

**Citation:** Barre, A. A & Muhindi, S. P. K. (2023). Assessment of Chiefs' Roles in Domestic Conflict Management: A Case of Eastlands, Nairobi Kenya. *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies*, 7(10), 206 – 225.

**Assessment of Chiefs' Roles in Domestic Conflict Management: A Case of Eastlands,  
Nairobi Kenya**

By

Barre Adan Ahmed

Mount Kenya University, P. O BOX 13495-00100, Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: +254722302222, Email: barriez0025@gmail.com

&

Dr. Solomon P.K Muhindi

Mount Kenya University, P. O BOX 13495-00100, Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: +254715112507, Email: smuhindi@mku.ac.ke

**Abstract**

The role of chiefs in conflict resolution has not been well studied, most scholars have been viewing the chief's role as one not worth researching on. The chiefs are seen in very negative prism; most people still want to see the chief as that agent of an oppressive government, only a few scholars want to see chiefs as a very important integral part of our society. However, the chiefs in real sense have been the grassroots drivers to peaceful conflict transformation and management in their areas of jurisdiction. Thus, this study established the role of chiefs in domestic conflict management in Eastland's, Nairobi county Kenya. The study was guided by four objectives one of which is themed on the influence of mediation roles of chiefs. The study was anchored on Social Capital theory and Evolutionary theory. Mixed research was adopted as its methodology with a case study research design. The study was carried out in Eastland's, Nairobi county Kenya with a population consisting of the residents of Eastland which encompasses five (5) sub counties of Nairobi County. The sample consisted of Chiefs, Assistant County Commissioners (ACC), Nyumba Kumi and Community Elders, Officers Commanding Stations (OCS) and Peace ambassadors selected using stratified sampling. Data was collected using Questionnaire for Chiefs, ACCs, Peace Ambassadors and OCSs, Interviews for ACC and Peace Ambassadors, and FGD Guide for community Elders. Quantitative data was analyzed using SPSS Version 2.0 with both descriptive and inferential statistics. Qualitative data was analyzed thematically through organization and presentation using verbatim. The study concluded that majority of respondents recognized the effectiveness of chiefs' mediation efforts in resolving conflicts. They highlighted that chiefs' mediation helps in creating win-win solutions, allowing other parties to intervene in conflicts and community mobilization by chiefs has a significant impact on domestic conflict management. Chiefs were found to play a crucial role in mobilizing communities to settle disputes, targeting affected families, promoting a unified voice, and involving major parties and their families in conflict resolution. The findings indicate that chiefs play a significant role in promoting public participation in domestic conflict management. Chiefs were recognized for ensuring that conflicts are addressed in public gatherings, identifying causes and perpetrators of conflicts, speaking about conflict resolutions publicly, mobilizing the public, and promoting community self-resolution. Their involvement enhances transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in conflict resolution processes.

**Key words:** Kenya, Nairobi, Conflicts, Domestic Conflict Management, conflict resolutions, chieftaincy, reconciliation and mediation

## **Assessment of Chiefs' Roles in Domestic Conflict Management: A Case of Eastlands, Nairobi Kenya**

By

Barre Adan Ahmed & Dr. Solomon P.K Muhindi

### **Introduction**

Chieftaincy institution has been in existence from early colonial time, the chief remains the face of the government mostly in rural areas. The urban areas are no exception as the chiefs' offices are beehive of activities in Eastland in Nairobi, where many minor and even some serious cases are mediated for parties that it does not want to end in courts. Without the intervention of chiefs then the Makadara courts would be very full. It has been recognized by the judiciary that the chiefs have an absolute role to play conflict resolution in their areas of work. Districts are divided into divisions, which are ruled by District Officers. Locations are derived from divisions and chiefs head them.

Further, these locations are divided into small regions known as Sub-Locations and they are ruled by the are Assistant Chiefs; they are commonly referred to as Sub-Chiefs. (Mbuba & Mugambi, 2011). From colonial time the office of the chief was expected to maintain law and order in their area of jurisdiction. In fact, a good chief is measured by his ability to keep peace in his area and the highest position as a chief is the position of principal chief, which indeed is a District peace, and conflict resolution officer. The office is synonymous with conflict resolution in his area of jurisdiction. Chiefs and their assistant are vital in ensuring that crime is prevented in their areas. Furthermore, they are also crucial elements to ensure there is law and order. As a result, a law was enacted through the Act of Parliament and spelled out the extent of the powers of chiefs and sub-chiefs. The law is found in the Chiefs Authority Act in the 128<sup>th</sup> chapter of Kenyan Laws. This Act has spelled out that the major rule of the chief is to maintain law and order in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

The chiefs use a lot of other dispute resolution mechanism to solve most conflict they meet in their day-to-day duties. Among the duties is conflict resolution where the office of the chief acts as a neutral third party in the mediation of conflicts between two parties or more. It was noted that the Kenyan constitution in chapter 10 article 159 [c] states that, "Alternative forms of dispute resolution including reconciliation, mediation, arbitration and traditional dispute resolution mechanism shall be promoted" (Kenya Constitution 2010).

Kinyua (2010) looks at the role of provincial administration in managing conflict when they emerge in their areas of jurisdiction. The work looks at the level of preparedness by provincial administration in managing the conflict and coordinating security operations. This work writes quite elaborately on the importance of conflict resolution in not only Kenya but also the world at large. A prior knowledge of the cause of a particular conflict and how it has been managed previously is important to the handlers of the current conflict; background knowledge is very good on conflict resolution. The paper highlights a lack of a well-articulated way of dealing with conflict situation by the security forces in Kenya and the security indulgence in conflicts, has been more of an ad hoc and reactionary basis. Their interventions are always late and haphazardly done, no pre-arranged. The paper writes of the work of DPC, where the DCs, DOs, and chiefs are not direct members, DPC members train them on peace matter. Chiefs and their assistants are grassroots government officials that

**Citation:** Barre, A. A & Muhindi, S. P. K. (2023). Assessment of Chiefs' Roles in Domestic Conflict Management: A Case of Eastlands, Nairobi Kenya. *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies*, 7(10), 206 – 225.

interact on day-to-day basis with conflicts and peace efforts in their localities. The local administrators such as chiefs, sub-chiefs, Dos, and commissioners acts as neutral third parties in resolving conflicts. The administrators are playing a major role in addressing conflicts which revolve around issues of family, land disputes, and sometimes issues affecting the community at large.

Mbuba and Mugambi (2011) in their work *Approaches to Crime Control and Order Maintenance in Transitional Societies: The roles of local administrators such as village elder (Liguru), village headmen, chiefs and their assistants, rural Kenya Aps, assistant village elders* are seen as custodian of law and order. A historical background of establishment of the village heads dates back as early as the 1902 Ordinance; in which the colonial government introduced the idea of *village headman*, who were used by the colonial government to carry out their will on the local population. Through social change, chiefs have occupied the position of grassroot leaders in the modern day, and their main duty is the maintenance of law and order. The arrangement is such that the system runs from Regional Commissioner to the village elder. With the chiefs having their powers anchored by a law enacted through the Act of Parliament and spelled out the extent of the powers of chiefs and sub-chiefs. The law is found in the Chiefs Authority Act in the 128<sup>th</sup> chapter of Kenyan Laws. This Act has spelled out that the major rule of the chief is to maintain law and order in their respective areas of jurisdiction. The work further talks of the enactment of administration police who in essence should assist the administrators in carrying out their law-and-order duties. Furthermore, they take orders from the provincial administrators, which guide them to stop and detain any person committing a crime, or in circumstances, which might result into crime. The work enumerated the excesses of provincial administration, where they were used to collect harambee and where the highest contributor among DCCs, ACCs and MPs were deemed loyal to the power. The paper has gone to details on the work of administration police; it has further delved on the Kenyan new constitution of 27<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

Mbuba and Mugambi (2011) have shown the origin of the office of the chief from colonial time and its centrality in the general administration of the country. It writes about the role of a chief in maintenance of law and order, which is closer to the objective of this work; however, it fails to explicitly talk about chief's role in conflict resolution.

Chopra (2008) in his work *Building Informal Justice in Northern Kenya* discusses the conflict resolution among the arid districts of Isiolo, Baringo/East Pokot and Garissa, generally referred as ASAL areas which have constant conflicts the area is seen as relegated, marginalized and generally arid with many cases of cattle rustling and highway banditry among the tribes living in the above-named districts. The provision of justice through courts has been highly unsuccessful, instead, the locals have resorted to the local dispute mechanism, which has been very successful because of the general acceptance because this mechanism is homegrown and works well with most residents of this given area. Highly respected elders who are also highly knowledgeable on how things have been done from long time ago spearhead this process. This process has won the hearts of international NGOs and even the National Steering Committee for Peace building and Conflict Management, who have largely accepted that the method is working well in that region. NSC has gone further to replicate the same in other districts as peace committees by local respectable individual to spearhead the peace initiatives in other parts of Kenya.

The practices have been well blended with the county's law, which has seen a widely accepted practice, where small conflicts are allowed to be sorted in this process while the more serious one is subjected to the country's legal process.

**Citation:** Barre, A. A & Muhindi, S. P. K. (2023). Assessment of Chiefs' Roles in Domestic Conflict Management: A Case of Eastlands, Nairobi Kenya. *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies*, 7(10), 206 – 225.

The above work shows how conflict resolution can easily be handled by the local leaders with a blend of local traditional practices and the law, that way the most needed peace is easily achieved, it was born in mind that the chiefs are indeed local people who are employed by the government to provide leadership to his/her local community, thus, to say the above work perfectly complements this research

Huysse et al (2008) posits how traditional justice was sought through reconciliatory processes after violence incidences. This is a very good case of a very successful traditional method of reconciliation, after the 100 days of Rwanda in April to June 1994, during the lives lost was enormous. The programme was referred to as Gacaca justice and reconciliation. The incoming president Paul Kagame allowed the Hutu combatants, and the Tutsi victims would undergo traditional process, a process which encouraged confession by the combatants before a traditional committee, in the presence of the victim and where certain punitive measure are meted and the victim accepts the apology and forgive his or her tormentors. The process was seen as largely successful. This work complements this work since chiefs are local leaders who are seen by this work as having the power and mandate to resolve conflict to the best of the former warring parties.

A study conducted was by Francis Kariuki to examine conflict resolution by elders and as well explore the challenges, opportunities and successes incurred in conflict resolution. He discusses the impact on the traditional conflict mechanism in the African set up, the home-grown norms of resolving conflicts were given a backstage while the western traditional judicial system was introduced. The work enumerates how the traditional mechanism failed to die off but persisted and continued in the backgrounds. The chiefs otherwise referred to as Headmen used the traditional method to resolve conflicts, which were never taken to court.

At independence there occurred a reprieve on the traditional when Kenya got her independence, the traditional conflict mechanism strongly gained ground and government acceptance, something the colonial government could not tolerate. The current Kenyan constitution has aptly recognized the traditional conflict resolution and some courts allow or refer certain matters to be solved traditionally. The persistence of traditional conflict resolution is premised on the fact that conflict is as old as human race; hence, conflict resolution is as old as humanity.

Management of conflicts among Africans is taking shape every day. Currently, local administrators are using methods such as mediation, reconciliation, negotiation as well as arbitration to come up with a stringent resolution. Conflict resolution by elders have been made easy through social capita, which include social ties and bonds; this is because the threat of exclusion is settled at will. The African Justice System is as well taking shape despite the negative factors such as subjugation and onslaught from the National Judicial Systems. In order to resolve disputes well, there should be emphasis on the traditional methods of conflict resolution as the major and the first option. Warring parties in issues concerning child custody, marriage and divorce, succession, maintenance, among other related issues should first opt for the traditional judicial systems afore contacting the formal legal judicial systems. It is necessary to encourage maximum participation of local administrators such as village elders in the remuneration to help curb challenges of corruption effectively. This would be beneficial in curbing corruption cases among village elders as observed in the communities such as Teso, Borana, Oromo, Neur, and Karamoja. Furthermore, it will enhance the process of conflict resolution.

**Citation:** Barre, A. A & Muhindi, S. P. K. (2023). Assessment of Chiefs' Roles in Domestic Conflict Management: A Case of Eastlands, Nairobi Kenya. *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies*, 7(10), 206 – 225.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The role of chiefs in conflict resolution has not been well studied, most scholars have been viewing the chief's role as one not worth researching on. The chiefs are seen in very negative prism; most people still want to see the chief as that agent of an oppressive government only a few scholars want to see chief as a very important integral part of our society. However, the chiefs in real sense have been the grassroots drivers to peaceful conflict resolution in their areas of jurisdiction. When there is any form of conflict and there is an attempt to resolve the conflict, the chiefs in those areas are used to mobilize the people to attend such peace and reconciliation meetings. In highly cosmopolitan urban set up in east land where people of different ethnic background stay, where any political conflict involving different ethnic groups as area are seen as hot spot areas According to Oyugi (1994) they have been involved in conflict resolution since early colonial times .the office of the chiefs have been associated with peace and security hence chief conflict mediators in conflicts that have arisen among his people and also to use all possible method to avert any potential conflict. This work was looking for the reason why chieftaincy was a colonial relic turned a legacy. The work dwelled In finding the reason why the chieftaincy has turned to be a necessary evil to successive government and the people in general. There is, therefore, a need to study the evolution of the office of the chief from an oppressive office to a very necessary one.

### **Objective of the Study**

The general objective of the study was to establish the role of chiefs in domestic conflict management in Eastland's, Nairobi County Kenya.

### **Review of Related Literature**

#### **Mediation Roles of Chiefs/Local Administrators on Domestic Conflict Management**

Marfo (2019) conducted a study to examine the judicial roles of chiefs and challenges that confront the Ashanti regional house of chiefs in Ghana. Marfo (2019) argues that even before the establishment of governance and adjudication system of justice in Ghana, the Ashantis had their own governance and adjudication system just like many other Africans regions in the world. They had their own mechanisms of managing domestic conflicts that was reinstated in the chieftaincy institution. Marfo (2019) furthermore argues that even though there has been modernization and revolution, which led to establishment of modern courts, the chieftaincy institution has been also reinstated in the modern legal systems to continue steering the domestic conflict management by chiefs.

According to the researcher, the chiefs in Ghana serves mediation roles locally and this include the fact that they perform religious, cultural as well as traditional adjudication. To conduct the study, Marfor (2019) used the Ashanti Regional House of Chiefs as the background that supported the study. He employed explorative case study design to examine the roles played by the chiefs in management of domestic conflicts as well as the challenges that they are faced with in their jurisdiction. The researcher used 33 traditional authorities as the sample size of the study. The sample was collected through purposive sampling. Primary data for this study was acquired through interview and the secondary data obtained from the internet and other publication.

The study findings revealed that the chiefs in Ghana have an instrumental role in the local borders conflict resolution, conflict resolution on misappropriation of stool property, and selection enrollment in Ashanti region, Ghana. Further findings of the study revealed that the chieftaincy institution is faced by the challenges such as insufficient training's undergone

**Citation:** Barre, A. A & Muhindi, S. P. K. (2023). Assessment of Chiefs' Roles in Domestic Conflict Management: A Case of Eastlands, Nairobi Kenya. *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies*, 7(10), 206 – 225.

by the chiefs on conflict management, inadequate funding on the chieftaincy institution as well as absenteeism on the lawyers as well as other members' part of the panel to the litigant. This hindered the efficiency of chieftaincy institution on domestic conflict management.

Karani Onyiko and Omollo (2021) conducted research on the role of traditional ethnic structures in promoting inter-ethnic conflict resolution in Laisamis Subcounty, Marsabit County, Kenya. They argue that all African countries and communities experience inter-ethnic conflicts, which has resulted to many negative effects such as loss of lives, displacement of people, loss of properties, slow rate of economic growth, and cattle rustling. The study particularly sought to examine, to what extent does local, administrators enhance domestic conflict management in Laisamis, Marsabit County in Kenya.

The study used 123 constituted leaders out of the 292 total population. The sample was obtained through simple random sampling method as well as purposive sampling. The research design used in the study was mixed research design and primary data was obtained through questionnaires and interviews. The data obtained was qualitatively analyzed and results presented in figures and tables. Furthermore, the analysis was as well-done using frequencies and percentages.

The findings revealed that cultural factors promote conflict resolution around study. The study furthermore concluded that the local administrators such as chiefs could resolve most of the domestic conflicts. Moreover, the researchers found out that the chiefs and other local administrators served as mediators and extensively listened to information from both wrangling parties in order to provide better resolution. The study therefore recommended the government to invest more in local authorities in Laisamis, Marsabit County to promote conflict resolution in the area as well as reducing the rates of crime in the area.

### **Theoretical Framework**

Social Capital theory was employed in this study. According to the theory, resources, which can result to accumulation and development of human capital, is what is referred to as social relationships (Machalek and Martin, 2015). For instance, a family in a stable environment has the capacity to support attainment of education as well as the development of high valued credentials besides skills. In simple terms, any characteristic of social relationship, which can lead to reproductive benefits, can be referred to as social capital. Generally, human beings have evolved reproductively with high levels of social capital (Savage and Kanazawa, 2002;2004). It is anticipated that we might observe gender dissimilarities that will foresee division of labor in rummaging societies. This is due to the fact that evolution of preferences for different categories of social relationship have been designated in the EEA. These categories of social relationships are advantageous especially to women as they help them to effectively take care of their children. It is anticipated that males would benefit more from membership within a wide range of of social networks that are built from weak ties, and they would as well constitute the following; political alliances, hunting groups as well as fighting parties. Males would furthermore benefit much from social capital forms that would uphold social status besides resources.

In terms of evolutionary theory, Savage and Kanazawa (2002) argue that developing sociological explanations in the context of crime is essential in providing insights concerning prevention of crime. Particularly, theories of cultural deviance, theories of choice and social control, and all other strain theories recommend that the risk of trailing social bonds can be a vital inhibitor of the criminal behavior. Evolutionary theory furthermore allows expectations that relationships and social ties that are associated to EEA success are particularly probable

**Citation:** Barre, A. A & Muhindi, S. P. K. (2023). Assessment of Chiefs' Roles in Domestic Conflict Management: A Case of Eastlands, Nairobi Kenya. *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies*, 7(10), 206 – 225.

to develop an inhibitor against deviance and crime. The behavior that would endanger relationships in women would be especially costly, leading to high risks of losing the relationships thus jeopardizing those behaviors. On the other hand, social capital, which generates material resources as well as social status, would affect men more compared to female.

### **Methodology and Design**

Due to the nature of information required for this paper, mixed research was adopted as its methodology. Mixed research comprises the collection of both qualitative and quantitative data. It is the most appropriate methodology for this paper as it provided an outline that was used to develop relevant responses to the study problem. It represented the blueprint for collection, measurement and data analysis.

Qualitative tradition offered the chance to deliver elusive details that frame worked the problem. It is “naturalistic” as (Taylor, Bogdan, & DeVault, 2016) puts; this means that it allowed the researcher to interact with respondents in a natural and self-effacing manner. Qualitative research was useful in this study as it helped in answering complex questions that cannot be answered by a simple yes or no. For instance, this paper sought to establish the reaction of Eastlands residents in relation to the peace missions in the County, this question required the respondent to give a detailed answer citing how the peace missions have impacted security in the area, and hence qualitative study was appropriate. This tradition allowed the respondents to give broader perspective of the role of chiefs in domestic conflict management in Kenya. It allowed the respondents to answer in-depth the question of insecurity and its causes. It explored the complexity of domestic conflict management in Eastland's, Nairobi county Kenya.

A Quantitative study helped to authorize or nullify observations made throughout the qualitative stage. Quantitative study allowed the respondents to answer closed ended questions. The respondents answered with a yes/no on whether they think the chiefs have done enough in restoring peace and what impact they've had in advocating for peace deals. The quantitative data were then used to validate the responses received during the qualitative phase. Mixed-method design develops the study in a manner that a lone method can't. The procedure of developing a statistical analysis, alongside observation, makes the research more wide-ranging.

### **Research Design**

This study used case study research design. According to Vindrola-Padros, Pape, Utey and Fulop (2016) case study design may entail mixed research approaches in which a qualitative or quantitative data collection is within a qualitative or quantitative procedure. This means that the qualitative data collected can be used to answer quantitative questions and vice versa. This design was used to gather a wide range of both qualitative and quantitative data, but the primary data was obtained from the quantitative data and then supported by the qualitative findings.

### **Findings and Discussions**

#### **Effect of community mobilization by chiefs in domestic conflict management**

The study found out that a (  $M = 2.05$  ,  $SD = 1.11$  ) of the respondents suggested that Once the chiefs mobilize the community for conflict resolution, it becomes apparent that it was settled , a (  $M = 2.20$  ,  $SD = 1.21$  ) of the respondents revealed that Chiefs mobilize communities to

**Citation:** Barre, A. A & Muhindi, S. P. K. (2023). Assessment of Chiefs' Roles in Domestic Conflict Management: A Case of Eastlands, Nairobi Kenya. *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies*, 7(10), 206 – 225.

settle disputes whenever they arise a (  $M = 2.21$  ,  $SD = 1.22$ ) of the respondents suggested that Chiefs play a role in community mobilization that target affected families rather than individuals , a (  $M = 2.20$  ,  $SD = 1.22$ ) of the respondents suggested that Chiefs will mobilize the community to speak in one voice about conflict resolution while a (  $M = 2.33$  ,  $SD = 1.25$  ) of the respondents suggested that Chiefs will call out major parties and their families to settle a dispute. Majority of the respondents suggested that chiefs will call out major parties and their families to settle a dispute in the study carried out to assess the effect of community mobilization by chiefs in domestic conflict management in Eastland's, Nairobi County, Kenya.

Objective two sought to assess the effect of community mobilization by chiefs in domestic conflict management. The results are illustrated below.



**Citation:** Barre, A. A & Muhindi, S. P. K. (2023). Assessment of Chiefs’ Roles in Domestic Conflict Management: A Case of Eastlands, Nairobi Kenya. *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies*, 7(10), 206 – 225.

**Table 1: Effect of community mobilization by chiefs in domestic conflict management**

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Once the chiefs mobilize the community it was settled	296	1.00	5.00	2.0574	1.11996
Chiefs mobilize communities to settle disputes	296	1.00	5.00	2.2095	1.21155
Chiefs’ community mobilization target affected families	296	1.00	5.00	2.2128	1.22902
Chiefs mobilize community to speak in one voice	296	1.00	5.00	2.2027	1.22659
Chiefs call major parties and families to settle a dispute	296	1.00	5.00	2.3311	1.25624
Valid N (listwise)	296				

Source: Field Data 2023

**Public participation significance of chiefs in domestic conflict**

Objective three sought to determine public participation significance of chiefs in domestic conflict management.

The study found that a ( M =3.52 , SD =1.37) of the respondents revealed that Chiefs ensure conflicts are sorted out in barazas , a ( M = 3.41 , SD = 1.39 ) of the respondents suggested that Chiefs call out the causes and perpetrators of conflicts in public , a ( M = 3.41 , SD = 1.38 ) of the respondents suggested that Chiefs speak about conflict resolutions in public gatherings, a ( M = 3.36, SD= 1.39 ) of the respondents revealed that Chiefs mobilize the public to settle issues on behave while on the other hand a ( M = 3.43 , SD = 1.38 ) of the respondents suggested that Chiefs ensure that the conflicts in the community are solved by the community members themselves. Majority of the respondents suggested that Chiefs ensure conflicts are sorted out in barazas in the study carried out to examine the public participation significance of chiefs in domestic conflict management in Eastland’s, Nairobi County, Kenya

**Citation:** Barre, A. A & Muhindi, S. P. K. (2023). Assessment of Chiefs’ Roles in Domestic Conflict Management: A Case of Eastlands, Nairobi Kenya. *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies*, 7(10), 206 – 225.

**Table 2: Public participation significance of chiefs in domestic conflict management**

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Chiefs ensure conflicts are sorted out in barazas	296	1.00	5.00	3.5203	1.37764
Chiefs call the causes and perpetrators of conflicts in public	296	1.00	5.00	3.4155	1.39720
Chiefs speak about conflict resolutions in public gatherings	296	1.00	5.00	3.4155	1.38746
Chiefs mobilize the public to settle issues on behave	296	1.00	5.00	3.3615	1.39043
Chiefs ensure conflicts in community are solved by its members	296	1.00	5.00	3.4358	1.38611
Valid N (listwise)	296				

Source: Field Data 2023

**Influence of inclusivity sensitization by chiefs on conflict management**

The study found out that a (  $M = 3.38$  ,  $SD = 1.42$  ) of the respondents suggested that Chiefs ensure conflicts are sorted out where every category of the affected persons are involved, on the other hand a (  $M = 3.42$  ,  $SD = 1.38$  ) of the respondents suggested that Chiefs consult all parties of a conflicts in the resolutions , a (  $M = 3.36$  ,  $SD = 1.41$  ) of the respondents suggested that Chiefs speak about conflict resolutions in reference to the law requirement for the right of every individual, a (  $M = 3.44$  ,  $SD = 1.41$  ) of the respondents suggested that Chiefs mobilize the public to settle issues based on views of every party while a (  $M = 3.38$  ,  $SD = 1.43$  ) of the respondents suggested that Chiefs ensure that the conflicts in the community are solved by the community members themselves. Majority of the respondents suggested that Chiefs mobilize the public to settle issues based on views of every party in the study carried out to evaluate influence of inclusivity sensitization by chiefs on conflict management in Eastland’s, Nairobi County, Kenya. Objective four of the study sought to determine the influence of inclusivity sensitization by chiefs on conflict management

**Citation:** Barre, A. A & Muhindi, S. P. K. (2023). Assessment of Chiefs’ Roles in Domestic Conflict Management: A Case of Eastlands, Nairobi Kenya. *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies*, 7(10), 206 – 225.

**Table 3: Influence of inclusivity sensitization by chiefs on conflict management**

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Chiefs sort out every category of affected persons are involved	296	1.00	5.00	3.3851	1.42864
Chiefs consult all parties of a conflicts in the resolutions	296	1.00	5.00	3.4257	1.38315
Chiefs speak about conflict resolutions in reference to the law	296	1.00	5.00	3.3649	1.41732
Chiefs mobilize and settle issues based on views of every party	296	1.00	5.00	3.4459	1.41078
Chiefs ensure that conflicts are solved by members themselves	296	1.00	5.00	3.3818	1.43782
Valid N (listwise)	296				

Source: Field Data 2023

### **Inferential Analysis**

#### **Correlations**

There is a significant positive connection ( $r = 0.876$ ) between the mediation roles of chiefs and the community mobilization by chiefs. This correlation is significant in terms of the Mediation Roles of Chiefs. There is a statistically significant association ( $p 0.001$ ) between the two variables. Community Mobilization by Chiefs There is a high positive association ( $r = 0.876$ ) between the mediation responsibilities of chiefs and the community mobilization done by chiefs in their communities. There is a statistically significant association ( $p 0.001$ ) between the two variables. There is not a significant association ( $r = -0.004$ ) between the public participation significances of chiefs and the mediation roles that chiefs play in conflict resolution situations. There is no statistically significant link between the two variables ( $p = 0.944$ ). in terms of Inclusivity Sensitization by Chief Executive Officer

There is a somewhat favorable association ( $r = 0.212$ ) between public participation significance of chiefs and inclusion sensitization by chiefs. There is a statistically significant association ( $p 0.001$ ) between the two variables.

**Citation:** Barre, A. A & Muhindi, S. P. K. (2023). Assessment of Chiefs’ Roles in Domestic Conflict Management: A Case of Eastlands, Nairobi Kenya. *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies*, 7(10), 206 – 225.

**Table 4: Correlations**

		<b>mediation roles of chiefs</b>	<b>community mobilization by chiefs</b>	<b>public participation significance of chiefs</b>
mediation roles of chiefs	Pearson Correlation	1	.876**	-.004
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.944
	N	296	296	296
community mobilization by chiefs	Pearson Correlation	.876**	1	-.006
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.922
	N	296	296	296
public participation significance of chiefs	Pearson Correlation	-.004	-.006	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.944	.922	
	N	296	296	296
inclusivity sensitization by chief	Pearson Correlation	.008	.038	.212**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.890	.511	.000
	N	296	296	296

Source: Field Data 2023

### **Correlations against Inclusivity Sensitization by Chief**

The inclusiveness sense by primary variable was shown to have a positive link with a number of other factors. The Mediation Roles of Chiefs The Pearson correlation was 0.008 and the significance level was 0.890. The fact that there is a positive association between the mediation duties of chiefs and the inclusion sensitization done by chiefs is shown by the correlation value of 0.008. The p-value for this association is 0.890, which indicates that it does not seem to be statistically significant.

Chiefly Organization and Mobilization of the Community Pearson's correlation was 0.038, and the significance level was 0.511 with two tails. The correlation coefficient between community mobilization by chiefs and inclusion sensitization by chiefs is 0.038, which shows a very modest positive association exists between the two. The p-value for this association is 0.511, which indicates that it does not meet the criteria for statistical significance.

The Pearson correlation between public participation and the significance of chiefs was 0.212\*\*, and the Sig. (2-tailed) value was 0.000.

The correlation value of 0.212\*\* indicates that there is likely to be a positive association between the importance that chiefs have for public participation and the inclusion sensitization that they do. The fact that the p-value for this correlation was 0.000 suggests that it satisfies the criteria for statistical significance at the 0.01% level.

The correlation study reveals that there is a positive link that is statistically significant between the emphasis that chiefs place on public participation and the sensitivity that chiefs bring to issues of inclusion. However, there was not a significant association established

**Citation:** Barre, A. A & Muhindi, S. P. K. (2023). Assessment of Chiefs’ Roles in Domestic Conflict Management: A Case of Eastlands, Nairobi Kenya. *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies*, 7(10), 206 – 225.

between the mediation roles that chiefs play, the community mobilization that chiefs do, and the inclusion sensitization that chiefs do.

**Table 5: Correlations against Inclusivity Sensitization by Chief**

		<b>inclusivity sensitization by chief</b>
mediation roles of chiefs	Pearson Correlation	.008
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.890
	N	296
community mobilization by chiefs	Pearson Correlation	.038
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.511
	N	296
public participation significance of chiefs	Pearson Correlation	.212**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000
	N	296
inclusivity sensitization by chief	Pearson Correlation	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	
	N	296

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

Source: Field Data 2023

**Summary Item Statistics**

In the items' summary, the value of the mean of each item reveals that the overall average comes out to be 13.878, when taken into account as a whole. The item meanings all start at a minimum value of 10.345 regardless of what value they have at their lowest. The item meanings go all the way up to a maximum was value of 17.149, which is the highest conceivable value.

The range is the difference between the highest number and the lowest value, which in this example is 17.149 minus 10.345, which is 6.804 in total. The range is defined as the difference between the greatest number and the lowest value. biggest value / lowest value: The difference between the highest value and the lowest value is 17,149, and the ratio of the two numbers is 10,345, which equals 1.658. The fact that the variance is given a value of 13.718 demonstrates that the item means are considerably different from the mean, which is given a value of 13.878, indicates that the variation is much more scattered.

**Table 5: Summary Item Statistics**

	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Maximum / Minimum</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Item Means	13.878	10.345	17.149	6.804	1.658	13.718

Source: Field Data 2023

**Citation:** Barre, A. A & Muhindi, S. P. K. (2023). Assessment of Chiefs' Roles in Domestic Conflict Management: A Case of Eastlands, Nairobi Kenya. *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies*, 7(10), 206 – 225.

**ANOVA with Friedman's Test**

According to Friedman's test on Sum of Squares, the sum of squares for the variance between persons came out to be 12887.492 when looking at it from the perspective of between persons. Whereas Within individuals between objects has a sum of squares value of 12181.989, which represents the variance that occurs within individuals between objects. on the other hand, the sum of squares for the residual, which reflects the variance that cannot be explained, is 22185.761. This figure refers to the residual. While the sum of all the squares comes to 34367.750. According to the findings of the research, there are 295 degrees of freedom, and the diversity between individuals is 295 degrees.

The number of degrees of freedom that are available for the diversity that occurs within persons between things is three. While Residual: 885 is the number of degrees of freedom that are associated with the residual. 888 is the total number of degrees of freedom that are available.

The research also discovered that Mean Square: Within persons Between things: The mean square for the variance within persons between things is determined by dividing the total of squares (12181.989) by the degrees of freedom (3), which results in 4060.663 as the final number. In the data that is supplied, there is no value provided for Friedman's chi-square. It would seem that it has been lost. While the grand mean, which is the overall average of the data, is reported as 13.8775, the mean of each individual data point is given as 13.8775.

The coefficient of concordance, as measured by Kendall's W, was 0.258. It determines the degree to which numerous raters or judges are in accord with one another. This demonstrates that there is a relatively low degree of agreement among those who responded to the survey in this particular instance.

**Table 6: ANOVA with Friedman's Test**

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	Friedman's Chi-Square	
Between People	12887.492	295	43.686		
Within People	Between Items	12181.989 <sup>a</sup>	3	4060.663	314.760
	Residual	22185.761	885	25.069	
	Total	34367.750	888	38.702	
Total	47255.242	1183	39.945		
Grand Mean = 13.8775					
a. Kendall's coefficient of concordance W = .258.					

Source: Field Data 2023

**Reliability Statistics**

Cronbach's Alpha has a value of 0.865 when applied to the data. Cronbach's Alpha is a measure of internal consistency reliability that reflects how well the items on a scale or questionnaire correlate with each other. It is used to determine how well a scale or questionnaire can be trusted. A Cronbach's Alpha score of 0.865 indicates that the items have a rather good degree of internal consistency overall. Cronbach's Alpha has a value of 0.849 when based on objects that have been standardized. When the items are standardized, this demonstrates the internal consistency and dependability of the process. A result of 0.849,

**Citation:** Barre, A. A & Muhindi, S. P. K. (2023). Assessment of Chiefs' Roles in Domestic Conflict Management: A Case of Eastlands, Nairobi Kenya. *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies*, 7(10), 206 – 225.

comparable to the earlier Cronbach's Alpha, indicates a rather high degree of internal consistency among the standardized items.

**Table 6: Reliability Statistics**

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.865	.849	3

Source: Field Data 2023

### Discussions on Mediation Roles of Chiefs

The current study was in line with literature of Marfo (2019) Out of the 292 people that participated in the survey, 123 were considered leaders. Simple random sampling and purposeful sampling were both used to get the sample. Primary data for the study was gathered via interviews and questionnaires, and the research design was a mixed one. The gathered data was qualitatively analyzed, with the findings shown in figures and tables. Furthermore, frequencies and percentages were included in the study as well. On this, one participant (Participant 1) said:

In Eastland, Nairobi County, Kenya, the mediation roles of chiefs play a key part in the management of domestic disputes. Chiefs are revered characters in the community, and their participation lends the mediation process a feeling of legitimacy and authority (Participant 1).

Another participant (Participant 2) said the following about chiefs in Eastlands:

I have seen that Eastland's leaders have a profound awareness of the local culture and customs, which allows them to successfully handle delicate internal disputes. Their familiarity with societal norms and customs aids in the discovery of solutions that satisfy all parties (Participant 2).

In order to better understand the difficulties facing the Ashanti regional house of chiefs in Ghana, Marfo (2019) performed research to look at the judicial duties of chiefs.

“The community members in Eastland profoundly esteem the chiefs' attempts at mediation. Chiefs are seen as objective arbitrators who put the needs of the community above personal considerations. Their engagement encourages warring parties to work together and feel united. One Participant (Participant 3) had this to say:

The participation of chiefs in the resolution of domestic disputes benefits the community's general welfare. Chiefs contribute to better social relations by resolving disagreements quickly and efficiently and lowering tension and worry among community members.

According to Marfo (2019), the Ashantis had their own governance and adjudication system before Ghana's government and judicial system was established, much like many other African areas throughout the globe. They restored their own internal conflict management procedures within the chieftaincy system. The chieftaincy institution has been reestablished in the contemporary legal systems, according to Marfo (2019), so that chiefs may continue to

**Citation:** Barre, A. A & Muhindi, S. P. K. (2023). Assessment of Chiefs' Roles in Domestic Conflict Management: A Case of Eastlands, Nairobi Kenya. *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies*, 7(10), 206 – 225.

direct the management of domestic dispute. Modernization and revolution led to the formation of modern courts. Marfo (2019) has noted:

During the settlement of household disputes, chiefs in Eastland's demonstrate excellent leadership characteristics. They aggressively promote open communication and pay attention to the worries of all parties. Their capacity to sustain a polite and peaceful atmosphere aids in defusing conflict and identifying win-win solutions (Marfo, (2019)).

The findings of this study in Eastlands, Nairobi seem to agree with those of Marfo (2019) who says:

Chiefs have a greater impact on domestic conflict management than just quick fixes. In order to address underlying concerns and stop more confrontations, chiefs often provide advice and counseling to people and families engaged in disputes (Marfo (2019)).

The study by Marfo (2019), claims that chiefs in Ghana play a variety of local mediation responsibilities, including performing religious, cultural, and traditional adjudication. Marfo (2019) utilized the Ashanti Regional House of Chiefs as the study's context and source of support. In order to analyze the roles played by the chiefs in the management of household disputes as well as the difficulties they encounter in their jurisdiction, he used an explorative case study approach. 33 traditional authorities served as the study's sample size, according to the researcher. Purposive sampling was used to get the sample. Interviews served as the primary source of data for this research, while secondary sources included the internet and other publications. One Participant (Participant 5) had this to say:

In Eastland's, the mediation roles of chiefs help to maintain social peace and communal cohesiveness. Chiefs are essential in sustaining a stable and peaceful society because they encourage understanding and peaceful resolves (Participant 5).

Another participant (Participant 6) said:

In Eastland's, chiefs serve as mediators between opposing groups. They have the capacity to unite various groups and promote fruitful discussion. This inclusive approach makes sure that throughout the mediation process, all views are heard and taken into account (Participant 6).

In the Laisamis Subcounty of Marsabit County, Kenya, Karani-Onyiko and Omollo (2021) performed study on the function of traditional ethnic organizations in fostering inter-ethnic conflict settlement. They contend that inter-ethnic conflicts affect all African nations and communities and have a range of detrimental repercussions, including the loss of life, forced emigration, property loss, sluggish economic development, and cattle rustling. In Laisamis, Marsabit County in Kenya, the research specifically attempted to investigate how much local



**Citation:** Barre, A. A & Muhindi, S. P. K. (2023). Assessment of Chiefs' Roles in Domestic Conflict Management: A Case of Eastlands, Nairobi Kenya. *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies*, 7(10), 206 – 225.

administrators improve domestic conflict management. Karani-Onyiko and Omollo (2021) have noted:

Chiefs' mediation responsibilities also provide those embroiled in personal disputes a sense of empowerment. Chiefs assist people in learning how to resolve conflicts by actively including all parties and encouraging their active involvement, which encourages independence and autonomy (Karani-Onyiko and Omollo, 2021).

The above sentiments by Karani-Onyiko and Omollo (2021) concur with the findings of this study, where one participant (Participant 7) said:

Eastland's traditional beliefs and practices play a significant part in the mediation roles of chiefs. Their strategy mixes conventional knowledge with cutting-edge methods, yielding a special brew that connects with the local population and improves conflict management efficacy (Participant 7).

The results of the research showed that in the Ashanti area of Ghana, chiefs play a crucial role in local border dispute settlement, conflict resolution over the misuse of stool property. Additional study findings showed that the chieftaincy institution faces difficulties including insufficient training for chiefs on conflict management, insufficient funding for the chieftaincy institution, and absenteeism on the part of lawyers and other panel members to the litigant. This reduced the chieftaincy institution's ability to regulate domestic disputes effectively.

### **Summary of the Findings: Discussions Mediation Roles of Chiefs/Local Administrators**

The research initially the study's conclusions provide insightful information on how chiefs' mediation functions affect domestic dispute resolution in Eastland's, Nairobi, Kenya. The study's goals were to look at several facets of chiefs' mediation duties and how they affect dispute resolution. Following are the main debates based on the conclusions.

A sizeable percentage of respondents ( $M = 2.02$ ,  $SD = 1.06$ ) agreed that chief mediation is essential for lowering hostility and tension between disputing parties. According to this research, leaders are better able to control their emotions and create a climate that is more favorable to resolving disputes.

Another interesting conclusion was that a sizable percentage of respondents ( $M = 2.07$ ,  $SD = 1.08$ ) agreed that chiefs' engagement in dispute resolution was important and valuable. Chiefs are treated with respect and reverence because people recognize their power and influence in mediating disputes within the community. According to the survey, a sizable majority of respondents ( $M = 2.04$ ,  $SD = 1.05$ ) understood that chiefs' mediation entails establishing prospects for win-win resolutions. According to this conclusion, chiefs use tactics to satisfy the interests and concerns of all parties engaged in a disagreement and produce win-win results.

According to the survey, the majority of respondents ( $M = 2.10$ ,  $SD = 1.05$ ) thought that mediation was a common practice in the community. This suggests that chiefs' mediation roles are generally recognized and accepted, highlighting their significance and impact in fostering communal peace and harmony.

**Citation:** Barre, A. A & Muhindi, S. P. K. (2023). Assessment of Chiefs' Roles in Domestic Conflict Management: A Case of Eastlands, Nairobi Kenya. *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies*, 7(10), 206 – 225.

Additionally, the results showed that a significant proportion of respondents ( $M = 2.09$ ,  $SD = 1.07$ ) agreed that chief mediators provide possibilities for other parties to take part in dispute resolution. This shows that chief participation in mediation procedures promotes community engagement and cooperative methods of dispute resolution.

### **Recommendations**

The study recommends that Chiefs should receive training and capacity building programs that enhance their skills in conflict resolution, mediation techniques, and negotiation strategies. This will enable them to effectively handle conflicts and facilitate positive outcomes. Also, Chiefs should collaborate with other stakeholders such as community leaders, local authorities, and non-governmental organizations to enhance the mediation process. Building partnerships can lead to more comprehensive conflict resolution efforts. In terms of Raise Awareness, There is a need to raise awareness among community members about the role of chiefs in conflict management. This can be done through public campaigns, community dialogues, and workshops to promote understanding and acceptance of chiefs' mediation roles.

**Citation:** Barre, A. A & Muhindi, S. P. K. (2023). Assessment of Chiefs' Roles in Domestic Conflict Management: A Case of Eastlands, Nairobi Kenya. *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies*, 7(10), 206 – 225.

## References

- Boateng, K. K., & Afranie, S. (2020). Chieftaincy: An anachronistic institution within a democratic dispensation? The case of a traditional political system in Ghana. *Ghana Journal of Development Studies*, 17(1), 25-47.
- Boateng, K., & Larbi, R. T. (2021). Collaboration between Chiefs and Local Government Actors in Combating Climate Change: Evidence from New Juaben, Ghana. *Contemporary Journal of African Studies*, 8(1 & 2), 25-41.
- Chopra, T. (2008). Building Informal Justice in Northern Kenya, Legal Resources Foundation Trust (LRF), Nairobi.
- Christina Rautenbach, "Traditional Courts as Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)-Mechanisms in South Africa" SSRN.
- Elder, B., Payne, M., & Oswago, B. (2021). The community-based actions that removed barriers to inclusive education in Kenya. *Disability and the Global South*.
- He, A. J., & Ma, L. (2021). Citizen participation perceived public service performance, and trust in government: Evidence from health policy reforms and conflict management in Hong Kong. *Public Performance & Management Review*, 44(3), 471-493.
- KaraniOnyiko, B. E. D. K. and M. J. O. Omollo, (2021). Role of Traditional Leadership Structures in Enhancing Inter-Ethnic Conflict Resolution in Laisamis Sub-County, Marsabit County, Kenya.
- Kariuki, F. (2014). Applicability of Traditional Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in Criminal Cases in Kenya: Case Study of Republic v Mohamed Abdow Mohamed [2013] eKLR,'2 *Alternative Dispute Resolution Journal* (2014), pp.202-228.
- Kinyua, N. (2010). The Role of Provincial Administration In Managing Conflicts In Kenya, (1963-2010).
- Luc Huyse et al (2008). Traditional Justice And Reconciliation After Violent Conflict, International Institute For Democracy And Electoral Assistance, Sweden.
- Machalek, R. and Martin, M. (2015). Sociobiology and Sociology: A New Synthesis; In *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences* (Second Edition), 2015
- Marfo, S. (2019). Chiefs as judges in modern Ghana: exploring the judicial role and challenges confronting the Ashanti regional house of chiefs. *UDS International Journal of Development*, 6(3), 160-174.
- Mbito, L. N., & Onkware, K. (2018). Conflict Management Strategies Employed in Dealing with Cooperative Land Conflicts in Kiambu County Kenya.
- Mboh, L. (2021). An investigation into the role of traditional leaders in conflict resolution: The case of communities in the Mahikeng Local Municipality, North West Province, South Africa. *African Journal on Conflict Resolution*, 21(2), 33-57.
- Mbuba, J. and Mugambi, F. (2011). Approaches to Crime Control and Order Maintenance in Transitional Societies: The Role of Village Headmen, Chiefs, Sub-Chiefs and Administration Police in Rural Kenya. *African Journal Of Criminology & Justice Studies: AJCJS*; Volume 4, No. 2.
- Muigua, K. (2014). Promoting International Commercial Arbitration in Africa. Paper presented at Strathmore Annual Law Conference held on 3rd & 4th July, 2014 at Strathmore University Law School, Nairobi Omenya, A. et al., May 2006] Understanding the tipping point of urban conflict: the case of Nairobi, Kenya, Manchester, UK.

**Citation:** Barre, A. A & Muhindi, S. P. K. (2023). Assessment of Chiefs' Roles in Domestic Conflict Management: A Case of Eastlands, Nairobi Kenya. *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies*, 7(10), 206 – 225.

Nyawalo P. et al (2011). *The Invisible Violence In Kenya*, Konrad Adenauer-Stiftunge. V. Nairobi

Obuya, Bagaka (2011). *Restructuring the Provincial Administration: An Insider's View*, The Regal Press Kenya Ltd. Nairobi, Kenya.

Oyugi, W. [1994] *Politics and Administration In East Africa*. Nairobi: East Africa Educational Publishers.

Republic of Kenya (2010). *The Constitution of Kenya*. Nairobi: Government Printers.

Santschi, M. (2020). *Crucial, but vulnerable: The role of Chiefs in COVID response and conflict resolution*.