THE 9TH BATTALION KENYA RIFFLES AND CIVIL RELATIONSHIP IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ELDORET

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ABSTRACT

Scholarly articles on civil-military relations have been conducted especially in the developed world. However scanty research has been done in areas like the 9th Battalion Kenya riffles (Eldoret) in *Uasin Gishu* County. The main purpose of this study therefore, was to examine the relationship between the military and the civil society in relation to the socio-economic impact and the military activities to the soldiers living in the 9th Battalion Kenya riffles (Eldoret) and the civilians residing within a radius of 2 km from the Barracks in *Uasin Gishu* County. This came as a result of the questions raised by individuals from the society about their existing relationship with the military as this was to help fill existing relations in the society. The researcher targeted individuals, religious institutions and academic institutions that exist in the area. The primary data was collected through interviews and questionnaires. Secondary data was gathered and reviewed from journals, books, magazines, newspapers and published proceedings that corroborated the primary data. Simple descriptive statistics was employed to analyze the data and the findings presented in tables and graphs.

Keywords: Civil, Military, Relations**.**

INTRODUCTION

Civil-military relations (CMR) refer to the relationship between the civil authority of a given society and the military authority. The civil-military relationship and specifically the interaction between civilian leaders and military leaders rely on the attitudes and actions of both the civilians and the military (Onditi, 2015). Civil-military relations can be based into three factors; the strength or the weakness of civilian institution, the strength or weakness of the military institution and the coercive, political and organizational resources of its disposal and the nature of boundaries between military establishment and its socio-political environment. And by examining these three variables, Lucham's typology classifies civil-military relations based on the roles which the military institution plays in a country's political life (Luckham, 1971). The problem with Lucham's typology is that it neglects the role of international environment, that is, political, economic, and military on a country's civil-military relations.

For better understanding of the type of civil-military relations there should be creation of a multi-factorial model which should take in to consideration the effect of the domestic, social, economic and the political environment in which the military institution lives and functions. The core goal of the military is to protect nation's interest, including democracy by determining, deterring and destroying those against the state's interests. The military is a powerful institution because it has statutory authority over the means of violence and how it relates to civil society groups in general cannot be ignored in the democratization process. To a large extend the defence forces has carried out its traditional mandate. In meeting the above objectives it has carried out a range of activities such as construction projects production activities, disaster management, Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immune

Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) programmes, chaplaincy, peacekeeping, and military cooperation (Abrahamson, 1972). On the other hand civil society are organizations established to actively address the varied and complex needs of the society, establish mechanism by which government, markets and for profit organizations are held accountable to the public, promote pluralism and diversity and protect and strengthen cultural, religion, ethnic, linguistic and other identities. In many nations in Africa which fought liberation wars, there has been an inevitable bounding between the military and the civil society. This has been because the latter were, or actively identified with the combatant in the field and upon attaining independence, ended up holding senior political and government positions. They therefore, remained conscious of and understanding towards their comrades who had been reintegrated into the demobilized civil society or remained in the military (Aguero, 1995). In Kenya, besides maintaining security against external aggression the military through its relation with the Kenyan civilians participates in infrastructural and economic development of the state. Frequently Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) is used to perform civic actions programs from building roads to providing rural healthcare (Onditi *et al*, 2016).

Statement of the Problem

Since World War II put an end to the traditional role of the military as an instrument of a states' territorial expansion, its utility as a domestic force was greatly enhanced. As one of the few highly 'westernized' institutions, the military was seen as the single most effective pressure group capable of playing a positive role in a country's attempt to reach a higher level in the ladder of social and political as well as economic progress. The military appeared to be the only group capable of enforcing and preserving political stability and order (Gaddis, 2005). As the armed forces become larger and more complex military bases become larger and more expensive. Civil Political Power (CPP) is exerted to determine the location and composition of the military bases and installations not only to enhance and balance civilian economy, but also to strengthen political power and prestige of individual legislators. This latter feature brings about a natural and powerful alliance of civilian politicians with the leaders of the major industries with the constituencies. As a consequence of this seemingly irreversible development, the armed forces now have a multiple role in our society, economy and political system (Applebaum, 2012).

However World War II political scholars developed different types of views towards the military intervention in political life. For example, Machiavelli argued that, a 'military man cannot be a good man', Voltaire would describe them as the, 'manifestation of brute force in rationalized form', and Colton (1978) claimed that a standing army, however necessary it may be, is always dangerous to the liberties of the people, several post war political scholars thought of the military as a legitimate pressure group capable of playing a positive role in the socio-political transformation of a newly created peripheral state (Onditi, 2015). The researcher examined the potential for engaging the civil society at various levels and in both directions the impact posed by the military in order to create a working relationship

Objectives

1) To examine the impact of the 9th battalion Kenya riffles and civil relationship in socio-economic development in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County.
2) To identify roles played by the civil society in facilitating military activities in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County.

3) To examine the various events and occasions where the military and the civil society interact.
4) To explore ways of improving military/ civilian relations in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County.

Research Questions

1) Do military activities have any impact in the economic development of Eldoret in Uasin Gishu County?
2) Does the civil society play any role in facilitating military activities in the area?
3) What are the occasions and events where the military and the civil society interact?
4) What are ways of improving military/civilian relationship in Eldoret in Uasin Gishu County?

Military Professionalism and Civilian Control

The history of civil-military relations can be traced back to the writings of Tzu (1975) and Clausewitz (1989) both of which argued that military organizations were servants of the state. It is concerned about the growing militarism in the society engendering an examination in to the impact of military organization within the society. According to Huntington (1957) the difference between the two worlds are as a result of contrast between the attitudes and values held by military personnel mostly conservative and those held by civilians mostly liberal. Each world consisted of a separated institution with its own operative rules and norms. The military function was furthermore inherently different from that of the civilian world. The 'remedy', for all social and economic problems that South East Asian countries were to face in future was strong leadership backed by organizational structure and by moral authority which was seen as the necessary ingredient for the successful management and future planning of these countries, the only group which could display such qualities was the military (Aguero,1995). According to scholar Jonawitz, one should not confuse discipline and organizational capacity whereas the officers have been trained to operate efficiently when assigned to specific tasks, their effect on the broad economic development of any country would at best be minimal due to, 'limitations inherent in their profession'. According to Anglo-American politico-economic model (AAPEM) which they were promoting, it was democracy rather than dictatorship the political system which complements the development of economic capitalism (Jonawitz, 1964).

The ramifications of the cold war, specifically the American decision to maintain a large standing army for the first time in history led to concerns about whether such a large military structure could be effectively maintained by a liberal democracy. Huntington (1968) published books on the subject which effectively brought civil-military relations into academia. These theoretical arguments are often used in the study of other national civil military studies. On the other hand Samuel (1962:3) in his book, 'The Man on the Horseback' observed that many governments do not have the administrative skills to efficiently govern which may open opportunities for military interventions especially in underdeveloped world. The end of the Cold War led to new debate about to the proper role of the military in society, both in the United States and in the former Soviet Union. However, as before, much of the discussion revolved around whether the power of the state was in decline and whether an appropriate level of civilian control was being brought to bear on the military (Alagappa, 2001). Civilian leadership would decide the objective of any military action but then leave it to the military world to decide upon the best way of achieving the objective. The problem facing civilian authority, then, is in deciding on the ideal amount of control. Too much control over the military could result in a force too weak to defend the nation, resulting in

failure on the battlefield. Too little control would create the possibility of a coup, i.e., failure of the government. A large volume of research has been carried out to find out the relationship between the military and the civilian society in the developed states but no research has been done between the 9th battalion Kenya riffles and civil relationship in Eldoret in Uasin Gishu County. Therefore, it was to help identify various gaps that existed between the civilian and the military and come up with various ways to fill and improve the relationship.

Conceptual Framework

The purpose of theory is practice. We don't need to interpret and understand reality for its own sake, but to act upon (practice) and affect it. Our presence and actions always affect reality positively or negatively. Theory is not permanent or fixed, it is constant dynamic and constantly being constructed, as we keep trying (but never fully succeeding) to catch up in our understanding of reality. Reality is constantly changing and so are our understandings of it. All our theory is constantly tested, verified (or not), and rectified according to newer and deeper understandings of what exists. In this research, a theory informed the study, namely, Institutional theory.

Institutional Theory

Huntington in his book on civil-military relations, *The Soldier and the State*, described the differences between the two worlds as a contrast between the attitudes and values held by military personnel, mostly conservative, and those held by civilians, mostly liberal. Each world consisted of a separate institution with its own operative rules and norms. The military's function was furthermore inherently different from that of the civilian world. Given a more conservative military world which was illiberal in many aspects, it was necessary to find a method of ensuring that the liberal civilian world would be able to maintain its dominance over the military world. Huntington's answer to this problem was "military professionalism" (Huntington, 1957). Huntington focused his study on the officer corps. He first defined a profession and explained that enlisted personnel, while certainly part of the military world, are not, strictly speaking, professionals. He relegated them to the role of tradesmen or skilled craftsmen, necessary but not professionals in his definition of the term. It was professional military officers, not the enlisted technicians of the trade of violence, or even part-time or amateur reserve officers, who would be the key to controlling the military world (Huntington, 1956).

Professionalizing the military, or at least the officer corps, which is the decision-making authority within the military world, emphasizes the useful aspects of that institution such as discipline, structure, order, and self-sacrifice. It also isolates the corps in a specialized arena in which the military professionals would be recognized as experts in the use of force. As recognized experts not subject to the interference of the civilian world, the military's officer corps would willingly submit itself to civil authority. In Huntington's words, such an arrangement maintained a "focus on a politically neutral, autonomous, and professional officer corps" (Alagappa, 2001). If civilian control is the critical variable for military effectiveness, it raises the question of how civilian control is then to be determined. Huntington identified two shaping forces or imperatives for civilian control (1) functional and (2) societal. He broke the societal imperative into two components, ideology and structure. By ideology, he meant a world-view or paradigm: liberal anti-military, conservative pro-military, fascist pro-military and Marxist anti-military. By structure, he meant the legal-

constitutional framework that guided political affairs generally and civil-military affairs specifically.

Conceptual Model

Conceptual model is a diagrammatical representation that shows the relationship between independent and dependent variables. In the study, the independent variable was the 9th Battalion Kenya Riffles while Civilian's perception of the military and Socio-economic development was dependent variable. Figure 1.1 shows the Conceptual Model
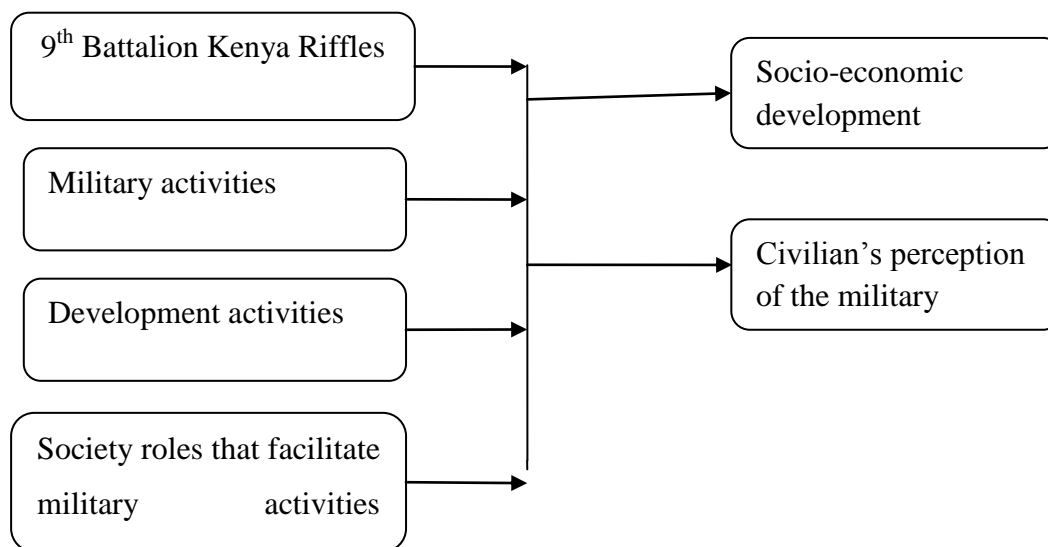
Independent Variables   **Dependent Variable**
Figure 1.1 Conceptual Model showing interactions of variables
Source: Researcher (2016)

METHODOLOGY

Research design refers to the method used to carry out a research. Quantitative and qualitative was used. Descriptive research design on the other hand, is a scientific method which involves observing and describing the behavior of a subject without influencing it in any way. According to Cooper and Schindler (2003), a descriptive study is concerned with finding out what, where and how of a phenomenon. This study adopted a qualitative research approach. A qualitative approach uses an interpretive method to be able to carry out an evaluation (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003).

Study Area

The study was conducted in the 9th Battalion Kenya Riffles and its surroundings in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County. Specifically in the neighboring institutions, schools and population which reside within a radius of 2km from 9th Battalion Kenya Riffles, Moi barracks. Since they were able to provide accurate and primary data which helped the researcher draw valid conclusion.

Target Population

Target population in statistics is the specific population about which information is desired. According to Ngechu (2004), a population is a well-defined or set of people, services, elements, and events, group of things or households that are being investigated. Population studies are more representative because everyone has equal chance to be included in the final sample. The population of interest of this study was businessmen/women, farmers, teachers, heads of other institutions, civil authority and religious leaders around 9th Kenya Riffles Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County.

Sample Size and Presentation

A sample is a small part of the total population of the study drawn in such a way that the sample static's are representative of the population of the study. After a careful review, stratified random sampling procedure was used to determine the sample size of the study. Table 1.1 shows categories of respondents.

Table 1.1: shows categories of respondents

categories of respondents	Sample size
Farmers	16
Teachers	12
Civil authority	7
Businessmen/women	Male 5 female 5
Total	45

Source: Field Data Analysis (2016)

Data Collection Instruments

The instruments for collecting data from the field, the researcher used close and open ended questionnaires. According to Kombo and Tromp (2006), a questionnaire is an appropriate instrument suitable for obtaining information from a larger group of respondents. According to Kothari (2004), questionnaires are usually free from the interview bias as the answers are in respondents' opinions. Interviews which ensured that the researcher obtain adequate and relevant responses in an organized manner that facilitated easy analysis and interpretation. This made it easier to get adequate and accurate information necessary for the research.

Data Collection Procedure

The data was collected in and around 9th Kenya Riffles Eldoret and from civillian respondents within a radius of 2km from the Battalion in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County using questionnaires and interview guide which the researcher administered himself. The questionnaires contained both open and close-ended questions. The close-ended questions provided more structured responses that facilitated the recommendations. The open-ended questions provided additional information that may not had been captured in the close-ended questions. Secondary data was collected from books, journal articles, conference proceedings, magazines and newspapers which were critically analyzed.

Data Analysis Procedure

The data was collected and coded, quantified and analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively. Quantitative data was analyzed with the use of statistical package for social sciences (SPSS version 22.0) whereas descriptive and inferential statistics was computed in order to understand the patterns and nature of relationships. Quantitative data collected was analyzed by the use of descriptive statistics using SPSS and presented through percentages, means, standard deviations and frequencies. The information is displayed by use of tables, graphs and pie charts and in prose-form.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The study findings are presented on the civil-military relations in Kenya a case of the 9th battalion Kenya riffles and population which reside within a radius of 2km from 9th Battalion Kenya Riffles, Moi barracks in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County.

Response Rate

The study targeted 45 respondents in collecting data with regard the civil-military relations from the 9th battalion Kenya riffles and the civil population which reside within a radius of 2km from 9th Battalion Kenya Riffles, Moi barracks in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County. From the study, 36 out of the 45 sample respondents filled-in and returned the questionnaires making a response rate of 80%. This reasonable response rate was made a reality after the researcher made personal calls and visits to remind the respondent to fill-in and return the questionnaires. Table 1.2 and figure 1.2 indicates the Response rate.

Table 1.2: Response rate

categories of respondents	Sample size	Respondents	Response rate
Farmers	16	11	68.75%
Teachers	12	10	83.33%
Civil authority	7	7	100%
Businessmen/women	10	8	80%
Total	45	36	

Source: Field Data Analysis (2016)
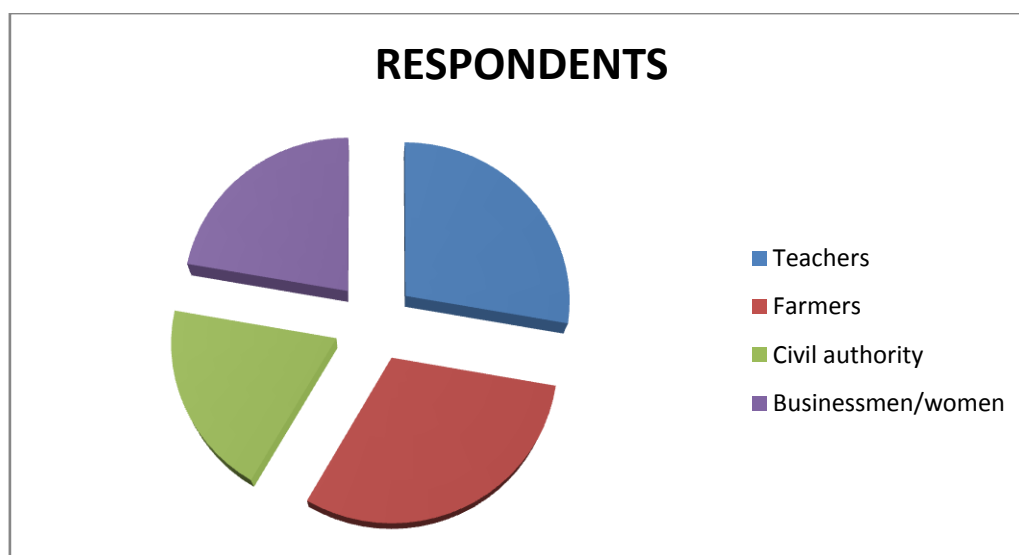
Figure 1.2: Results on the impact of military activities in the economic development of the study area

Source: Field Data Analysis (2016)

The study sought to find out the impact of the military activities in the area from the respondents. According to the findings, out of the 45, 30 respondents said that the military plays a major role in planting trees and providing medical facilities to the nearby civilians representing 66% of the respondents, 12 respondents had a view that the military contributed most to development of water projects and provision of learning materials to schools in the area representing 26.6% and 3 respondents representing 6.7% said that Kenya Defence Forces through Defence Forces Canteen Organization (DEFCO) provided services to non-military personnel. The table1.3 and figure 1.3 illustrates the views of the respondents.
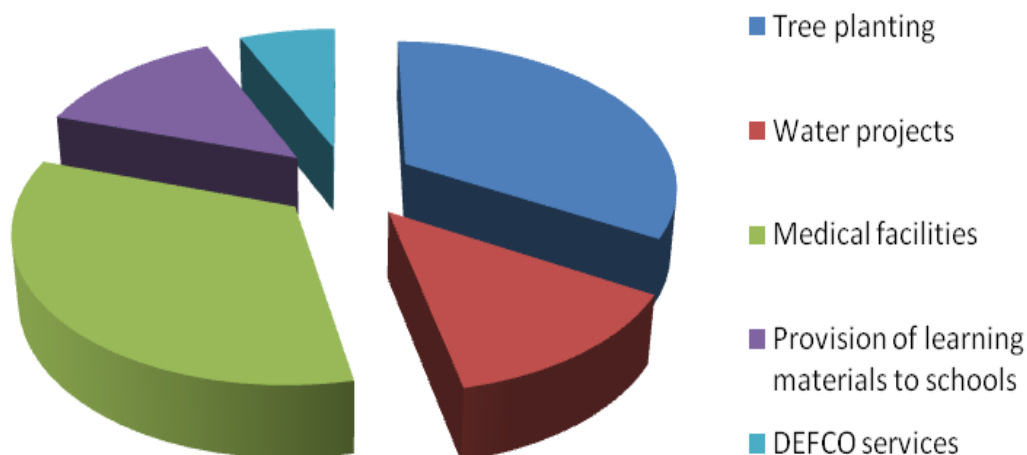
Table 1.3 military activities

Military activity	Number of respondents	Percentage
Tree planting	15	33.3%
Water project	6	13.3%
Medical facilities	15	33.3%
Provision of learning materials	6	13.3%
Defence Forces Canteen Organization (DEFCO) services	3	6.7%

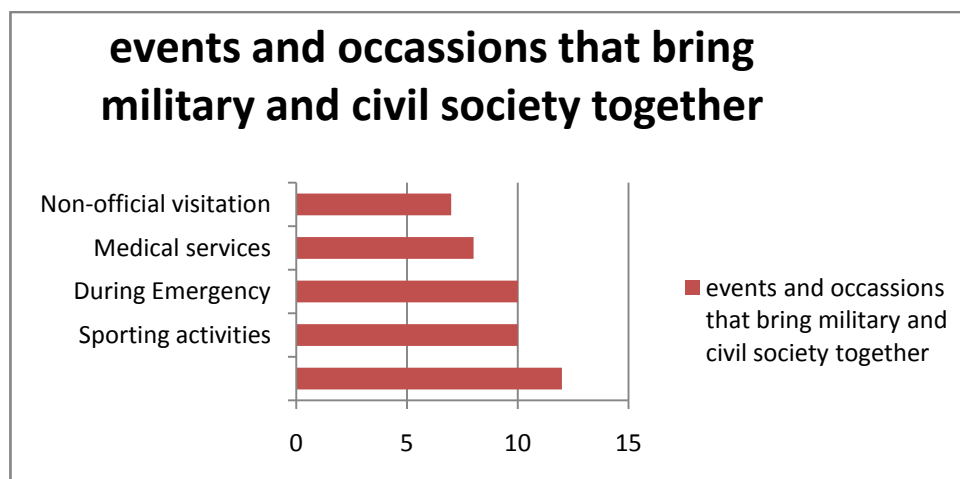**Source:** Field Data Analysis (2016)

Figure 1.3: Military projects
Source: Field Data Analysis (2016)

The study sought to find out the events and occasions that broght the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) 9th Batallion Kenya Riffles and civil society together. Table 1.4 and figure 1.4 illustrates the various events and occasions that broght the military and the civil society together. Majority of the respondents agreed that it was the graduation ceremonies when the two interact most representing 26.7% of the respondents. The respondents also agreed that during occurrence of emergency and sporting activities the military personnel and the civil society come together representing 22.2% of the respondents. The research also shows that 17.8% and 15.6% of the total respondents said that interaction occured through non-official visitation and during provision of medical care by the military personnel both inside and outside the barracks. All these had a mean of 9.4 as illustrated in the table 1.4 and figure 1.4.

Table1.4 Events and occasions

Military activity	No of respondents	Percentage
Military graduation ceremonies	12	26.7%
Sporting activities	10	22.2%
During Emergency	10	22.2%
Medical services	8	17.8%
Non-official visitation	7	15.6%
Mean	9.4	

Source: Field Data Analysis (2016)

Figure 1.4 Military events and occasions

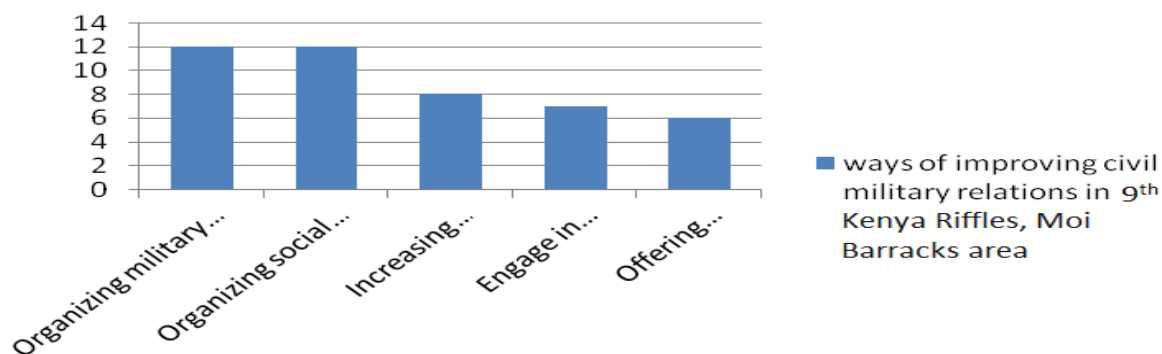**Source:** Field Data Analysis (2016)

The study sought to find out the respondents' agreement on the various ways of improving civil military relations. From the findings, as shown in the table 1.5 and figure 1.5 the respondents agreed that Organizing military social days and organizing social events were the major ways of improving civil-military relations each representing 26.7% of the total respondents. The respondents also attested to the fact that Increasing frequency of army days and Engaging in community services more frequently could be used to improve civil-military relations representing 17.8% and 15.6% respectively as shown in table 1.5 and figure 1.5. The respondents agreed that offering humanitarian services to the civilians by the KDF was another way of improving civil-military relation as it represented 13.3% of the total respondents though it represents the lowest of the total. Table 1.5 and figure 1.5 ways of improving KDF-Civilian relations in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County.

Table 1.5 ways of improving civil-military relations

Military activity	No of respondents	Percentage
Organizing military social days	12	26.7%
Organizing social events	12	26.7%
Increasing frequency of army days	8	17.8%
Engage in community services more frequently	7	15.6%
Offering humanitarian services to the public	6	13.3%

Source: Field Data Analysis (2016)

Figure 1.5 ways of improving civil-military relations
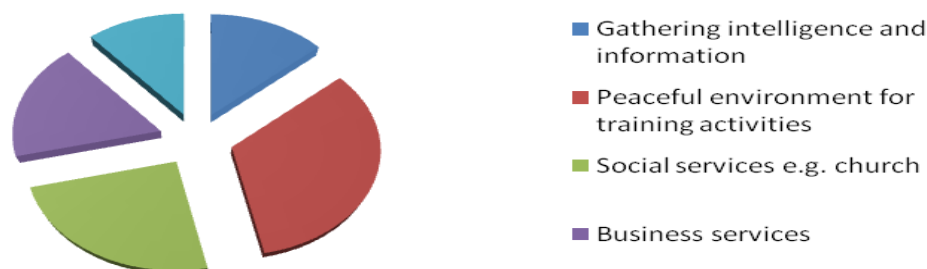**Source:** Field Data Analysis (2016)

The study sought to find out whether the civil society played any roles in facilitating military activities in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County in Kenya. According to the findings, the respondents subscribed to various roles including providing peaceful environment for training activities representing 33.3% being the largest portion of the total respondents. They agreed that provision of social services to the military was the second main societal role in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County representing 24.4% of the respondents. The civil society does conduct intelligence and information gathering this was agreed upon by 13.3% of the respondents. They also agreed that the society provided business services and advisory services to the military personnel living in 9thKenya Riffles, Moi Barracks in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County was 17.8% and 11.1% respectively by respondents. Table 1.6 and Figure1.6 shows roles of the civil society in facilitating military activities.

Table 1.6 Roles of civil society facilitating military activities

Roles of the civil society in facilitating military activities	No of respondents	Percentage
Gathering intelligence and information	6	13.3%
Peaceful environment for training activities	15	33.3%
Social services e.g. church	11	24.4%
Business services	8	17.8%
Advisory services	5	11.1%

Source: Field Data Analysis (2016)

A pie chart showing civil society roles that facilitate military activities in 9ᵗʰ Kenya Riffles, Moi Barracks area

Figure 1.6 civil society roles

Source: Field Data Analysis (2016)

DISCUSSION

Aid to civil authority is the key secondary mission of Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) in Kenya. With its scarce resources, the military has been instrumental in providing assistance to the government in pursuant of national objectives. This objective transcends security operations to socioeconomic mitigation and development interventions. Therefore, the goal of the military is to provide and maintain an efficient, effective and coordinated support to national disaster management response. Specific areas in which the military assist the civil populace include: drought and desertification, floods, earthquakes and tremors, landslides, civil strife, terrorism, transport accidents, fires, livestock epidemics, pest infestation, industrial hazards, and structural failures (Onditi *et al*, 2016). The Kenya defence forces environmental programme started in September, 2003 have resulted to over 3 million seedlings been planted in various part of the country. This is colloborated by a report from research done by the president and fellows of Harvard College which analyzed the multiple dimensions and synergies of the relationship between the military and the civil authority collectively to redefine their roles and responsibilities. The report found out that for building a successful relationship, it called upon the military leaders to assume a more proactive role and broad advising and educating role. It also urged the civilian leaders to respect the apolitical nature of the military service (Welch, 1976).

Summary of the Findings

The study aimed at investigating the role of the military and civil society in enhancing civil-military relations in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County, Kenya.

Military Contribution to Economic Development

The study found that Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) 9ᵗʰ Kenya Riffles contributed to economic development of the study area in various ways. 9ᵗʰ Kenya Riffles Batallion participated majorly in tree planting and provision of medical care was shown by the 33.3% respondents. The military also provided learning materials and participated in development of water projects as shown by 13.3% of respondents. The research found that military provided DEFCO services to the population in the area were shown by 6.7% of the respondents.

Ways and Events that the Military and the Civil Society Interact

The study found that the civil society and the military interact in several ways and also in different occasions. The research showed that during military graduation ceremonies, the military and the civil society interacted most as was confirmed by 26.6% of the respondents. Other effective events agreed upon as ways through which the military and the civil society interacted were during sporting activities and also during the occurrence of an emergency that required military attention was confirmed by 22.2%. The study also found that the military interacted with the civil society while providing medical services as was confirmed by 17.8% of the respondents. The study showed that when the civilians pay non official visitation to their friends in the military barracks this contributed to interaction as was confirmed by 15.6% of the respondents.

Ways of Improving Civil-Military Relations

Among the ways of improving civil-military relations, the study found were: organizing for military social days and organizing for social events were the most effective way as was said by 26.7% of respondents. The study found that increasing the frequency of army days and the military engaging in community services more frequently could be used to improve civil-military relations as was confirmed by 17.8% and 15.6% respectively. The research found that the respondents agreed on the issue of the military offering humanitarian services to the public as a way of improving civil-military relations as was said by 13.3% of the respondents.

The Roles that the Society plays in facilitating Military Activities

The study found that the society played a major role of providing a peaceful environment to facilitate military training activities in the area as was confirmed by 33.3%. They provided social amenities that are essential in the day to day wellbeing of a person as it was said by 24.4% of the respondents. Other roles that were found during the study included; provision of advisory services and gathering of information and intelligence as was said by 11.1% and 13.3% of the respondents respectively.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that the military plays a major role in the country apart from providing security against external aggression; it also participates in economic development of the state. The research found out that Kenya Defence Forces through its engineering units participated in water development projects, road construction projects, schools construction and other infrastructural development projects. This study found out that the civil society acknowledged the presence of the military in the area. This was because they were able to note the various military activities that were beneficial to them. On the other hand, we can conclude that the civil society also plays a major role in the existence of the military in the area. This is because it provides various services both economic and social without forgetting a peaceful environment especially for training activities. This study shows that if the military could increase the frequency of social events and social days it would have played an essential role in improving civil-military relations in the area. Generally the research showed that both the civil society and the military play their parts in keeping the wellbeing of each other and more so they both continue with maintaining a good picture of civil-military relations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommends that the military should be engaged more frequently in community services, continue offering humanitarian services to the public and put more effort in organizing military social days and social events in order to meet regularly, discuss issues, know each other's demand and improve on civil-military relations.

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