the money sent is invested. Thus though the household financial status may have improved the might not be in a position to invest this Demurger,(2015) makes a conclusion that the impact of migration on household is hard to determine due to intertwined elements that may work on opposite direction.

Locally, Jena, (2017) did empirical analysis of 2009 migration and remittance survey on the relationship between remittances and physical capital investment in Kenya and found significant positive effects. She notes that while poor households are likely to spend more on food and durable goods, wealthier households can afford to invest in the future through physical or human capital. Conversely, Simiyu (2013) uses a two-wave (2007 and 2009) panel data set of rural households in two Kenyan provinces and finds that internal and external remittances are used primarily to finance consumption expenditures, rather than investments.

Odipo, Olungah, and Omia (2015) note that it is not only financial resources that are transferred by migrants, but this may also include political knowledge, likings and different ways of doing things as learnt in their host country. Using the 2009 Kenya Population and Household census, they came up with a conclusion that mostly remittances were spent on household consumption education, investment and health. They also noted that it may take time for some of the impacts of migration to be realized.

2.3.2 Labour Emigration and Basic Education

The association between labour migration and basic education for families left behind has been studied in the recent past. Bryceson's (2019) study on transnational families negotiating migration and care life cycles across nation-state borders found that the impact of migration on education and performance of children in the households with emigrants the most documented link between emigration and the households. Positively, migrants' financial and social support sent back home could enhance household resources to enable quality education. Consequently, families are able to hire laborers which frees up children's time for school. On the other side, the disarrangement in the household resulting from parents' migration, might negatively affect children's school performance.

Lam and Yeoh (2018) studied migrant mothers and left-behind fathers and their negotiation of gender subjectivities in Indonesia and the Philippines. They found that the migration of one parent could contribute to a change in family roles, in decision are made and in sharing of responsibilities within the household. This could affect school going children, either because the person who takes over attaches more or less importance to education than the

migrating person or because due to the absence of the emigrant the children may be required to help in the household work.

2.3.3 Labour Emigration and Family Health

The impacts of labour emigration on the health of the left behind have been studied by several researchers. Poeze (2019) found that the role of remittances may have greater impact if it contributes to sanitation, improved nutrition, and improved health services and awareness. Liem, Brenda and Mika (2006) add that because health conditions of the parents could have been part of the cost of migration, the poor health status of the household members may outweigh the economic benefit of migration.

Hellmeth and Lertgrai, et al. (2018) posited that temporary foreign migration has negative health consequences on family members left behind, with offspring having increased behavioural/emotional problems; impaired cognitive development; underage marriages; and experiences of child abuse In addition, a study by Wickramage and Siribaddana, et al. (2015) reveals that negotiated care arrangements and care experiences for left-behind children in their home spaces are diverse.

2.4 Summary of Knowledge and Gaps

The findings noted in the literature review suggest that the relationship between socio-economic development and labour emigration may differ in respect to geographical locations. Most of the literature looks into all indicators of household well-being. In Kenya there was the household survey that was done in 2009 and a number of researchers

including Simiyu (2013) and Jena (2017) have analyzed the investment aspect of migration and investment. Odipo et al (2015) used the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census to show how remittances are utilized. None of these studies have looked into how the labour emigration relates to well-being of the household.

Thus this indicated the relevance of the current study while seeking to evaluate the relationship between labour emigrants and well-being of Households in Murang'a County in Kenya. This study took to understand the well-being households of labour emigrants by considering both positive and negative outcomes as well as socio-economic status. This was to inform on the support given by the emigrants to the household, and the relation to general well-being.

Establishing the linkage between migration and wellbeing of households is complicated due to other factors influencing the wellbeing of the families. Example, Murang'a County has an agricultural based economy and a good harvest or better pricing of commodities could influence the household well-being. For the purpose of present study the focus will be on what the respondents feel was influenced by support of the labour emigrant.

2.5 Conceptual Framework

According to neoclassical theories, labour migration is viewed as one of the processes allowing redistribution of resources (de Haas, 2010). The labour migrants are pushed by the need to better their lives. NELM theories bring in the concept of the decision to move being made in consultation with family members. The economic and social factors that

lead to decision making and the final outcome of migration are all intertwined with well-being of the individual migrant and the household. The support given by the labour emigrant to the household may have a relationship with the access to education, how they invest and the access to health care. This is the conceptual framework guiding this research and it is illustrated in the following Figure 2.1.

Independent Variables

Dependent Variables

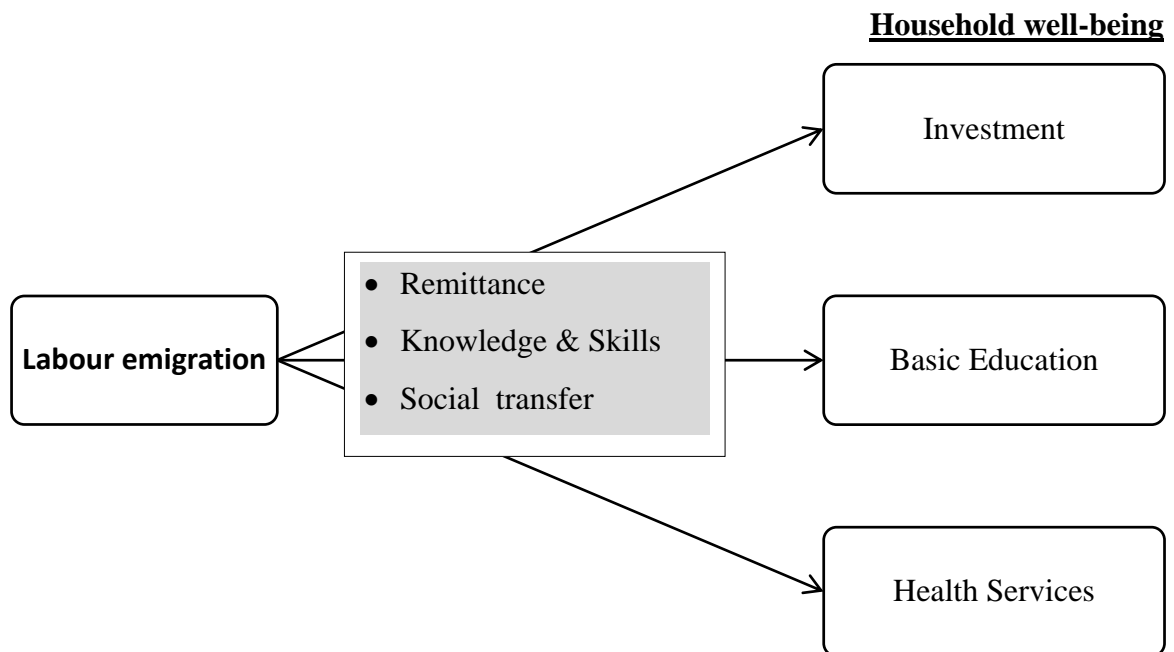


Figure 2.1: Conceptual framework

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOOLOGY AND INSTRUMENTS

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the methodology employed in carrying out the present study. It entails the research design, target population, data collection instruments and procedure, data analysis and ethical considerations.

3.2 Study Area

The present study was conducted in Murang'a County in Kenya. Murang'a County is one of the counties created under Kenya constitution of 2010. It is in the central region of the Republic of Kenya (Murang'a County, 2018). Though it does not border the capital city it is of close proximity. This proximity to the capital city contributes to high rate of migration, internally and internationally. The major economic activity is subsistence agriculture and informal businesses in transport and shops. The County has a total population of 1,056,640 according to the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census as released by Kenya National bureau of Statistics (KNBS, 2020).

Kagunda, (2012) did analysis of Kenya census data of 1999 and 2009 on characteristic of emigrants in Nyeri, Murang'a and Kiambu. She found out that the three counties were the major sources of emigrants in Kenya. Adieri, (2012) study on Indirect Estimation of Inter-Censal net Migration Rates in Kenya, found out that Murang'a, Nyeri and Kirinyaga Counties had an increase in emigration due to pressure on land, and inability to accommodate the excess labour. Adieri, (2012) went further to explain that the reason why the emigrants move out was in search of jobs, education and family reunion. Following

this information on Murang'a County was found to be a good the best placed county in the country for the purpose of the present study.

3.3 Research Approach

A qualitative approach was chosen for this research and in-depth interviews were conducted. This was informed by the aim of the study which was trying to understand the relationship between labour emigration and house hold well-being. The choice of in-depth interview was to allow learning from the respondent themselves. Also, due to sensitivity of the study conducted on head of the household as further elaborated below.

3.4 Sampling and the Study Population

A total of twenty seven (27) households were sampled through first cluster sampling due to the vast geographical area of study and two sub counties were picked out of seven. The sub counties picked were Kigumo and Kangema this were picked for their easy accessibility though they border each other at some point near the Aberdare Ranges they give a better representation of the county.

After identifying a few households in these sub-counties, snowball sampling was used to help identify more households with labour emigrants. Snowball sampling is not a non-probability technique, but can be applied when the study population is hard to locate or a hidden population (Shafie, 2010). In this case, the snowball approach was adapted due to the specific characteristic of the population (households with labour emigrants) and due to

a lack of data on labour emigrants Murang'a County, which would allow developing a sampling frame.

Interviews were scheduled with 30 household heads of migrant households in Muranga County. Actual interviews were undertaken in 27 households, where the family heads were available and willing to participate in the study. This presents a 90% response rate. Mugenda and Mugenda (2012) stated that a response rate of 70% and above is sufficient for social studies.

3.5 Challenges in Data Collection

The major challenge experienced was identifying the study population due to limited data on migrants in the county. Also, the vast area to be covered was a challenge in that being a rural setting, I had to use motorbikes or walk for long distances to get to the next household.

3.6 Data Analysis

The qualitative data collected through interview and noted down at the point of interview was analyzed through content analysis. This involves organizing, deriving meaning from the data collected and drawing realistic conclusions. The data collected was organized, similarities and differences drawn out and summarized into themes that emerged. The presentation of data was done through figures and tables.

3.7 Research Ethics

To ensure that research ethics were followed, the researcher took the following steps. Firstly, an authorization letter from the University Of Nairobi, Kenya Institute of Migration Studies for data collection was obtained. Then, the researcher informed the area assistance chief of the research she is carrying out. The researcher assured the respondents of the confidentiality and anonymity of the research process and that information gathered was meant for study purposes only. The purpose of the study was explained to the respondent and allowed to participate at own will. There was no written consent, but oral consent was given. The data collected was noted down during the interview and then went through it after interview to check if any information was not captured.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the analysis of the collected data and the resulting findings regarding the relationship between labour emigration and household well-being.

4.2 Respondents Demographic Profile

4.2.1 Gender Distribution

Among the 27 respondents of the study, there were 18 (64%) females and 9 (36%) males. This is indicative of the fact that the majority of the household heads were women left behind to manage the families, while their husbands have migrated internally and internationally to seek economic opportunities.

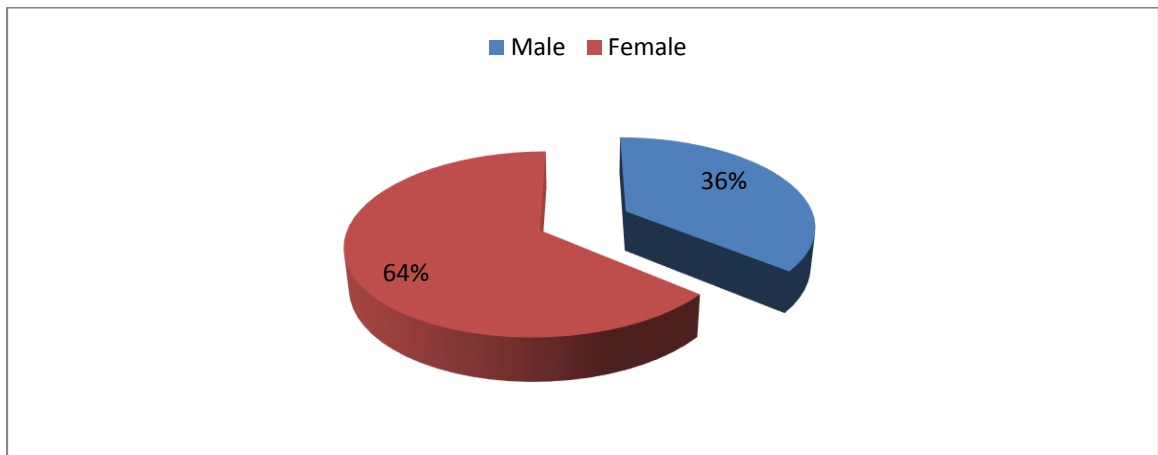


Figure 4.1 Gender distributions of respondents

4.2.2 Age Distribution

The age distribution of the respondents is also important to understand to the leadership of the households left behind in Murang'a County. The results in table 4.1 indicate that the majority of the family heads were aged 29-39 years (33.3%) or even younger (29.7%). The

number of respondents declined as the age increased. This shows that the persons heading the households were youthful and this is a possible results of the young men (since majority of heads were female) migrating to other countries or to urban areas in search of better economic opportunities.

Table 4.1: Age Distribution of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
18-28 years	8	29.7
29-38 years	9	33.3
30-48 years	5	18.5
49-58 years	4	14.8
Above 58 years	1	3.7
Total	27	100%

4.2.3 Highest Level of Education

The highest educational achievements of the family heads were also sought. Results in Figure 4.2 indicate that 38% of the respondents had attained a college diploma and/or certificate, 19% a university degree, 26% secondary level and 17% primary level of education. This result shows that family heads or the respondent in this study, have proportionately high levels of academic achievements.

Highest Education Level

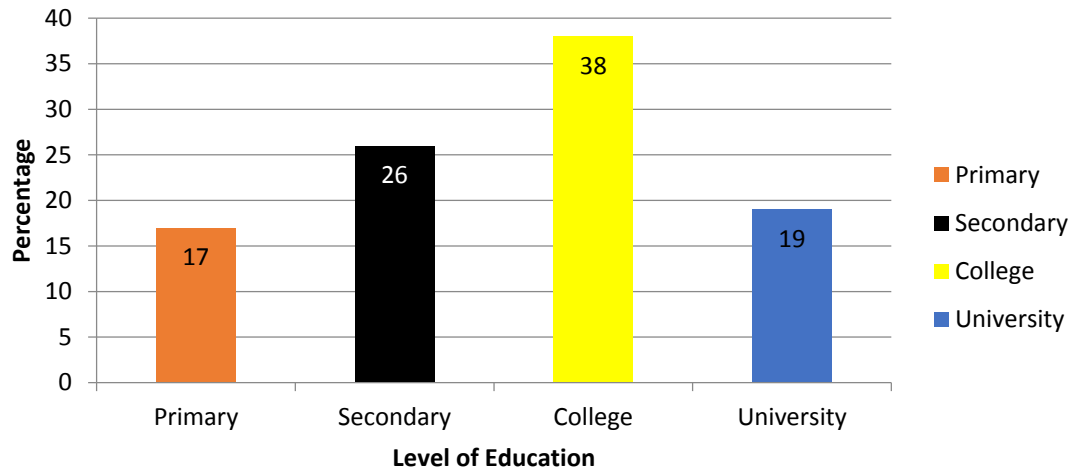


Figure 4.2: Highest Education Level

4.2.4 The Household Position of the Labour Emigrant

Results in table 4.2 above shows that 55.6% of the labour emigrants were husbands sampled, 25.9% sons, 7.4% and 11.1% daughters. This showed that the men in the households were most migrants whether they were husbands, fathers or sons. This shows a male domination in migratory trends in the households. The role of the bread winners moving to look for better opportunity is more dominant.

Table 4.2: Person in the family who is a labour emigrant

Emigrant Member	Frequency	Percentage
Son	7	25.9%
Daughter	3	11.1%
Husband	15	55.6%
Wife	2	7.4%
Total	27	100%

4.2.5 Duration the Emigrant has been Abroad

It is also important for the study to know the length of time that the emigrant has been working abroad. Results in Figure 4.3 show that majority of the emigrants (37.4%) had been abroad for 10 to 15 years, 31.9% have been away for 5-10 years, while 18.5% had been there over 15 years and 12.2% below 5 years. This shows that emigration for most families has been an experience of over 5 years and the respondents could discuss related issues out of experience, thus enhancing quality of data.

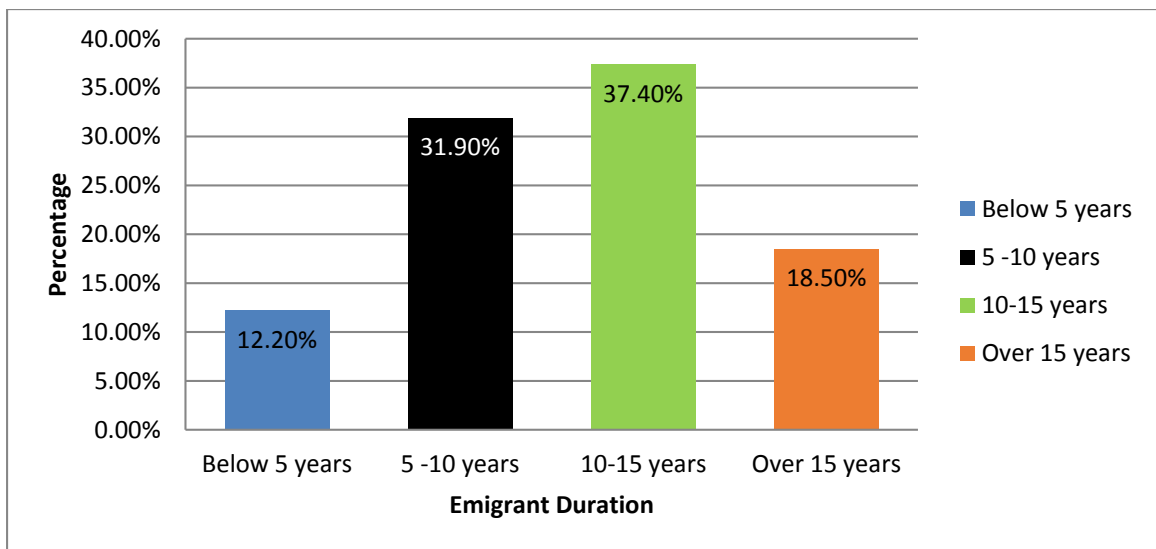


Figure 4.3: Duration the emigrant has been abroad

4.3 Labour Emigration, Investments and Household Well-being

During the interviews, participants were asked to describe how labour emigrants have contributed to family investment and how this has affected the well-being of the households. One of the key factors of investment was whether remittances from the emigrants had enabled the families to invest in entrepreneurship in support of family well-being. The responses indicated a fair acclamation of this fact (52%), thus showing that emigrants sent money to start family businesses. On what type of investment they started

most of them were farm related businesses, small kiosks near the homestead, retail shops or motorbikes used for transport business. However, others did not confirm this and indicated that remittances were not enough to start a family business, but were rather spent on other family needs like medicines, food and education.

In regard to whether the remittances specifically meant for investment was really invested those in agreement were (63%). Negating responses cited that amounts sent were used to cater for basic needs and some unexpected but important needs. Response given by one of the respondent was that the money was received during the planting season and most of it was used to pay for labour and additional farm input and little could be saved for investment. This made the investments that were made of a small scale. For example, due to being able to increase farm produce they invested in selling the excess at the local market. Some though were willing to invest did not have the capacity to start up the suggested investment.

When it comes to whether remittances were used to acquire family assets, responses were positive in 43% of cases. In most of this cases the respondents attested to that the labour emigrant had sent the monies with intention to have it buy the asset. These results are in agreement with Jena (2017), who found a significant positive effect of remittances on physical capital investment in Kenya. However, the main reason cited by the respondents that disagreed was that the remittances were insufficient for the procurement of assets and was mainly for household consumption.

The study also sought to establish whether emigrants' remittances improved the family living standards and financial status, and all respondents (100%) were in agreement. Most of the claimed that they could afford better meals had built better houses and improved on their farming techniques. They also attributed this to better working conditions for they could afford to employ some additional laborers to work in their farms making their reducing the time spent on the farms.

4.4 Labour Emigration, Basic Education and Household Well-being

Interviewees were asked whether labour emigrants' remittances have enabled the family to pay for school needs. The responses were 100% affirmative, indicating the significance of education for the families and emigrants. This was mostly appreciated by those households with students in post-primary level and colleges where the cost of education was high. Majority claimed that they would have not afforded to take their children to boarding secondary schools was it not for the support given by labour emigrants.

In regard to whether remittances have enabled regular class attendance of the children, agreement was 75%, with 25 % of respondent negating. The availability of funds enabled the families to quickly attend to emergencies like taking a school going child to hospital immediately other than when they had to first go looking for funds. This ensured that the child gets back to school in a short time reducing the time spent at home recuperating.

The study also sought to understand whether labour migrants support had enabled the family to transfer children to better schools. Responses indicated an 87% acclamation, with

13% disagreement. However, 80% of respondents indicated that labour migrants' support has eased the family burden of education enhancing the well-being of the family more generally. Thus, labour emigrants support greatly eased the family burden on education, improving quality and possible better performance of the children. In concurrence, Bryceson, (2019) study found that migrants' remittances sent back home could enhance household resources thus increasing chances for access to quality education. The additional funds enable families to reduce the need for child labour, which creates more time for children to get involved in education activities.

4.5 Labour Emigration, Access to Better Healthcare and Family Well-being

In regard to whether the support by the labour emigrants had enabled the respective family to afford quality medical services and drugs, responses in the affirmative were 96%, with 4% in disagreement. This showed that emigrants' support for healthcare was significant in the households. Further, the fact that labour emigrants enable their family to cater for emergency medical needs of the households was affirmed by all. For a few cases that had some terminally ill member the respondents claimed that the support given has gone along way into supporting the patient medication. These results indicate that labour emigrant support greatly enhances the access to better healthcare and thus quality of life and well-being of the family left behind.

The participants were also all in agreement that the support by labour emigrants enabled improvements of hygiene standards in the homestead through investments in better toilets and quality water tanks. On enquiring whether the migrants themselves contributed to the

improvement of hygiene, the response was that when they came to visit most of them have learned better hygiene practices and they tried to make their household to embrace these ideas. Example given by one respondent was that when their daughter came back she insisted on the family building their bathroom outside the house for they used to use their bedroom as bathing area. This was from the fact that the houses are semi-permanent. In agreement, Poeze (2019) found that the impacts of migration and remittances may be large if they contribute to better sanitation, improved nutrition and improved healthcare awareness.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

Majority of the labour migrants according to the present study were found to be male, that is husbands and sons. Most of the respondents have education level above the post- primary education. On the age of the respondents most of them were aged between the ages of 20 year and 50 years.

In regard to investment majority claim to have invested the money sent by labour emigrants. Though not all finances meant for investment were invested there was significant amount of investment. Even if most of the investments were small businesses they help to increase the household income. All the respondents agreed that the financial support by the labour migrants had improved their living standards and financial status.

On matters of education the financial support was found to help cater for school needs. Remittance mainly was of great help to these who has students in secondary and colleges. Also attributed to labour emigration was that students were able to attend classes regularly. Noted also was the fact that it enabled students to access quality education.

The availability of funds due to financial support from the labour emigrants was found to help most of the house hold to access better health care. Most of the respondents claim that the support they get has helped them in times of health emergencies. The household were also able to improve on their nutritional intake .Noted from the finding also is improvement on hygiene this was from both social and financial remittances.

5.2 Conclusion

The study found that the respondents, whose household members had migrated for at less than 10 years, were mostly young with families that greatly depended on them. Further, the study established that labour emigrants support for investments was significant for the well-being of the family as it enabled the establishment of businesses for extra family income. Investment in assets, on the other hand, was minimal as most of the finances went to cater for basic needs. Where assets were bought, it was mainly when the migrant sent money specifically for such purposes. The extra income from investment and assets acquired was indicator that there is a link between the labour emigration and household well-being for there was increase in income and assets that lead to improvement in household well-being.

The study further established that labour migrants' remittances enabled families to cater for school needs and ensure continuous class attendance and quality education for the children. The study established that this was mostly helpful to those households with students in post- primary which is more expensive. For the elementary school the support given helped to ensure all school needs are met and some cases transfer of students to better schools. This shows a linkage between the labour migration and improvement in access to basic education which was an improvement in the well-being of the household.

With regards to healthcare, respondents indicated a significant relationship with family well-being in terms of affording medical services, emergency medical needs and terminal illness. Social remittances were noted to help in improvement of hygiene and sanitation

improving on well-being of the households Overall the study established that labour emigrants' support for health care was the most significant for the well-being of their families left behind in Murang'a County.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, several recommendations can be put forward. Regarding investments, the county government should formulate capacity building programmes to sensitize households on the best investment opportunities in the county. Further, the emigrants should access updates on investment opportunities to promote family and national growth. There should also be programmes that allow the migrants to access direct investments. This would avoid cases where the money meant for investment was not invested like indicated in the findings.

5.4 Suggestions for Further Research

Further studies should be the undertaken in large establish better results that can be generalized not only In Murang'a County but also in other counties to establish if migration has different effects in different regions.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: INTERVIEW GUIDE

The study aims to evaluate the linkage between labour emigration and household well-being.

SECTION A: SOCIAL-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

1. Gender

Male ()

Female ()

2. Age

Below 18-28 ()

Age 29-38 ()

Age 39-48 ()

Age 49-58 ()

Above 58 ()

3. Highest level of education.

Primary level ()

Secondary school level ()

College Level ()

University Level ()

4. Who in the family is a labour emigrant?

Son ()

Daughter ()

Husband ()

Wife ()

Others (Please Specify).....

5. How long has the family member been abroad?

Below 5 year ()

5-10 years ()

10-15 years ()

Above 15 years ()

SECTION B: INVESTMENT

6. Labour emigrants' investment support and family well-being guiding questions

6.1 Are Labour emigrant's remittances sufficient for family investment?

6.2 Has support sent by the labour emigrant enabled the family to start or increase family owned business?

6.3 Has remittances sent by the labour emigrant has enabled the family to buy asset?

SECTION C: ACCESS TO BASIC EDUCATION

7. Labour emigrants' access to basic education support and family well-being Guiding questions

7.1 Have Labour migrants remittances enabled family to pay for school needs?

7.2 Has Labour migrants remittance enabled regular class attendance of the children?

7.3 Has Labour migrants support enabled family to transfer children to better elementary schools?

- 7.4 Has Labour migrants support eased the family burden of education enhancing the well-being of the family

SECTION D: HEALTH SERVICES

8. Labour emigrants' access to better healthcare support and family well-being guiding questions

- 8.1 Has Labour emigrants support enabled the family to afford quality medical services?
- 8.2 Has Labour emigrants support enable family to cater for emergency medical needs of households?
- 8.3 Has Labour emigrants support significantly enhanced hygiene in the family homestead.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

APPENDIX II: ORIGINALITY REPORT

LINKAGE BETWEEN LABOUR EMIGRATION AND HOUSEHOLD WELL-BEING IN MURANG'A COUNTY IN KENYA

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