EFFECTS OF MOMBASA COUNTY ACTION PLAN DESIGN ON PREVENTION OF YOUTH RADICALISATION INTO VIOLENT EXTREMISM

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ABSTRACT

This study assessed the effects of Mombasa County Action Plan (MCAP) design on prevention of youth radicalisation into violent extremism. The study adopted systems theory. Data from both qualitative and quantitative sources were used in the descriptive research design study. The study had a target population of 113 and all of them participated in the study as respondents, they comprised of: 27 National Government Officers, 20 County Government officers and 66 Civil Society Organisations workers. Information was collected from the respondents using questionnaires that posed closed and open-ended questions framed to address the study variables. The data was analyzed using both qualitative and quantitative methods by the researcher. With the aid of SPSS, descriptive and inferential statistics were utilized to examine the quantitative data, while theme analysis was employed to investigate the qualitative data. The study established that MCAP design had an influence on prevention of youth radicalisation. The study concluded that MCAP design affect prevention of youth radicalisation into violent extremism. The research insights were that the National and County Governments in collaboration with the Civil Society Organisations should allocate adequate funds to support programs and activities geared towards fighting youth radicalization.

Key Words: Violent Extremism, Mombasa County Action Plan, Prevention

INTRODUCTION

Many recent societal disputes are intertwined, highlighting two unique but related difficulties for global, regional, national and local governments: the rise of violent extremism and its transnational expansion and the governance of increasingly varied, multi-cultural societies (UNDP, 2016). Violent extremism manifests itself in a different ways in accordance with the environment where it develops. According to the UN Plan of Action on PVE, Violent Extremism is a complex subject, which is not new or exclusive to a specific region, nationality, belief system or school of thought.

Over the last 10 years, Kenya has had a continuous rise in terrorist episodes and violent extremism. These incidents together with economic, social and political complaints have been the primary causes of violence, (Search for Common Ground (SFCG), (2018). These actions' effects on infrastructure, physical and human capital, productivity, and economic growth have been the most felt. (UNDP, 2017). The largest refugee camps have traditionally been grounds for recruiting terrorists in Kenya, such as Dadaab or Kakuma (UNDP, 2017), and recruitment is now much more widespread, as criminal and terrorist activities are increasing in the region.

The youth in Kenya are more vulnerable to radicalism and extremist recruitment due to lack of economic and social possibilities, as well as political marginalization (Njambi, 2017). Research has shown that irrespective of the religious orientation or their cultural background, both boys and young men in slums are frequently approached for recruitment by al-Shabaab or ISIS (Njambi, 2017), with youth who are uneducated and unemployed being more vulnerable. Similarly, Hellsten (2016) reported that recruitment to radicalization is active throughout the Country's border regions; where by high numbers of youth are joining terrorism groups. This is evident that youth radicalization is a serious issue in Kenya which needs urgent attention.

In 2016 Kenya developed and launched an election strategy to counter violence extremism, the National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism (NSCVE). The NSCVE has been cascaded to all 47 counties in Kenya in form of County action plan. In Mombasa County, the Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (MCAP-PCVE) was developed and launched in 2017 through coordinated efforts by the National and County government and civil society organisations (SFCG, 2018). The action plan has been instrumental in mapping out objectives, activities, timelines and resources required for the execution of the laid down plan (Government of Kenya, 2020). Radicalization in Mombasa has been driven by historical land injustices and the issue of skewed land ownership became the rallying call for Mombasa Republican Council (MRC). Therefore, the coastal people who live within the ten-mile strip were not part of colonial Kenya but were erroneously included in independent Kenya during independence in 1963 (Njambi 2017). Additionally, Njambi (2017) highlighted that perceived marginalization, victimization and other socio-economic issues have contributed to vulnerability of youths to radicalization into violent extremism.

The County Action Plans Implementation is headed by National Government Administrators with the intelligence security committees and the County Engagement Foras comprised of people from the National and County Governments Ministries, Departments and Agencies, CSOs, private sector, donor communities, FBOs, youth representatives and a secretariat (SFCG, 2018). Each and every member of these groups has their level of discretion and autonomy in discharging their duties. Despite such numerous efforts by the government to prevent violent extremism acts, Kenya is still faced by a rise in youth radicalisation and recruitment into violent extremism and participation in Al-shabaab operations within the Country especially in Mombasa County (Bryden & Bahra, 2019). In the recent VE attacks in Kenya, youths of Kenyan origin have actively (as operators) and passively (as aids), participated in carrying out attacks; the cases of attacks in Westgate 2013, the Garissa University in 2015 and the 14 Riverside complex drive attack of 2019 (Bryden & Bahra, 2019). This therefore, shows the extent of penetration of Al-shabaab militants in Kenya indicating the threat posed to vulnerable youths to radicalization into violent extremism come terrorism.

In addition to the deaths, suffering, and pain it has caused, terrorism in Kenya has also made people feel more insecure. The country's economy has suffered as a result, particularly in the tourism industry, which is a major economic activity in the Kenyan Coast, with it being the main economic activity in Mombasa County (Hellsten, 2016). This shows the extent to which youth radicalization is affecting individuals, communities and the economic develop of the Country, despite numerous efforts by the government to prevent violent extremism acts. Therefore, it is on this background that this study purposed to establish the effects of MCAP design on prevention of youth radicalisation into violent extremism.

Statement of the Problem

Despite numerous efforts by the government to prevent violent extremism acts, Kenya is still faced by a rise in youth radicalisation and recruitment into violent extremism and participation in Al-shabaab operations within the Country. In the recent VE attacks in Kenya, youths of Kenyan origin have actively (as operators) and passively (as aids), participated in carrying out attacks. These include; the cases of Westgate attack of 2013, the Garissa University attack of 2015 and the 14 Riverside complex drive attack of 2019. This therefore shows the extent of penetration of Al-shabaab militants in Kenya indicating the threat posed to vulnerable youths to radicalization into violent extremism come terrorism.

In Kenya, terrorism has led to a rise in instability and a feeling of unease as well as the loss of life, personal suffering, and sadness. The latter has had a detrimental effect on the economy of the nation, particularly in the tourism industry, a significant economic activity along the Kenyan Coast and the primary economic activity in Mombasa County.

Efforts by the government of Kenya have included the developing and launching the National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism (NSCVE). The NSVCE has been cascaded to all the forty-seven (47) counties through formation of County Action Plans for countering and preventing radicalisation into violent extremism. MCAP-PCVE was developed and launched in May 2017; however, youths have continuously been radicalized into violent extremists and further participate in criminal gangs, juvenile gangs and terrorist group attacks in the nation despite these efforts.

This has prompted an investigation to whether the policy document in place has yielded any results from its launch and subsequent implementation. There is limited documentation on effects of the actions undertaken by the state and non-state actors, which can give actual account on the status of youth radicalisation into violent extremism.

Objective of the study

This study assessed the effects of Mombasa County Action Plan design on prevention of youth radicalisation into violent extremism. The study was guided by the following research question;
- What are the effects of the Mombasa County Action Plan design on prevention of youth radicalisation into violent extremism?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Review of Related Literature

Policy Design

Policy design involves efforts for systematically developing efficient and effective policies by means of application of knowledge on policy gained through experience and reason in developing and adoption of action plans that can succeed in achieving the desired goals or objectives in specific strategic contexts (Howlett, 2014). The object of the design depends on what is actually designed for, who designs it, how they do it, and why the design decisions are made, are all subjects that require clarification.

The design of policies extends both to the means and mechanisms by which the objectives are implemented, as well as to the objectives themselves, since the articulation of the objectives inevitably consider feasibility, or what is practical or likely to be achieved in given conjectural circumstances or situations in the light of the means available (Howlett, 2014). The development of objectives and resource choices at the program level, for example, is part of a broader governance context in which groups of institutions, players and practices are "predefined" and constitute the "environment" or context in which policy development occurs (Howlett, 2014).

It is prudent for policy makers to incorporate in formulating policies, the knowledge that the exact processes for making policy decisions vary considerably across area of jurisdiction and sectors and they reflect the great differences and nuances, existing among different forms and also within particular configuration of different matters, actors and situations of any type, deal with specific areas or sectors of a function, (Howlett, Ramesh &Perl 2009). Some policy decisions will be more contingent and "irrational" as they are not motivated by careful deliberation but are more of situational logics and opportunism, (Eijlander, 2005; Franchino & Hoyland 2009).

When it comes to what is designed, policy makers create strategy alternatives. These include other government action options on how they can be implemented to address identified issues. The alternatives are made of different combinations of the policy elements as described above: policy goals, objectives and the means, tools and their policy parameters. Linder and Peters (1990) have pointed out that, although all these policy elements are present within a clearly outlined design, policy tools are particularly important in this process, because they are the techniques by which the objective of a state occurs. Policy elements are the subject of deliberations and activities in all stages of policy-making processes and have an impact both on the policy-making and formulation processes, and also on the implementation and evaluation of decision-making policies (Howlett, Ramesh & Perl, 2009).

These tools have a distinct place reviewing and studying policy design as when taken together, they constitute the content of the toolbox that governments must choose for public policies development or creation. Policy design enables elevation on analysis and practice of selecting policy instruments, in particular zamanian policy implementation tools, as the center of the study, thus basing their analysis and understanding a key concern in design, (Linder & Peters, 1990). When a policy is not designed effectively, it does not articulate or respond to the objectives of its formulation, so that even the implementation of the policy will not be a solution to the existing situation or problem. It is prudent that policy design be effective in order to achieve the desired results.

The link between policy design and implementation
The policy design process will affect the actual outcome of the policy. Theodelou and Kofinis (2004) agree that policy design sets the stage for successful implementation. The step-by-step paradigm acknowledges how the many phases of the policy-design process interact with one another and between different representatives who play different roles in the process. In the policy-making process, the link between policy design and policy implementation is fundamental and is crucial to policies' success or failure.

A good policy design is similar to good implementation tools, hence suitable for an effective policy and therefore the likelihood of a positive outcome will be increased if potential implementation issues are taken into account during the policy-making phase (Hill & Hupe, 2009). Hogwood and Gunn (1984) argued that for a policy to be implemented it should be based on an effective theory that considers cause and effect. Hill and Hupe (2007) argued that, if the term "policy development" refers to the whole policy-making processes, then

policy implementation and development refer to the "initial" and "late" sub-processes of that process, respectively.

Theodoulou and Kofinis (2004) identify the lack of clarity of goals in policy-making as one of the factors that can hinder successful implementation. This is so that policies may be evaluated more accurately for accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness. A clear and definite purpose also gives direction. For Egonmwan (1984), 'an inadequate definition of goals renders a policy that lacks clarity, internal coherence and compatibility with other policy goals, making the successful implementation of such a policy problematic. Therefore, decision-makers should be aware that poorly designed policies or policies whose goals and objectives are not clear are imperfect and can never be implemented effectively. Hence, in order for a better policy to be implemented, policy developers and implementers must ensure that the policy design is suitable for addressing the nature of the issue and that it does not complicate the policy implementation process. It is therefore clear from this documentation that successful policy implementation depends on effective policy design.

During implementation, many important policy decisions are actually taken by government officials and other stakeholders (Therkildsen, 2001). This implies that policies and measures are dynamically linked and that policies may be subject to interpretation and modification, and even subversion, by the actors involved in their implementation (Barrett and Fudge, 1981). Therefore, the process focus is entirely expressed within the setup between policy and action, which implies that at the implementation stage, there is continuation of policy development (Hill & Hupe 2007). While Therkildsen (2001) and Gornitzka et al (2002) agree that implementation involves both the execution of policy objectives and the reformulation and recasting of original intentions and plans, the available literature does not indicate the intentions of reformulation and recasting in the way in which these political outcomes contribute to the success of the organisation.

Theoretical Framework

Systems Theory
Since its initial introduction in the 1950s, the systems theory has been applied to understand biological, social, physical elements and how they exist within a lager environment (Lai & Lin, 2017). The theory has a tripartite lens that analyses the social organisation of a system, the human participants within the organisation and the environment and how these three are interdependent.
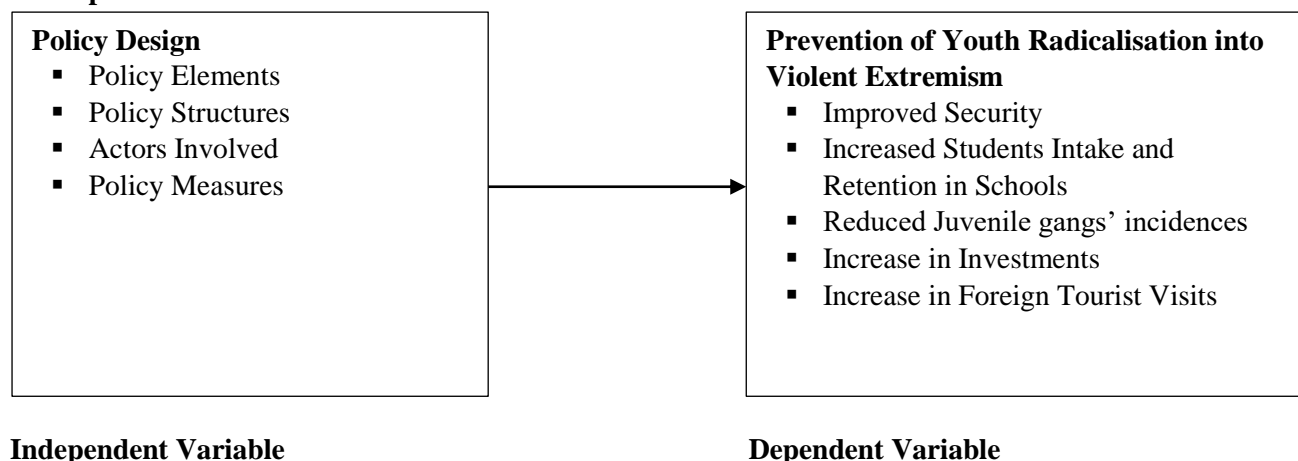
Giving the conclusion that one component cannot exist without the other. However, porous boundaries exist between the components of the system that allow receipt and export of products that are crucial for the survival of the system within a given environment.

In policy design and implementation coupled with bureaucratic decision, the systems theory becomes applicable on the basis that the entire system is bigger than the summation of its parts. The ability to see the whole system and understand the interconnectedness of its elements (Emes & Griffiths, 2018). The process by which inputs are received and the elements within the system work together to transform them into outputs that are beneficial to the environment in which the system exists (Lai & Lin, 2017). For the success of this production process, the system operates with negative and positive feedback. The negative feedback helps to correct errors while positive feedback helps to either improve or grow the system. The policy life cycle is therefore the system.

According to Emes and Griffiths (2018), the systems theory when applied therefore improves policy design as it assists in improving understanding of stakeholder needs throughout the policy life, expands cost and schedule estimates and generally improves the project strategy. The systems thinking is thus mainly applicable

during the policy design phase where feasibility studies are conducted to identify the problem and stakeholder needs, the project scope is defined and a cost-benefit analysis is undertaken. The theory's applicability to the study, is because it gives perspective to the need for a holistic approach during policy design phase of PVE projects to their implementation. It implies that systems thinking could improve the quality of policy designs consequently improve the policy implementation process.

Conceptual Framework

Policy Design	Prevention of Youth Radicalisation into Violent Extremism
▪ Policy Elements	▪ Improved Security
▪ Policy Structures	▪ Increased Students Intake and Retention in Schools
▪ Actors Involved	▪ Reduced Juvenile gangs' incidences
▪ Policy Measures	▪ Increase in Investments
	▪ Increase in Foreign Tourist Visits

Independent Variable   **Dependent Variable**

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

Source: Researcher 2021

METHODOLOGY

Research Design: In this study, a descriptive survey design was used. The study utilized the design to collect information on the County Action Plan policy design on preventing youth radicalisation into violent extremism in Mombasa County, using questionnaires. This was done without manipulation of any study variables.

Study Variables: This study considered the independent and dependent variables in determining its results. The independent variable was policy design while violent extremism was the dependent variable.

Location of the Study: Mombasa County was the study area. The County is situated in the Coast region, close to the Indian Ocean. It shares borders with Kwale County in the southeast of the Coast and Kilifi County to its north and southwest. It has 6 sub-counties, 11 divisions, 41 locations, and 63 sub-locations (Mombasa County Fact file, 2019). It has a population of 1.208 million people and covers a total area of 294.7Km^2 (229.7Km^2 land and 6 water) (National Census of Kenya, 2019). The research was carried out in three sub-counties, Likoni, Mvita, and Kisauni, which had had rampant cases of radicalisation into violent extremism.

Target Population: The primary participants in this investigation were the study population, which included the Prevention of Violent Extremism. These included; National Government Officers, County Government Officers Civil Society organizations (CSOs). The participants drawn from the CSOs emanate from all 33 CSOs enlisted in the MCAP-PCVE Report (2018). The study population for this investigation was shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

Study Population

Entity	Category	Position held	Total Number of officers	Total
National Government	Ministry of interior and coordination of national government	County Security Intelligence Committee	**7**	
	Ministry of Education	County Director	1	
		Sub-county education officers	6	
	Ministry of youth affairs	County Director	1	
		Sub-county youth officers	6	
	Department of Interior and citizen support	Deputy County Commissioners	6	
				27
County Government	CVE Directorate	CVE director	1	
		Directorate officers	6	
		Sub county administrators	6	
				13
	Department of youth and sports	Director	1	**7**
		Sub county officers	6	
Civil Society Organisations	NGOs	Directors	12	
		CVE program Officers	12	
	CBOs	Directors	16	
		CVE program Officers	16	
	FBOs	Directors	3	
		CVE program Officers	3	
	Other	Directors	2	
		CVE program Officers	2	66
Total study population				**113**

Sampling Techniques: This study used a census sample size. A census is a study of each individual, group, or aspect of a population. Census is a total of every component in a population (Powell, 2004). The population was small; hence the study sampled all the 113 to participate in the study.

Sample size:

The study sample was 113 participants, comprising of 27 participants from the National Government, 20 from the County government and 66 participants from the civil society organizations. The respondents participated directly in implementing the Action Plan on Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism in Mombasa County, therefore they gavel information that was useful in this study.

Research Instruments: Questionnaires were used to collect data for this investigation. There were both closed and open-ended questions in the tool. The open-ended questions were meant to elicit qualitative comments on the thoughts of respondents on the research aims, while the closed-ended questions let the researcher collect quantitative data necessary for statistical analysis.

Pilot Study: The tools underwent preliminary testing before they were utilised in the actual exercise of collecting data. The study sampled 11 respondents from the National government, County government and

Civil Society Organizations. The individuals who participated in the pre-test did not take part in the actual data collection exercise.

From their feedback, appropriate modifications were applied to the data collection tools. The pilot study's findings were applied to test whether the instruments would be effective, such that the questions would be clear and comprehensible. The dependability and soundness of the research instruments were ascertained from this exercise.

Validity: In order to confirm the surveys' validity, the researcher made sure that the instruments lacked any systematic, face, and content errors. In addition, the researcher scrutinized the research instruments and compared them with the set objectives to ensure that they contain all the information that adequately addresses the research questions. Further, the researcher consulted a subject expert who went through the instruments and ensured that the items in the tools were relevant, adequate, clear and precise. Feedback from the subject expert was used in revising the questionnaires whereby ambiguous questions were re-written and those that were not relevant were deleted.

Reliability: During the pilot phase, the questionnaires were given to the 11 respondents twice over the course of one week in order to determine the reliability of the instruments. Cronbach's alpha was used to calculate and compare the results from the two administrations, and a coefficient of 0.878 was achieved, indicating the validity of the tools.

Data Collection Techniques: Primary data was collected using questionnaires. The administration technique used to get the data involved dropping and collecting the questionnaires from the chosen respondents. However, some were emailed to respondents who were inaccessible in person for one reason or another. Follow-up was conducted using telephone calls, short message services (SMS), email, and personal visits.

Data Analysis and Presentation: Data analysis interprets data gathered from respondents through logical reasoning to determine relationships or trends. Questionnaires were meticulously reviewed after data collection to make sure they were correctly completed. To examine the data gathered, the researcher used both qualitative and quantitative data analysis methodologies. Thematic analysis was used to analyze, classify and present themes of the qualitative data in form of patterns that relate to the data. The outcomes were presented in the findings to elaborate on the self-reported data from the questionnaires.

Descriptive statistics are properties of a data set as it describes the data, whereas inferential statistics use the sample descriptive statistics to make inferences about the population (Sutanapong & Louangrath, 2015). Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics, with the aid of SPSS. Through correlation and regression analysis, the influence of independent variables on the dependent variable was determined. Data was displayed in the form of graphs and tables.

FINDINGS

Response Rate: From the 113 questionnaires that were given to the respondents, only 93 respondents filled the tools appropriately and returned. This is illustrated in table2:

Table 2.
Response Rate

Category	Administered	Responded	Return Rate
Participants from National Government	27	21	18.58%
Participants from the County Government	20	12	10.62%
Participants from Civil Society Organizations	66	60	53.10%
Total	**113**	**93**	**82.3%**

Table 2 showed that majority 60 (53.1%) of the participants were from the civil society organizations. Participants from the National government who were 21 in number accounting for 18.6% of the sample size. Lastly, participants from the County government of Mombasa were the least represented by 12 respondents, which was 10.62% of the sample size.

The study's response rate was 82.3%, as shown in Table 2. According to Saleh and Bista's (2017) guideline that a response rate of at least 75% is necessary to conduct data analysis, the study got enough responses, and the sampled data was suitable for analysis and extrapolating study results. As a result, this approved the data analysis and result display.

Demographic Data: The purpose of the study was to gather demographic data from participants in national, county, and civil society organizations. Age, education level, and gender were all factors in the measurement. Table 3 provided the findings.

Table 3.
Respondents' Demographic Information

Demography	Category	Frequency (n = 93)	Percentage (n = 93)
Gender	Male	55	59.14%
	Female	38	40.86%
Age (Years)	18-25	16	17.2%
	26-30	16	17.2%
	31-40	37	39.78%
	41-50	20	21.51%
	50 and Above	4	4.31%
Level of Education	Primary	2	2.15%
	Secondary	15	16.13%
	Undergraduate	41	44.09%
	Post-graduate	35	37.63%

The respondents' gender, age, and level of education were shown in Table 3. 93 respondents to the survey provided their gender (55 males and 38 females). Male respondents made up 59.14% of the sample, while female respondents made up 40.86%. There is a balance between the sexes, according to the distribution of responders by gender. Despite the male percentage being slightly higher, the results indicate that the two-thirds (2/3) gender rule has been applied in both governmental and non-governmental organizations.

In terms of the respondents' ages, the findings reveal that the majority (39.78%) of them were between the ages of 31 and 40, and the least (4.31%) were within the age bracket of 50 and above. This denotes that most of the people at the center of running organizations to fight violent extremism in Mombasa county are young, which means that they have the energy and zeal to ensure the effective implementation of the Action Plan.

On the level of education, the majority (44.09%) of the participants were those with an undergraduate degree, followed by postgraduates who accounted for 37.63%, and the least were those with primary school level of education as they accounted for only 2.15% of the sample size. The findings showed that the majority of respondents (81.72%) had attended tertiary education. This implies that most government employees were trained and qualified to discharge their duties, such as implementing policies. In addition, the results imply that the study used literate respondents who could read and understand the questions in the research instruments and provide correct answers, thus collection of credible and relevant data.

Effects of Mombasa County Action Plan Design on Prevention of Youth Radicalisation into Violent Extremism.

The research objective sought to establish the effects of the Mombasa County Action Plan design in the prevention of youth radicalisation into violent extremism in the County. To achieve the objective, the study delved to answer the following key question; what are the effects of the MCAP design on prevention of youth radicalisation into VE. Effective policy design, which clearly outlines policy elements, contributes to successful implementation of policies and success in any organization. Therefore, it was crucial for this study to interrogate whether the design of the MCAP-PCVE clearly and adequately captures the issues of youth radicalization into violent extremism in the County. Information on this objective was gathered by administering questionnaires to the participants. The questionnaires had statements describing the effects of county action plans in the prevention of youth radicalisation into violent extremism, rated on a five-point Likert scale, 1-strongly agree, 2-agree, 3-Neutral 4-Disagree, 5-Strongly Disagree, against which the respondents were asked to tick the correct choice. Further, the questionnaire had open-ended questions, which sought to collect detailed information on the objective. The results are presented in the subsequent sub-sections.

MCAP Design and its Effect in Prevention of Youth Radicalisation into Violent Extremism

The questionnaires had statements describing the MCAP-PCVE design. The statements were rated on a five point Likert scale, 1-strongly agree, 2-agree, 3-Neutral 4-Disagree, 5-Strongly Disagree, against which the respondents were asked to tick the correct choice. The results are presented in table 4 below.

Table 4.
MCAP-PCVE Design

Statement	Strongly agree F (%)	Agree F (%)	Neutral F (%)	Disagree F (%)	Strongly Disagree F (%)	Mean
The issues addressed within MCAP capture the Mombasa County violent extremism situation.	51 (54.83%)	36 (38.71%)	4 (4.3%)	2 (2.15%)	-	1.53
Relevant actors were involved in its formulation.	39 (41.94%)	42 (45.16%)	9 (9.68%)	3 (3.22%)	-	1.74
Stakeholders have been well captured, and their roles well stipulated.	25 (26.88%)	40 (43.01%)	22 (23.66%)	4 (4.3%)	2 (2.15%)	2.03
There is enough resource allocation to facilitate MCAP activities.	2 (2.15%)	14 (15.05%)	33 (35.48%)	37 (39.78%)	7 (7.53%)	3.35
There is a reporting structure for MCAP-PCVE programs and activities within the document.	44 (47.31%)	22 (23.66%)	21 (22.58%)	2 (2.15%)	4(4.3%)	1.92
Provision for monitoring of VE incidences considered within the policy.	10(1.75%)	50 (53.76)	15 (16.13%)	14 (15.05%)	4 (4.3%)	2.48
Clear interventions on VE stipulated within MCAP-PCVE.	15(16.13%)	52 (55.91%)	22 (23.66%)	4(4.3%)	-	2.16
Periodic evaluation is outlined within MCAP-PCVE.	15 (16.13%)	46 (49.46%)	22 (23.66%)	8 (8.6%)	2(2.15%)	2.31
All programs and activities have specific timelines and actors.	26 (27.96%)	39 (41.94%)	20 (21.51%)	6 (6.5%)	2(2.15%)	2.13
Grand Mean						2.18

Scale1-strongly agree, 2-agree, 3-Neutral 4-Disagree, 5-Strongly Disagree

The results in table 4 indicated that majority of the participants agreed with the statements on the questionnaire. The majority demonstrated this, 51 (54.83%), who strongly agreed that the issues addressed

within MCAP capture the Mombasa County violent extremism situation (m=1.53). The majority, 52 (55.91%), also agreed that precise interventions on VE were stipulated within MCAP-PCVE (m=2.16). Similarly, majority 46 (49.46%) agreed that periodic evaluation was outlined within MCAP-PCVE (m=2.31). Also, majority 39(41.94%) agreed that all programs and activities have specific timelines and actors. In addition, the majority, 42 (45.16%) and 39 (41.91%), agreed and strongly agreed, respectively that relevant actors were involved in its formulation (m=1.74). In addition, majority of 44 (47.31%) of the participants strongly agreed that there is a reporting structure for MCAP-PCVE programs and activities within the document (m=1.92). Also, the majority, 50(53.76%) of the respondents, agreed that the provision for monitoring VE incidences is considered within the policy (m=2.48). On the other hand, 37(39.78%) of the respondents disagreed that there is enough resource allocation to facilitate MCAP activities (m=3.33).

The results indicate that relevant actors were involved in formulating the MCAP, which captures issues concerning violent extremism in Mombasa County. In addition, as indicated by the majority of the respondents, it is evident that the MCAP has outlined programs and activities with specific timelines and actors; it also has precise interventions on VE with stipulated and periodic evaluations outlined. In addition, the document has a reporting structure for MCAP-PCVE programs and activities, and there is a provision for monitoring VE incidences within the policy. However, as indicated by most respondents, more adequate resources must be available to facilitate MCAP activities. This means that the MCAP adequately captures the issues of violent extremism in the County and provides clear structures for monitoring and reporting such incidences. Therefore, it should help the National and County governments achieve the desired goals of preventing youth radicalization into violent extremism, mainly if adequate resources are provided to the relevant institutions.

The findings are in agreement with Howlett (2014), who explained that policy design involves efforts for systematically developing efficient and effective policies using the application of knowledge on policy gained through experience and reason in developing and adopting action plans that can succeed in achieving the desired goals or objectives in specific strategic contexts. The object of the design depends on what it is designed for, who designs it, how they do it, and why the design decisions are made; these subjects require clarification. Also, Eijlander (2005) reported that policymakers create strategy alternatives when it comes to what is designed. These include other government action options on how they can be implemented to address identified issues. The alternatives are made of different combinations of the policy elements described above: policy goals, objectives, and the means, tools, and policy parameters. Similarly, Linder and Peters (1990) pointed out that, although all these policy elements are present within a clearly outlined design, policy tools are essential in this process because they are the techniques by which the objective of a state occurs. In the same breath, Howlett, Ramesh, and Perl (2009) highlighted those policy elements are the subject of deliberations and activities in all stages of policy-making processes and have an impact on the policy-making and formulation processes and on the implementation and evaluation of decision-making policies.

According to Howlett (2009), the design of policies extends both to the means and mechanisms by which the objectives are implemented, the development of objectives and resource choices at the program level is part of a broader governance context in which groups of institutions, players and practices are "predefined" and constitute the "environment" or context in which policy development occurs. This means that when a policy is designed effectively, it articulates or responds to the objectives of its formulation so that even the implementation of the policy will be a solution to the existing situation or problem. Therefore, adequate resources must be provided to the institutions implementing MCAP to achieve the desired results.

In addition to the statements on the Likert scale, the respondents were asked to fill in open-ended questions in the tool. The first question was about what led to the development of the MCAP-PCVE. Most participants

indicated that regular terror attacks, youth radicalization, poverty, police killings, and religious intolerance informed the development of the MCAP-PCVE. This means that Mombasa County was experiencing terror attacks, police killings, and high poverty rates, and the people were religiously intolerant. The findings agree with the findings reported by Njambi (2017), who reported an increased rate of youth radicalization in the coastal counties and associated it with high poverty levels, police killings, and religious intolerance.

The second question was on where MCAP derives its mandate; the participants seemed to be of divergent opinions; most of them reported that MCAP-PCVE derived its mandate from NSCVE (National Strategy to Countering Violent Extremism), while others believed that the mandate was derived from the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) of 2012. This indicates that the majority of respondents were aware of how MCAP worked. The findings agree with the findings that Njambi (2017) reported on the role of ideology in youth radicalisation in Kilifi, Kwale, and Mombasa Counties. She ascertained that for a plan to work, it should be clear and easily comprehended by the members of the public or the people working in given institutions. The third question was on other elements captured in the design of the Mombasa County Action Plan; the majority of the respondents indicated that the MCAP outlined the implementation plan, empowerment, 6 pillars of MCAP, and strategies for countering violent extremism. Based on the participants' responses, it is evident that Mombasa County Action Plan Design comprises different themes relevant to violent extremism.

Further, the fifth question sought to find out if the MCAP design enhanced effective implementation and prevention of youth radicalization into violent extremism in Mombasa County; the results are illustrated in figure 2.
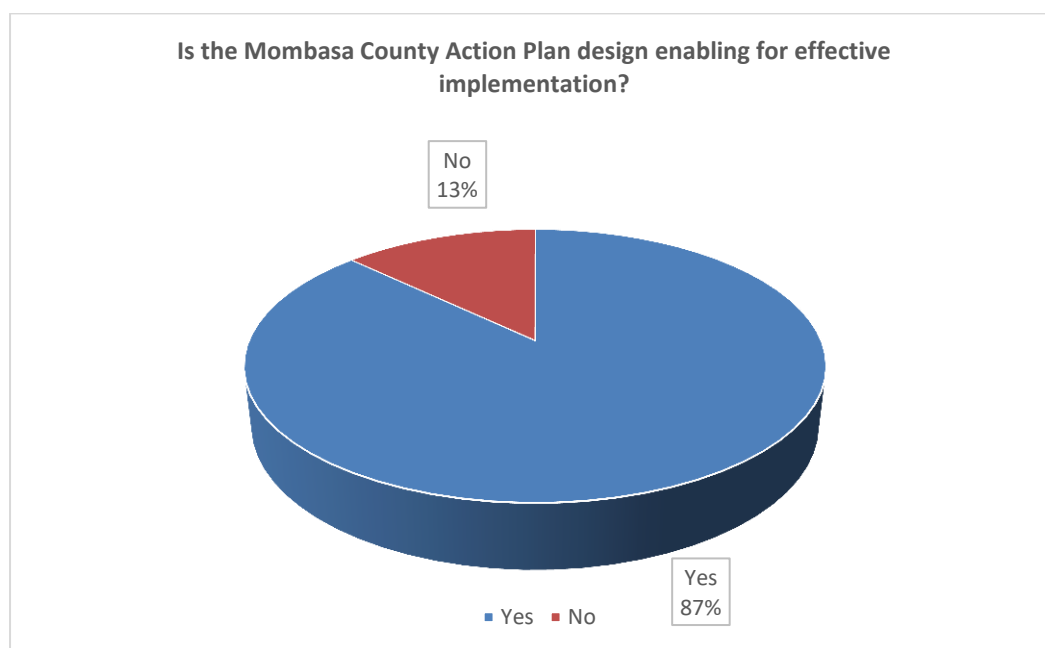

Figure 2: MCAP Design Effect on Implementation

The results in figure 2 showed that majority (87.0%) of the respondents agreed that the MCAP design enhanced effective implementation of MCAP-PCVE since its inception in 2017, whereas 13% of the participants disagreed. This means that the MCAP-PCVE design enhanced the implementation of the action plan to prevent youth radicalization into violent extremism in the County. These findings concur with the findings reported by Njambi (2017), who reported a significant milestone in implementing MCAP-PCVE since its launch by Governor Ali Hassan Joho in 2017. The County and national governments worked together

to ensure the implementation kick-started. With the involvement of the former President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E Uhuru Kenyatta, and the launch of the NSCVE to contain the rising cases of radicalization and recruitment to violent extremist groups such as Al-Shabaab in 2016 and by the UN general strategies to counter violent extremism, the step towards implementation was fast.

Further, the respondents were asked to provide suggestions on what can be done to enhance the effective implementation of MCAP to prevent youth radicalization into violent extremism. The majority of the respondents were of the opinion that intentional and robust multi-sector stakeholder engagement be initiated, funding to be increased, and reintegration of women returnees to the CSOS and not NCIS. According to the findings of the current study and the observation made while conducting the research, it is true that the steps towards implementation of the MCAP-PCVE have been enhanced. However, there is much that is desired, as suggested by the majority of the participants.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The research determined that the MCAP-PCVE design had an effect on the prevention of youth radicalisation into violent extremism. The correlation coefficient between MCAP design and prevention of youth radicalisation into VE was 0.812, which is close to 1 with a significant value of 0.002, which is less than 0.05. This indicates a strong correlation between MCAP design and prevention of youth radicalization into VE. In addition, the regression analysis showed that a unit increase in MCAP design would lead to increase in prevention of youth radicalisation into violent extremism by a factor of 0.721, meaning that MCAP design has an influence on the prevention of youth radicalisation into VE in Mombasa County.

Based on the descriptive analysis, majority 51 (54.83%) of the respondents indicated that relevant actors were involved in formulating the MCAP-PCVE design and it clearly outlined programs and activities with specific timelines and actors; it also had precise interventions on VE with stipulated and periodic evaluations outlined. In addition, the document has a reporting structure for MCAP-PCVE programs and activities, and there is a provision for monitoring VE incidences within the policy. However, as indicated by most respondents 37(39.78%), there was lack of enough resource allocation to facilitate MCAP activities (m=3.33).

In view of the study findings, this study concluded that MCAP design affects preventing youth radicalisation into VE. In addition, the study concludes the MCAP-PCVE captured issues concerning the violent extremism situation in Mombasa County and outlined programs and activities with specific timelines and actors; it also had clear interventions on VE with stipulated and periodic evaluations outlined. In addition, the document had a reporting structure for MCAP-PCVE programs and activities, and there is a provision for monitoring VE incidences within the policy. However, the lack of adequate resources hinders its implementation effectively.

The study made the following recommendations;

- **The National Government**- inadequate resource is the major setback in the implementation of the Mombasa County Action Plan on prevention of youth radicalisation into violent extremism. Therefore, the National should allocate more funds to support programs and activities geared towards fighting youth radicalization
- **The County Government**- Lack of employment, drug abuse, and poverty were reported as the major reasons that made the youths in Mombasa County to be vulnerable to radicalization into VE. Therefore, the County government should put more measures in place to address the issue of unemployment among youths by providing them with job opportunities
- **Non-Govermental Organizations-** Youth empowerment and public awareness were some of the factors which were highlighted to help in the prevention of youth radicalisation into violent extremism in Mombasa County. Therefore, the County government in collaboration with non-government organizations

and other stake holders should ensure the public is educated and made aware of youth radicalization activities in the County and how they need to help the government to counter the problem. Further, youths should be empowered; this will reduce their vulnerability to radicalization into VE.

Recommendation for Further Studies

The study recommended that other studies to be carried out to show how other factors apart from influence of MCAP design on prevention of youth radicalisation into violent extremism in Mombasa County. Future studies should focus on expanding the study on the prevention of youth radicalization into violent extremism across the country. The current study was limited to three sub-counties in Mombasa County. Hence, the outcome of the study may not be feasible or viable outside the coastal region.

In the future, the studies should use a higher population in order to capture the opinion of a wide range of people. They should capture the opinion of the general public, unlike the current one, which uses the employees in institutions related to violent extremism.

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