

Socio-Demographic and Economic Implications of Immigration into Kitengela Town, Kajiado County, Kenya Between 2011 And 2021

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Abstract

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Purpose: This study main objective was to determine socio-demographic and economic implications of immigration in Kitengela Town, Kenya.

Methodology: A stratified sampling technique was used to select 153 immigrants residing in Kitengela Town (internal/international) and three key informants using a questionnaire and an interview guide. The study employed a descriptive survey design to collect both quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data was organized, cleaned, coded and analyzed using Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS v 25.0) software. Percentages and frequencies were computed and presented in charts and tables. Qualitative data was cleaned and transcribed to bring out important information in the best way.

Results: The study found that there are both positive and negative socio-demographic and economic effects of immigration in Kitengela Town. The study also established that immigration to Kitengela Town is facilitated/motivated by better healthcare facilities, better housing infrastructure, industrialization of urban areas, better employment opportunities as well as good learning institutions. However, some of the problems encountered by immigrants included traffic congestion, weather/climate changes, difference in living standards (either high or unmanageable), struggle to settle in, fluctuating financial status, and insecurity especially at night among others.

Unique contribution to theory, policy and practice: From the findings, the study recommended that the Kenyan Government should implement strong and coherent economic reforms that will attract investment in diverse sections of the nation with the goal of strengthening the economy and generating job opportunities to mitigate negative social and economic consequences of migration. The County Government of Kajiado should also increase and improve training platforms and centers to improve the self-sustenance skills of the immigrants in order to minimize unemployment and lack of economic sustainability. Also, spouses, family members and married people are advised to relocate together whenever feasible to protect their marriages, sexual reproductive health and healthy behavioural maintenance.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Humans have migrated since time in memorial and this is a reality that cut across almost all corners of the globe (Duncan & Popp, 2017). All individuals in the world have an account that touches on immigration either (within the country or outside the country) more so, due to different pull and pushes factors (Mangalam, 2015). Migration can be traced from the beginning of the human population up to the present and it is inevitable from the history of man. Throughout, economic and social development has been intimately related to immigration, and also immigration influences development (White et al., 2018).

Globally, by 2013 the numbers of international migrants were 232 million and the biggest percentage of 72 million and 71 million residing in Europe and Asia respectively (IOM, 2022). While significant attention was given to international migration, Czaika & De Haas (2014) posits that most international migrants move over smaller distances. Oceania and Northern America received most of their migrants from far areas such as Europe, America and Asia. More than one million immigrants were received in the US in 2015 (IOM, 2022; White et al., 2018). These immigrants were said to contribute more to population increase as compared to natural increase. These migrants were said to originate from all over the world. Immigration is highly influenced by economic, environmental, political and social factors. Immigration influenced the transfer of manpower and the provision of the needed knowledge and innovation for global growth (White et al., 2018).

About 58% of immigrants in the US originated from Mexico and 42% of these immigrants come mainly from African and Asian continents. In the year 2010, the immigrations rate in the US went down mostly due to the expatriation of illegal migrants from Mexico (Hill & Hayes, 2013). According to Lee et al. (2015), about 157 immigrants in the US in 2015 came from low-income countries across the world. This number is said to have increased between 2000 and 2015 and mostly migrants migrate to high-income countries. White et al. (2015) found that the largest number of permanent immigrants in the United State of America originated from India and China. This migration was the primary driver of population increase rather than natural increase. The humanitarian immigrants (more so the refugees being relocated) had remained equally stable since 1996, and an upsurge from 2012 to 2015. The number of immigrants from India had increased from 3,000 migrants in 1996 to more than 40,000 by 2013 (White et al., 2015).

In South Africa, the key factors that contributed to the movement of people from their home country were economic and partly political factors (Anjofui, 2018). Other factors that increased the movement of people from their home to other countries/regions included ambitions and experience. Research by Dinbabo and Nyasulu (2015) showed that advanced societal and economic expansion is attributed to an increase in the numbers of migrants in a country. Nigerian emigrants were spread across Africa and were about 3 million. Above 60 per cent of these migrants were residing within neighbouring countries such as Mali (UNHCR, 2021). Immigrants leaving in Nigeria had also shown an increasing trend. By the year 1992, they were 488,224 and expanded to 981,540 by the year 2006 (UNHCR, 2021).

Current societal problems and lack of interpersonal trust in the Nigerian society was one major reason why most Nigerians were migrating to Europe. It was noted that the uprising of Boko Haram and policing of youth had implications for safety at both regional and national levels and had been a trigger for large-scale internal displacement and migration (Villman, 2017).

About one-third of the Nigerian migrants arriving in Italy were female, which was much higher portion than in other migrant groups. In medieval times, many Arabs migrated to East Africa because of demographic pressure at home, bad climate, famine and floods, or political upheavals; this increased the number of international immigrants in the region (White et al., 2018).

In Kenya, immigrants were from African countries mostly from East Africa, and only 2% were from Asia, Europe, and America. Although the percentages were said to have increased between 1990 and 2013 (Flahaux, 2016). Among the immigrants, the majority were said to be refugees from Ethiopia and Somalia living in Kakuma and Daadab with a population of 181,821 and 351,446 respectively. Mitulla (2014) found out that there was migration of professionals and experts to the UN Blue Zone while in other parts of the city like Eastleigh; there was an immigration of Somali refugees from Dadaab Refugee Camp.

Kenya remained the leading receiving country of immigrants originating mostly from outside Eastern Africa and also rated as the key sending country in Eastern and Southern Africa (Mwangi, 2013). Mwangi (2013) emphasizes that the largest number of immigrants in Kenya come from the neighbour countries like i.e., Somali and Ethiopia. Political unrest, other struggles of the Somali country were key aspects causing involuntary movement of people from the area. Kenya had an expanded economy that drew skilled workers from all over the African region. Other countries that had attracted skilled experts from Kenya include the Rwanda country and had formed a big terminus of immigrants (Ombaire, 2016).

Many immigrant communities had moved into Kajiado County. Areas such as Ongata Rongai, Olkeri, Nkaimurunya, Ooloolua, Matasia and Kitengela, which between them Kitengela had 154,436 people as per the 2019 census report which was an increase from 56,984 in the 2009 census report (KNBS, 2019). These areas mainly are occupied by non-indigenous people (Campbell, 2015). Their numbers could have grown significantly considering the fast growth of suburbs around Nairobi County. In Kitengela Town, there is a mosaic of immigrants from other parts of Kenya and beyond the Kenyan borders. Reports indicate that there are many foreign people who have engaged in activities such as waiters, boda-boda riders, barbers among others (Campbell, 2015).

The immigrants range from the local immigrants and international immigrants. Local immigrants included pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and businessmen and residents in the outskirts of Kitengela area, other locations in Nairobi and other parts of the Country (Wandaka & Francis, 2019). Those who migrated from Nairobi tend to be better established. The majority of international immigrants residing in Kitengela Town are from the Democratic Republic Congo, Somalia and South Sudan who find livelihood opportunities as casual labourers in the construction sector, in textiles and flower EPZ (UNHCR, 2012). Although immigration in Kitengela has been going on for years, hardly has any study been undertaken to establish the trends of movements and the socio-economic effects of immigration in the town and the trend of the movements. This study aimed at bridging this knowledge gap by establishing the socio-economic effects of immigration to Kitengela Town.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Globally, there had been an overwhelming concern on growing population, whereas resources to sustain the increased number of people in most parts of the world was getting rare every day particularly in developing countries including Kenya (Castles *et al.*, 2013). The population of Kenya as per the 2019 census report was at 47,564,296 which was an increase of about 10

million persons compared to 2009 which was at 37.7 million persons (KNBS, 2019). Kajiado County population as per the 2019 census report was at 1,117,840 an increase from the 2009 census 687,312 (KNBS, 2019). Kitengela Town which was the case study area as per the 2019 census report recorded a population of 154,436 persons which was also an increase from 2009 population report 56,984 (KNBS, 2019). Kitengela Town has had unprecedented growth in population for the past ten years, a phenomenon unlikely to be as a result of natural increase (Rodriguez *et al.*, 2012). This population comprises a mosaic of different communities and nationalities. So, this study sought to establish the socio-demographic characteristic and economic effects of immigration in Kitengela Town. Studies on immigration had been done in Kenya but in major towns and cities like Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu and Eldoret. However, no study had been done in Kitengela, yet it is an important destination for many migrants. This study sought to fill this knowledge gap.

1.3 Research objective

The general objective of this research was to determine socio-demographic and economic implications of immigration into Kitengela Town between 2011 and 2021.

1.4 Specific objectives

- i. To establish socio-demographic characteristics of immigrants in Kitengela Town.
- ii. To determine the economic effects of immigration to Kitengela Town.
- iii. To identify factors influencing immigration to Kitengela Town

1.5 Research questions

- i. What are the socio-demographic characteristics of immigrants in Kitengela Town?
- ii. What are the economic effects of immigrants to Kitengela Town?
- iii. What factors influence immigration to Kitengela Town?

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Socio-demographic characteristics for immigrants

In society, not all members of that society had a notion of moving to a new place, only a certain group of people who portrayed such trend. Report indicates that people would move due to programs like an internship, looking for a spouse and others to join family members (Simpson, 2017). According to Desa (2015), between 2000 and 2015 the age that was involved in immigration was mainly between 35-39 years in continents like Asia, Europe, and North America. This age was an active age and highly productive. Wahba (2015) asserts that not only the skilled and educated people moved, but also the uneducated and unskilled moved to look for jobs to sustain their livelihoods. Werbner (2013) carried out a study on the implication of returnees to their mother country from the Dominican Republic. The study found out that the uneducated were more than twice the educated and skilled people to move.

Immigration was an occurrence that was initiated mostly by political issues, socio-economic and ethnic factors. Immigration occurred because of the push and pulls factors. Immigrants moved from fewer opportunity areas to more developed areas or towns (UN Habitat, 2016). Immigrants portray both positive and negative effects. However, migrants are of different races, beliefs, backgrounds and languages. Although different varieties of people are good in a town, this difference in people could cause threat no beliefs and customs of the natives to the level of causing anxiety within residents (IOM, 2022). Numerous developing nations had

different perceptions about immigrants. In most cases, they saw it as a threat to the national security of the country. This had translated to limiting chances of asylum seekers who would like to move to safer countries (IOM, 2018). Therefore, the planned study aimed at establishing the immigrant socio-demographic characteristic in Kitengela Town.

2.2 Economic effects of immigrants

Worldwide, migration of people increases or decreases the economic status of a given destination or parent county. The impact of immigration on economic status varies with the developmental levels of a country under concern. Under certain conditions, in some parts of the world, the economic status might have influenced high immigration (Kinyua, 2016). Unemployment and underemployment are some of the key primary aspects forcing immigrants to developed areas/towns with better occupation (Dawson *et al.*, 2016). The basic aspects that inspired people to relocate could be grouped into 'Push and Pull aspects. The pushing reasons made an individual relocate to other areas and leave their home places. Some of the pushing aspects included; insufficient jobs, inadequate land for expansion and depletion of resources among others (Dawson *et al.*, 2016).

Population in urban areas had shown an increasing trend since the 1950s. In continents like Europe, North America, and Latin America 75% of their citizens were living in cities (Asoka *et al.*, 2013). The Global Human Settlement Report (GHSR) given by the United Nations in 2009 showed that the African continent is the fastest growing in terms of urbanization in the world with 28% living in towns by 1980 and by 2006 the number rose to 37%. According to The Migration Observatory (2019) immigrants highly affects house rents and charges. For instance, where supply and demand of social housing are not balanced by the use of values, immigration would lead to scarcity in accommodation. The increased number of immigrants also led to increased demands of the houses, this called for more houses to be constructed. Hence this attracted more investors to put up more houses to accommodate the increasing number leading to boosting the economics of the country in particular. In Nigeria, the high number of immigrants led to the high unemployment rate thus, leaving resources in the rural area unexploited. This also led to high competition on the available jobs in the urban areas (Bakare, 2011). In most cities and towns, one of the major problems is how to provide affordable and adequate housing facilities to its tenants. Housing is a major problem in Sub-Saharan Africa. Most cities and towns had shortages of affordable housing and this had caused the few that were available to increase their prices drastically (UN Habitat, 2016). The absence of affordable housing had steered people to live in slums. Typically, failures in housing policy had resulted in people coming up with a different way to meet their accommodation desires. These challenges had demonstrated migrants' resilience (IOM, 2019). In Kenya urban population is increasing due to rural-urban migration, immigrants from the nearby communities and also refugees. This increase in population had led to a strain on housing (Asoka *et al.*, 2013). Having looked at other existing study done by other scholars they are no study that has been done in Kitengela Town to establish the economic effects of immigrants in the town. So, this study aimed at bridging this knowledge gap.

2.3 Factors influencing immigration

The capacity to relocate was influenced by the level of social consideration or avoidance, reflected in access to and authority over assets. The facts confirm that numerous non-moving people and family units from a sending territory are probably going to be poor (Murrugarra *et al.*, 2010). The Europeans were for instance, associated with emigration to Africa, and this was

witnessed during the colonial era when we had different colonizers coming to African countries, not because of economic hardships in their countries or unemployment but because they wanted resources like land, workers and to control markets (Cummings *et al.*, 2015). Different people give varying reasons as to why they moved; they were also motivated by different factors when making this decision (Petersen, 2017). The most cited reasons are personal, security, and better livelihoods among others (Petersen, 2017). According to Nikjoo and Ketabi (2015), push factors are treated as the internal factors by which people feel motivated for the trip considering their own needs and the pull factors as the factors in the destinations that attract people towards themselves concerning their motivation.

2.3.1 Push factors of immigration

Push factors are those that make an individual prefer not to stay in a particular place. These factors most times are viewed as negative factors such as job failures, poor social facilities, unemployment, civil war, floods, rural poverty, crop failure and political instability (Merler, 2017). Most people moved from rural areas to urban where employment opportunities are in plenty, this had been one of the major reasons why the urban population had been on the increase. Secondly, land scarcity has also motivated most people to relocate, more so those with interest in practicing agriculture would move to less populated areas to practice extensive farming (UN Habitat, 2016).

Rosas and Gay (2015) identified powerful pressures driving the formation and spread of this migratory pattern in Latin America. Motivation factors in Industrialized Economies had been characterized as relative wealth discrepancy as well as several economic disruptions, the population framework, a labour market trying to offer few possibilities, and the nation's academic growth as factors that, along with a segment of the population's potential to migrate, would have led to the development of migration.

Nikjoo and Ketabi (2015) recognized certain push factors, such as obtaining information, escaping, and earning status, as well as establishing connections, which had been the foundations of much research. Dann thought that a tourist's true decisions to travel are based on his or her wants, which indicates that an individual's internal motives or push factors had a larger part in the place picked by a tourist than the destination attractions. In the early 2000s, the most prominent internal push reasons for Japanese visitors were visits to landscapes and natural attractions (Nikjoo & Ketabi, 2015). In the case of the United States, getaway, leisure, and pleasure were some of the most prominent motivators. Similarly, getaway and healthcare, dignity for natural and cultural heritage were three major motivators for individuals in selecting such parks (Hua & Yoo, 2011). As a result, the key three push forces are an escape, status, and relationship advancement. This suggested that persons who pick tourist destinations required more leisure, escape, and status, and their relationships benefit more than those who visit a cultural location (Nikjoo & Ketabi, 2015).

2.3.2 Pull factors of immigration

These are the attractive factors in the destination that make an individual decide to relocate, most of the time these factors are seen to be promising of a good future, such as better living conditions, better social amenities, better transportation, affordable and accessible urban services, specialized education and abundance of natural resources (Merler, 2017). In the case of Latin American immigrants, Rosas and Gay (2015) found that the primary motivating factors were Spanish income development, the influx at youth cohorts, and the upswing movement of Spanish females, as well as immigration policy, which is highly favourable to the settling of

the Latin American population. In the case of Chinese students, Gbollie and Gong (2020) identified China's flexibility, and perception of higher education value as major push-pull drivers. They revealed numerous new pull factors, such as residents' mindset and positive report, growth possibilities, and hospitality and receptiveness, whereas career advancement and amusement were identified to be the greatest and least significant motivators, respectively. The research also discovered a link between push-pull variables and study abroad motivation, as well as cross-cultural disparities between African and Asian students.

According to Gesing and Glass (2019), macro-economic push-pull variables impact intends to live in the United States, whereas political, social, socio-economic, and socio-political inverse push-pull factors promote intent to return home. Variations in push-pull forces were discovered based on the GNP category of the home country. According to Fisher and Lewin (2018), Hispanic workers who have greater job expertise and college education are more likely to become self-employed. The reason for immigration has been discussed in various studies but no study had been conducted on reasons for high immigration in Kitengela Town. This study aimed at bridging this knowledge gap.

2.4 Research gaps

Based on the above empirical review, the study has found considerable evidence that immigration have positive impact on economic status of a country. However, some studies have shown knowledge gaps where others have failed to contextualize the problem to the case of Kitengela Town. For instance, Kancs and Lecca (2018) looked into the economic and fiscal effects of immigration into the EU, Furlanetto and Robstad (2019) looked into the case of Norway, Fajth et al. (2019) investigated the case of Congolese immigrants while Kummitha & Crutzen, (2017) looked into the case of smart cities in Europe. The ones in Kenya including Mwaura (2017) have not specifically looked in the case of Kitengela Town. This creates a research gap for the current study which sought to establish socio-demographic and economic implications of immigration into Kitengela Town, Kajiado County, Kenya between 2011 and 2021.

2.5 Theoretical framework

2.5.1 Neoclassical theory

The study was grounded on classical economics theory of the 18th and 19th centuries with its proponents being Smith (1937) and steered by Neoclassical Theory pioneered by Massey *et al.* (1993). According to neoclassical growth theory, wealth creation was measured by saving and depreciating rates, influences the pace of economic development in the short run. The theory also implied that, in the long-term, economic development was externally dictated by the pace of population expansion and the rate of technical progress (Keynes, 1937; Keynes, 2018). The idea held that an economy would naturally adjust to offer full employment even when it was in equilibrium and that the unpredictable and lawless nature of marketplaces would lead to cyclical booms and busts. The primary argument of this theory is that the amounts of jobs are determined by the pace of consumer spending instead of the labour cost.

This theory states that, in the current context of the study, most of the labour immigrants' movements from capital-poor/labour-force-rich economies to capital-rich/labour-force-poor economies, whereas capital keeps moving in a reverse way. That is, highly trained employees migrate from capital-rich to capital-poor nations to maximize the value of their abilities. The key mechanisms that impacted migration flows are labour markets. Other market places play a minor significance. As a result, governments could control migration through labour market

rules (Boubtane *et al.*, 2016). Governments can also impact migration not only via labour-market regulations but also through policies affecting the other markets mentioned above (insurance, credit, etc.). Furthermore, government actions in sending nations that boost the annual wealth of the inhabitants while leaving disadvantaged individuals behind may increase the likelihood of migration (European University Institute, 2021). Regions having low labour resource have better remunerations than countries with high surplus of labour making people move to such countries to get better wages. So, this theory was linked to this study since the study deals with the social-demographic and economic effects of immigration and more so those that are caused by the high influx of immigrants into Kitengela Town.

2.6 Conceptual framework

Independent variables

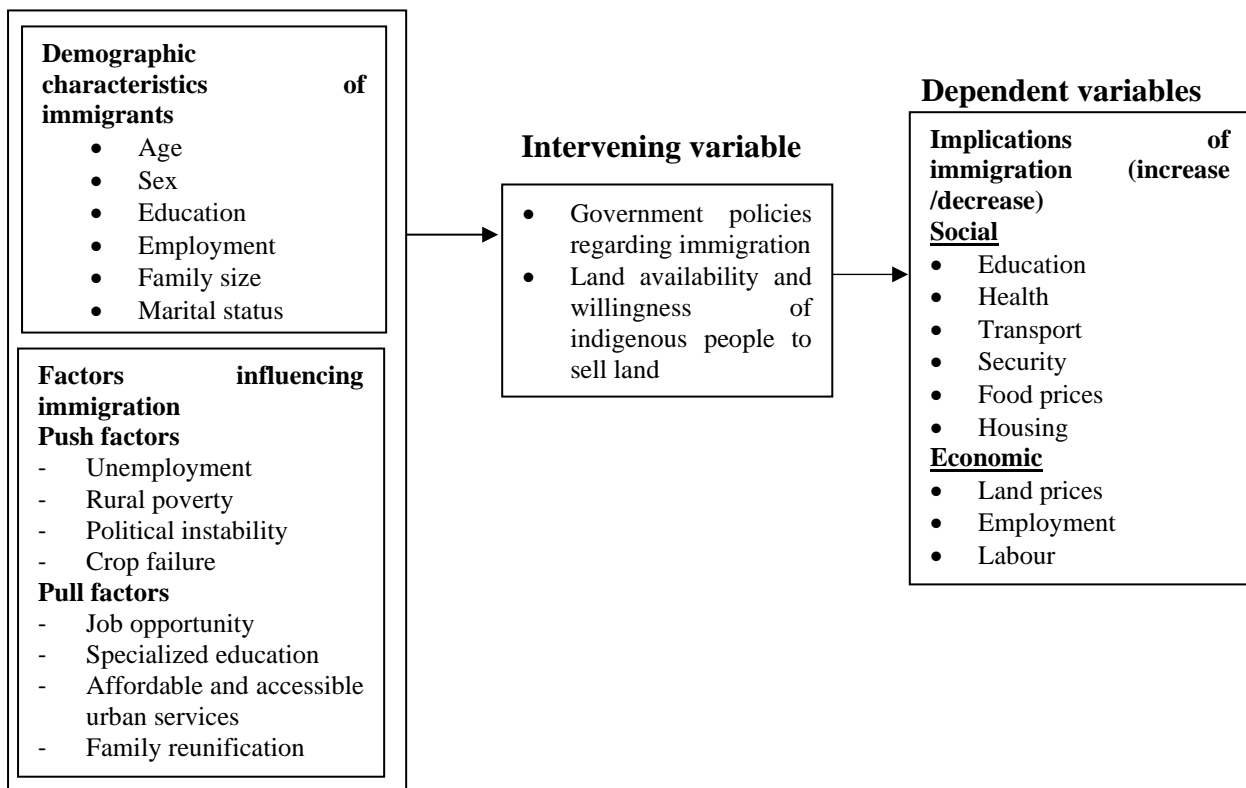


Figure 1: Implications of Immigration

Adopted and modified from (Todaro, 2009).

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Study design

A descriptive study design was applied in this study. Creswell & Creswell (2017) posits that a descriptive study emphasizes explaining without being judgmental thus enabling the researcher to capture detailed information through observation and description of behavioural aspects from the subject.

3.2 Target population

This is actual number of people from where generalizations of the research findings are made (Creswell and Creswell, 2017). This study targeted all the immigrants residing in Kitengela Town (including those from the Congo, Somalia and Southern Sudan (UNHCR, 2012).

3.3 Sampling techniques and sample size

The following formula was applied to obtain a sample size for this proposed study:

$$n = \frac{1.96^2 \cdot (bt)}{r^2} \text{ estimating as its confidential level to be 95\%}$$

n = sample size required

b = fraction having the individual

$t = 1-b$

r = level of accuracy.

According to Iloh, Ikwudinma and Obiegbo (2013), when (b) is unfamiliar, then we can use b as **0.5**, and it accepts the extreme heterogeneity as 50/50 split. The accuracy unit of (r) is the suitable fault that is acceptable. Therefore $r = 8\%$ (0.08).

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Therefore, } n &= \frac{1.96^2 \cdot (bt)}{r^2} \\ &= \frac{1.96^2 \cdot (0.5 \cdot 0.5)}{0.08^2} \\ &= 150 \text{ respondents.} \end{aligned}$$

150 immigrants residing in Kitengela Town (internal/international) were selected using the stratified technique. The town was divided into three strata using the Namaga –Nairobi Road and Kitengela River. In each stratum, 50 immigrants were selected using a snowballing technique. To select the three area chiefs, Purposive sample techniques were applied. Therefore 153 respondents were selected (150 respondents as immigrants and 3 chiefs as the key informants). The chiefs were identified from their respective offices.

3.4 Research instruments

3.4.1 Questionnaires

Questionnaires were issued to immigrants to obtain statistics that is, both quantitative and qualitative data. The questionnaires were preferred because they covered a large population of the samples, they eliminate bias and allow respondents time to study and reflect on the questions hence avoiding prompt responses. They are also appropriate in descriptive surveys where the number of respondents is high (Creswell, 2014). A rating scale (with the following limits: Powerfully support (1), support (2), Neutral (3) Reject (4) and powerfully reject (5) was also supplemented to measure the opinion of the respondents. Likewise, open questions were included to capture the opinionated reactions from the immigrants.

3.4.2 Interview guide

To gather information from the area chief on matters of migration the study used interview guides to collected statistics on the demographic characteristics of immigrants, the pull/push factors and the economic impacts of immigration. The study targeted 3 key informants (from

the three strata using the Namaga –Nairobi Road and Kitengela River). The 3-area chief was administered 1 interview guide to provide more qualitative and expert opinions on the subject matter (Brinkman & Kvale, 2015; Yin, 2018). Interview guides are useful and they provide detailed responses from expert respondents on the subject matter (Roberts, 2020).

3.5 Data collection

Authorization document was obtained in Post- Graduate School to conduct research. Then afterwards applied for research permission from National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI). On receiving research license, then linked up with the Kitengela Town administrator (chief) to agree on the dates to gather information. A good relationship was created with the targeted residents and explanations were given to the respondent why the research is been conducted on starting actual data collection. This ensured that each respondent understand what they are required to do. The collection of data was done step-wise; step one was to gather the highest number of immigrants in a designated hall depending on their availability. This was done until the sampled number of respondents was reached. The questionnaires were distributed and picked from the respondents after 45 minutes. When all the immigrants are done, the researcher visited and administered interviews to the key informants in their offices.

3.6 Data management and analysis

Quantitative and qualitative data gathered after the studies were organized into themes, grouped, cleaned, coded, transformed and analysed using Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS v 25) software. Respondents were coded for anonymity. Percentages together with frequencies were calculated and represented in pie charts and tables. The data that was obtained from excerpts (qualitative) was cleaned, paraphrased and transcribed to bring out important information in the best way. After the analysis was done, the assumption for the findings was established. Qualitative data obtained from discussions was presented in narration form (summary).

Table 1: Summary of the Data Analysis.

Objectives	Variables	Data analysis
To establish the demographic characteristic of the immigrants	Age, sex, education, economic status, family size	Frequencies and percentages, tables and charts
To identify the reasons for migration from various regions	Push and pull factors Urban sprawl	Frequencies, percentages, narration, tables and charts
To determine the effects of immigration in Kitengela Town	Education, transport, health, entertainment, employment etc.	Frequencies, percentages, narration, tables and charts

4.0 FINDINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Response rate

Table 2 displays the response rate. 150 questionnaires were given out and 119 of them were returned.

Table 2: Response rate

Response	Frequency	Percent (%)
Returned	119	79%
Unreturned	32	21%
Total	150	100

4.2 Socio-demographic characteristics of immigrants in Kitengela Town.

4.2.1 Place of origin

The respondents were requested to give out which town/county/country they came from as immigrants to Kitengela Town. The findings are presented in Figure 2.

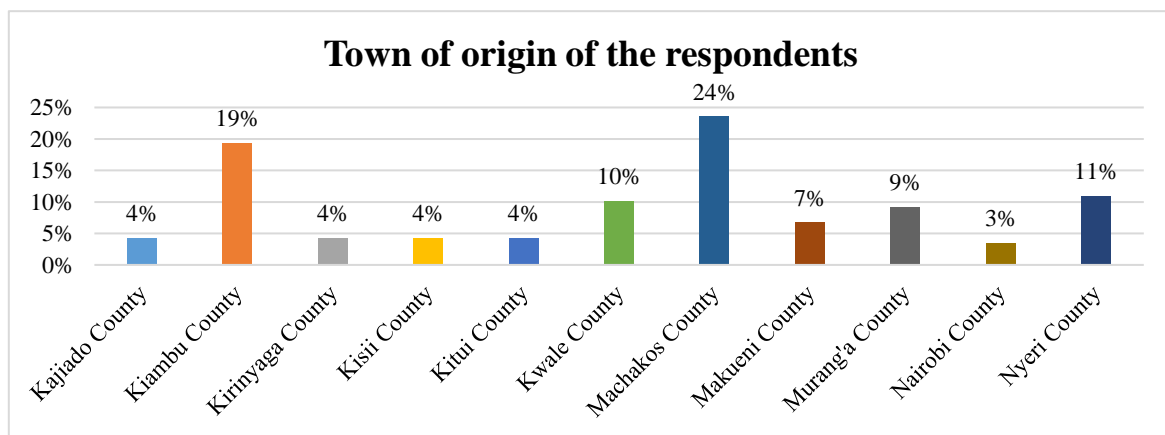


Figure 2: Place of origin

The results in Figure 2 indicated that 4% of the respondents were from Kajiado County, 19% of them were from Kiambu County, 4% of them were from each from Kirinyaga, Kisii and Kitui Counties, 10% of them were from Kwale County, 24% of them were from Machakos County, 7% of them were from Makeni County, 9% of them were from Murang'a County, 3% of them were from Nairobi County while 11% of them were from Nyeri County. Thus, the majority of the respondents were from Machakos, Makeni and Murang'a Counties.

4.2.2 Age of respondent (years)

The respondents were asked to indicate their age in years. The findings are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Respondents' age

What is your age bracket (years)?	Frequency	Percent (%)
20 – 24 years	26	22%
25-29 years	18	15%
30-34 years	35	29%
35-39 years	37	31%
40-44 years	1	1%

Above 55 years	2	2%
Total	119	100

The results in Table 3 indicated that 22% are of age between 20 and 24 years, 15% of them are between 25 and 29 years, 29% of them are between 30 and 34 years, 31% of them are between 35 and 39 years, 1% of them are between 40 and 44 years while 2% of them are above 55 years. From the results, it is evident that the majority of the immigrants (66%) are within the age of 20 and 34 years. This age is the working category with their various reasons to migrate. The findings are consistent with Desa (2015) that between 2000 and 2015 the age that was involved in immigration was mainly between 35-39 years in continents like Asia, Europe, and North America. This is a highly active and productive age.

4.2.3 Respondents' gender

The respondents were asked to indicate their gender. The findings are presented in Figure 3.

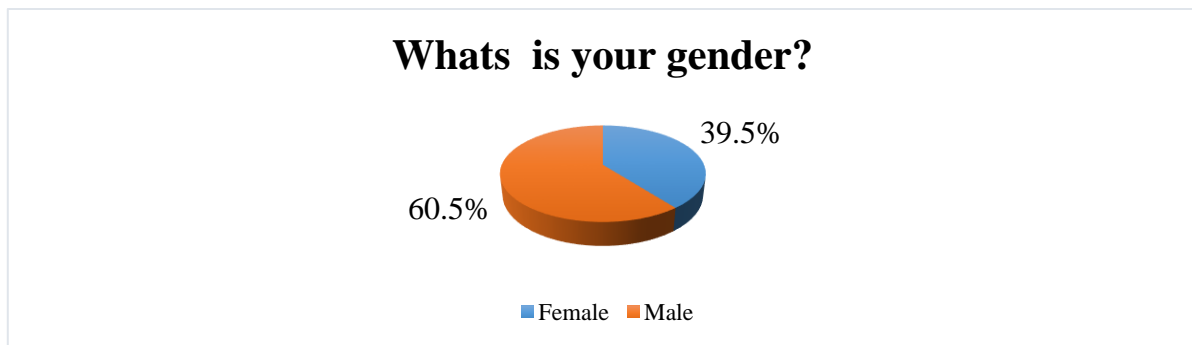


Figure 3: Respondents' gender

The results in Figure 3 indicated that 60.5% of the respondents are males while 39.5% of them are their female counterparts. These findings imply that male immigrants perceive to migrate more than females. This might be attributed to the male search for better living conditions for their families as opposed to female immigrants. The findings are in line with Huijsmans (2012) that earlier before civilization, the males were assumed to portray a higher migration rate than the female counterparts; this is because they were seen to be the sole breadwinners of families. Afterwards the female began getting educated and became enlightened on current issues.

4.2.4 Marital status

The respondents were asked to indicate their marital status. The findings are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Respondents' marital status

What is your marital status?	Frequency	Percent (%)
Married	43	36.1%
Single	23	19.3%
Divorced	37	31.1%
Widowed	16	13.4%
Total	119	100

The results in Table 4 indicated that 36.1% of the respondents are married, 19.3% of them are single, 31.1% of them are divorced and 13.4% of them are widowed. From the findings, it is evident that the majority of the immigrants are married however, divorce cases are prominent among the families. The findings corroborate those of Jang *et al.* that migration increases the

prospect of one getting married. Although there are challenges in the new place and one may take a little bit longer to cope with the new environmental changes, this increases one’s chance to get a partner. Majority of the newly wedded, not all who chooses to stay in their mothers’ home some move to a new home in other regions (Jang *et al.*, 2014).

4.2.5 Respondents’ level of education

The respondents were asked to indicate their level of education. The findings are presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Respondents’ level of education

What is your level of education?	Frequency	Per cent (%)
Never attended school	15	12.6%
Primary Education	5	4.2%
Secondary Education	60	50.4%
College Education	34	28.6%
Bachelor’s Education	5	4.2%
Master’s Education	0	0
Ph.D.	0	0
Total	119	100

The results in Table 5 indicated that 12.6% of the respondents have never attended school, 4.2% of them have primary education, 50.4% of them have secondary education, 28.6% of them have a college education, 4.2% of them have up to bachelor’s education while none of them has master’s education nor PhD education. It is, therefore, evident that most of the immigrants (79%) have basic to tertiary education and qualification as human capital in Kenya. The findings are consistent with Wahba (2015) that not only the skilled and educated people move, but also the uneducated and unskilled move to look for jobs to sustain their livelihoods. This implies that immigration is influenced by the search for better employment opportunities in other locations.

4.2.6 Duration of stay in Kitengela Town

The respondents were asked to indicate their length of stay in Kitengela Town. The findings are presented in Figure 4.

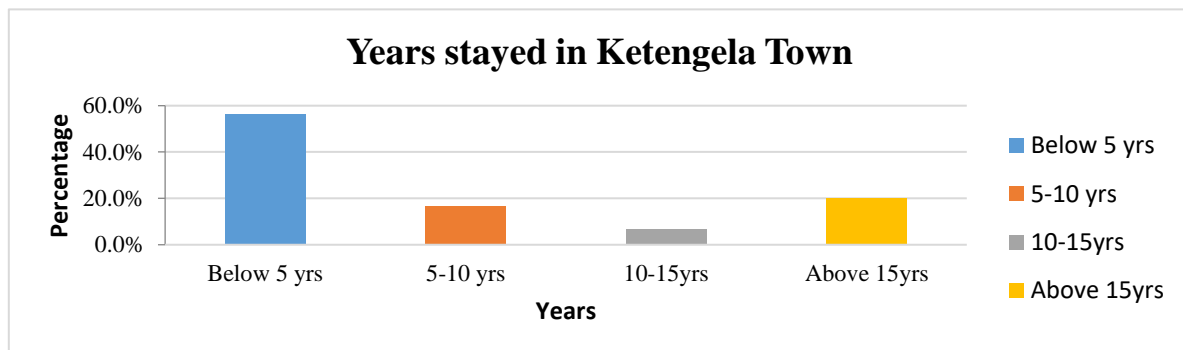


Figure 4: Length of stay in Kitengela Town

The results in Figure 4 indicated that 53.6% of the respondents have stayed in Kitengela Town for less than 5 years, 16.8% of them have stayed in Kitengela Town for between 5 and 10 years,

6.7% of them have stayed in Kitengela Town for between 10 and 15 years while 20.2% of them have stayed in Kitengela Town for over 15 years. This implies that the majority of the immigrants have not stayed long in Kitengela since they moved in. They somewhat are yet to adapt to the prevailing conditions as the locals.

4.2.7 Employment status

The respondents were asked to indicate their employment status. The findings are presented in Figure 5.

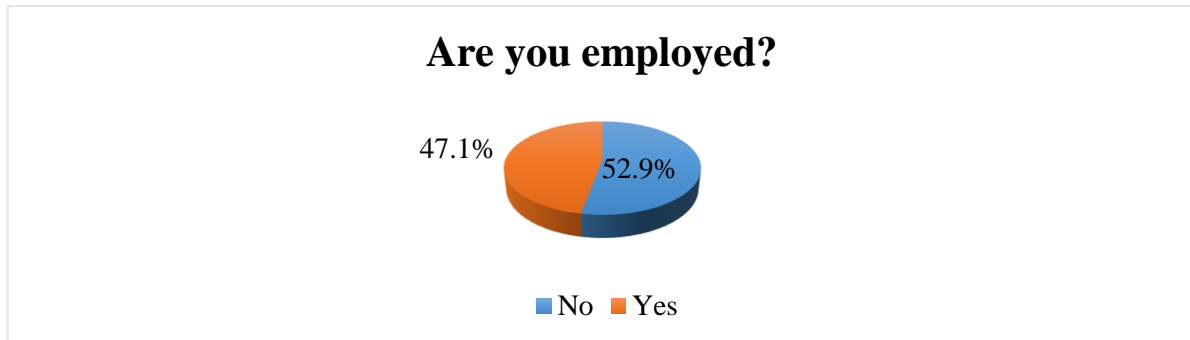


Figure 5: Employment status

The results in Figure 5 indicated that 52.9% of the respondents are employed while 47.1% of them are not employed. This indicates that most of the immigrants to Kitengela Town are economically capacitated due to employment opportunities available to more than half of the surveyed participants. The above findings are in agreement with the Key interview responses where the Key informants were requested to indicate some of the demographic characteristics of immigrants in Ketengela Town. All of them mentioned that immigrants' Age, gender, marital status, level of education and employment status are key factors affecting their decisions to migrate. Key informant 3 indicated the following:

“Take for example their marital status, a single person will relocate to an industrial place without cause of concern of what they left behind or what they intend to find out in the targeted area. They are in for exploration as much as they are in search of employment or business. Once they find their soulmates there, they are likely to settle on the positive side of behaviour. But they are likely to be persuaded into bad behaviour when they meet the bad company”

Similarly, respondent R16 seconded as follows;

“I look at this from the opportunity-seeking perspective. Many of the immigrants are usually in search of jobs and better life from wherever they were. A responsible married man with kids and bills to pay will seek any opportunity which will create a better life for his family. But for single, the room is open to them. Education also matters especially when students are posted to better schools after they graduate from universities and training institutions. And they find themselves in other locations to explore better learning opportunities.”

4.3 Economic effects of immigration to Kitengela Town.

The respondents were requested to respond to the statements regarding the socio-economic effects of immigration, given the scale of one to five. Their responses are presented in Table 6:

Table 6: Economic effects of immigration to Kitengela Town

Statements	1		2		3		4		5		M	S.D
	%	C	%	C	%	C	%	C	%	C		
Those who are involved in immigration have positive impact on socio-economic status of a country	24%	28	21%	25	16%	19	27%	32	13%	15	2.84	1.38
Those who are involved in immigration have negative impact on socio-economic of a county	9%	11	50%	59	18%	21	24%	28	0%	0	2.55	0.95
Those who are involved in immigration have both positive and negative effects on socio – economic status of a county	0%	0	0%	0	6%	7	17%	20	77%	92	4.71	0.57
Average											3.37	0.97

Note: 1-strongly agree, 2- agree, 3-neutral, 4-disagree, 5-strongly disagree, M = Mean, S.D = Standard Deviation, C = Counts and % = Percentages.

Table 6 indicates that 45% (n=53) of the respondents agreed that those who are involved in immigration have a positive impact on the socio-economic status of a country (mean=2.84≈3, SD=1.38). The results also indicate that 59% (n= 70) of the respondents agreed that those who are involved in immigration have a negative impact on the socio-economic of a county (mean=2.55≈3, SD=0.98). The results also indicate indicates that 94% (n=112) of the respondents disagreed that those who are involved in immigration have both positive and negative effects on socio-economic status of a county (mean=4.71≈4, SD=0.57). The descriptive analysis implies that the majority of the respondents were of the opinion that there are socio-economic effects of immigration to Kitengela Town hence the mean is about 3.37. That is, there are both positive and negative effects.

The above findings are consistent with IOM that immigrants portray both positive and negative effects. Migrants may experience greater obstacles accessing protection and support, particularly where an individual has limited social networks. Depending on the circumstances, numerous other factors (such as gender, age and ethnicity, sexual orientation or disability status) compound vulnerability and the ability to cope in crisis contexts (IOM, 2019). Although different varieties of people are good in a town, this difference in people can cause threat no beliefs and customs of the natives to the level of causing anxiety within residents. Numerous developing nations have different perceptions about immigrants. In most cases, they see it as a threat to the national security of the country. Hence translating to limiting chances of asylum seekers who would like to move to safer countries (IOM, 2018).

According to Dawson *et al.* (2016), unemployment, underemployment is some of the key primary aspects forcing immigrants to developed areas/towns with better occupation. The basic aspects that may inspire people to relocate may be grouped into ‘Push and Pull aspects. The pushing reasons make an individual relocate to other areas and leave their home places. Some of the pushing aspects include; insufficient jobs, inadequate land for expansion and depletion of the resource among others (Dawson *et al.*, 2016). Lack of other sources of income in the rural area has also contributed to immigration. The immigrants have also been enticed by different aspects in an area such as; good and well-paying jobs, conducive working environment and well-maintained social amenities (Kummitha & Crutzen, 2017).

The key interview responses also agree with the above where they indicated some of the socio-economic sectors that are affected by immigration in Kitengela Town. These were the responses:

Key informant 1:

“Employment, education and health sectors are majorly affected. This can be seen by the over-population of some schools and where there is overpopulation, some facilities can be limited to the people. Likewise, they might be limited employment opportunities and this especially where the immigrants are not well skilled, can result in the poorer economy”.

Key informant 2:

“Given large numbers of immigration, the societal structures are usually affected due to unpreparedness for the immigration, For instance, the transport sector will be affected by an increase in traffic congestion, the housing infrastructure will be affected where they can deteriorate further of the rents can escalate, the health sector can be affected due to longer waiting times, poor service delivery and quality of care due to the constant number of health care facilities and workers Vis a Vis the increasing population”.

They were also asked to indicate the factors that have pulled different immigrants to Kitengela Town. They responded as follows:

Key informant 1:

“There is always an assurance to the immigrant in the targeted area of relocation of political or religious autonomy, the accessibility to employment opportunities or inexpensive land, an ample supply of food, better housing, transportation and better social status. In each of these scenarios, an individual feels he/she has an opportunity to achieve a better life than in its original county/country. Individuals joining colleges or looking for work in more developed nations, for example, may be able to earn higher incomes and have more chances than in their home countries”.

Key informant 3:

Better security, better schools, better hospitals, better transport infrastructure and availability of employment opportunities.

4.4 Factors influencing immigration to Kitengela Town.

4.4.1 Reasons to migrate to Kitengela Town

Some of the reasons that made the respondents migrate to Kitengela Town (Table 7).

Table 7: Reasons to migrate to Kitengela Town

Why did you migrate to Kitengela Town?	Frequency	Per cent (%)
Land reasons	3	2.5%
Education reasons	50	42%
Family reunion	5	4.3%
Health reasons	11	9.2%
Employment reasons	50	42%
Total	119	100

The results in Table 7 indicate that in the summary majority there were four major themes presented. That is Land, Education, health reasons, family re-union and employment reasons. The findings are consistent with Huijsmans (2012), people will move due to programs like an internship, looking for a spouse and others to join family members. Therefore, 2.5% indicated that they migrated to Kitengela Town in search of land/property, those who migrated to Kitengela Town in search for employment were 42% just like those who migrated to Kitengela Town in search for education purposes, 4.3% indicated that they migrated to Kitengela Town due to family reasons while 9.2% indicated that they migrated to Kitengela Town in search for better health care.

Some of their responses are as shown below: Respondent R12 said the following;

“I come to Kitengela to further my education since I was joining campus for my degree I went there since it was near the place of my campus”.

Respondent R14 also noted;

“My fiancée saw it better for us to migrate due to his change in employment status. We were opening a business there.” Another one said the following “Me and my sister went to Kitengela to celebrate my mom’s birthday”. “I got laid off from my previous job and an opening was found in Kitengela. So, I had to migrate,” claimed another immigrant. Likewise, one of the respondents indicated that health was the main reason for migrating to Kitengela, “I went to stay there in search of better health care facilities”.

The above reasons of high immigration in Kitengela Town were supported by the key informants view that, economic conditions are the main reasons. *“They indicated that education, employment search and health reasons form the main reason for the immigration to Kitengela Town.”* The above themes imply that the factors that lead to migration into Kitengela Town revolve around employment, health, education and property search. These have been noted to be the main factors that influence immigration to Kitengela Town.

4.4.2 Voluntary or forced immigration?

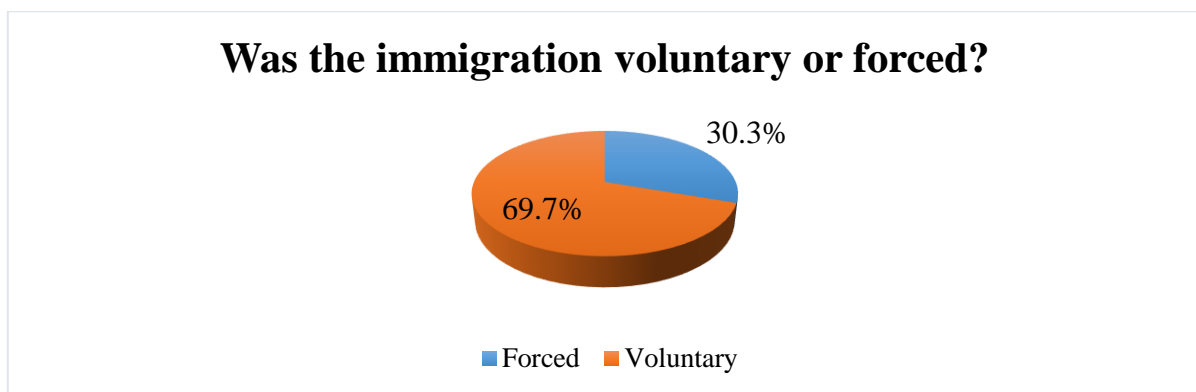


Figure 6: Voluntary or forced immigration?

The results in Figure 6 indicated that 69.7% of the respondents migrated to Kitengela Town voluntarily while 30.3% of them migrated to Kitengela Town against their will. This implies that voluntary migration is out of one's free will and initiative. The respondents move for a variety of voluntary reasons, options and choices since they first analyze and factor in the push and pull factors of two locations before making their decision.

4.4.3 Reasons for forced migration

For those who indicated that the migration was forced these were some of the common themes identified from their responses. The themes and responses are tabulated in Table 8.

Table 8: Themes showing why the migration was forceful

Serial Number	Theme
1	To look for a job
2	Education
3	Due to divorce
4	Family conflicts

Table 8 shows that major themes for forceful migration are employment search, family conflicts, divorce reasons as well as education. Table 9 below shows some of the responses from the survey.

Table 9: Responses showing why the migration was forceful

Respondent coding	Thematic responses
Respondent 10	My wife and I got separated so I had to move away
Respondent 17	I was forced to migrate since there was no option for better schools in my home county
Respondent 33	My family broke up due to bad interpersonal relationships. As siblings, we had to migrate for better peace of mind in the house
Respondent 45	My husband cheated on me and he divorced me eventually. I went to stay with my friend in Kitengela and that is how I started a new life here
Respondent 63	I left Kisii County in search of a job and I landed one in Kitengela. Now I live here with my family

4.4.4 Factors leading to migration to Kitengela Town

The respondents were also asked to indicate the factors that majorly motivated them to migrate to Kitengela Town. The following themes were recorded from the 119 responses in Table 10.

Table 10: What factors attracted you to Kitengela Town?

What factors attracted you to Kitengela Town?	Frequency	Per cent
Better hospitals	16	13.4%
It is an industrial town/Business	40	33.6%
Better housing	7	5.9%
Better employment opportunities	10	8.4%
Good learning institutions	23	19.3%
Good climate/Out of town	15	12.6%
Missing values	8	6.8%
Total	119	100%

Table 10 shows that 13.4% of the respondents indicated factors revolving around better hospitals, 33.6% of them indicated factors revolving around industrial town/business centre, 5.9% of them indicated factors revolving around better housing, 8.4% of them indicated factors relating to better employment opportunities, 19.3% of them indicated factors relating to good learning institutions while 12.6% of them indicated factors revolving around good climate. The key informants were likewise asked to indicate the factors that attract immigrants in Kitengela Town. These were some of their responses:

Key informant 1: *Basically, Kitengela Town has some advantages of better employment opportunities and health care like the LeMaiyan Hospital and the Kitengela West Hospital*

Key informant 2: *Education is one of the factors, coupled with the search for jobs and marital/conjugal visits. Its nearness to the main city is also a factor.*

Key informant 3: *Most of them visit the town since it is busy with opportunities to business, industrial centres and where they can have interactions with various socio-economic phenomena. Some even come to visit friends and families for company and pleasure.*

4.4.5 Problems encountered after immigration

The respondents were also asked to indicate if they encounter problems after their immigration. They responded as shown in Figure 7.

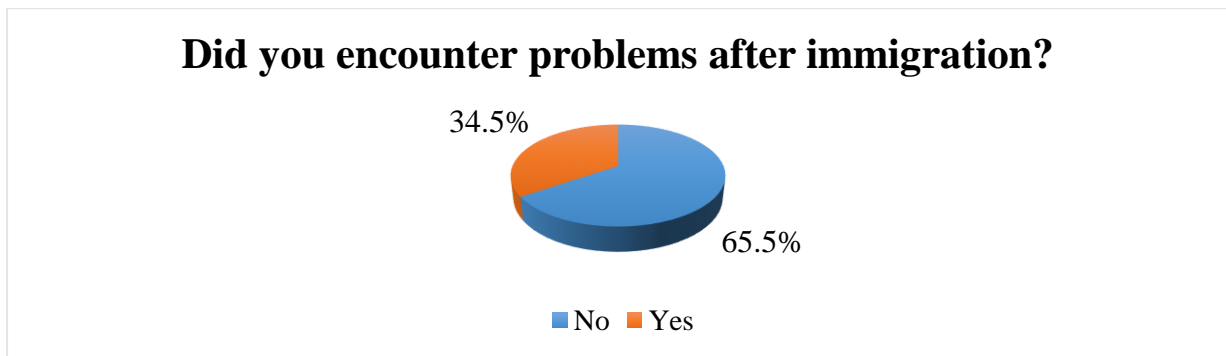


Figure 7: Problems encountered after immigration

Figure 7 indicated that 65.5% of the respondents who migrated to Kitengela Town have never experienced problems after immigration while 34.5% of them who migrated to Kitengela Town have ever experienced problems after immigration. This implies that since the migration was majorly voluntary, the immigrants are able to make positive and informed decisions on how to settle in the destination area for instance, how to cope with employment conditions, standards of living among others. This makes them less likely to encounter a problem after they settle in. However, some of the problems indicated by the respondents ever experienced problems after immigration include the following:

Table 11: Examples of the problems encountered after immigration

Serial Number	Theme/responses
1	Traffic jam
2	Weather changes e.g., food, water, etc.
3	High cost of living
4	The living standards were high
5	I had nobody to live with
6	Lack of finances
7	High house costs
8	High cost of living
9	Insecurity especially at night
11	The living standards were high
14	High house costs

The findings above are corroborated by the Key informants who indicated that immigrants face some challenges in the area. For instance, key informant 1 noted that;

“Immigrants who have not planned their immigration to such a town are likely to be in serious trouble coping up with some of the economic conditions such as house rents, recurrent bills like water electricity and transportation. It even gets worse if the immigrant came looking for a job and fails to get one soonest”.

Likewise, key informant 3 indicated that;

“Some immigrants to the town pose serious concerns to the security of their local neighbours. You will hear cases of robbery and especially, this arises when the immigrants are in desperation. However, they are also faced with security issues where some who are naive in the town can be robbed, tricked, conned or indulged in bad behaviour. For some women who immigrate to the town and are jobless, they can be persuaded by their native friends to seek unethical ways of making money, some even being sex workers”.

The above findings corroborate those of The Migration Observatory (2019) immigrants highly affects house rents and charges. For instance, where supply and demand of social housing are not balanced by the use of values, immigration may lead to scarcity in accommodation. The increased number of immigrants also leads to increased demands of the houses, this call for more houses to be constructed. Hence this attracts more investors to put up more houses to accommodate the increasing number. In Kenya urban population is increasing due to rural-urban migration, immigrants from the nearby communities and also refugees. This increase in population has led to a strain on housing (Asoka *et al.*, 2013).

Unemployment, underemployment is some of the key primary aspects forcing immigrants to developed areas/towns with better occupation (Dawson *et al.*, 2016). The basic aspects that may inspire people to relocate may be grouped into ‘Push and Pull aspects. The pushing reasons make an individual relocate to other areas and leave their home places. Some of the pushing aspects include; insufficient jobs, inadequate land for expansion and depletion of the resource among others (Dawson *et al.*, 2016). Lack of other sources of income in the rural area has also contributed to immigration. The immigrants have also been enticed by different aspects in an area such as; good and well-paying jobs, conducive working environment and well-maintained social amenities (Kummitha & Crutzen, 2017).

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This section presents the discussion and the recommendations on the research findings done in line with the study objectives. The discussion was done to answer the research questions of the study.

5.1 Conclusions

The study concludes that the majority of the immigrants are within the youthful age category (that is between 30 and 39 years). These findings imply that male immigrants perceive to migrate more than females. Majority of the immigrants are married and implication of solid family immigrants and positive behavioral indications. It is, therefore, evident that most of the immigrants have basic to tertiary education and qualification as human capital in Kenya. This implies that the majority of the immigrants have not stayed long in Kitengela since they moved in. They somewhat are yet to adapt to the prevailing conditions as the locals. Likewise, the

majority of the respondents are employed indicating that most of the immigrants to Kitengela Town are economically capacitated due to employment opportunities available to more than half of the surveyed participants.

The study also concludes that since the migration was majorly voluntary, the immigrants are able to make positive and informed decisions/plans on how to settle in in the destination area for instance, how to cope with employment conditions, standards of living among others. This makes them less likely to encounter a problem after them settle in. In addition, voluntary migration is out of the immigrants' free will and initiative. Therefore, the immigrants move for a variety of voluntary reasons, options and choices since they first analyze and factor in the push and pull factors of two locations before making their decision.

The study concludes that immigration to not only Kitengela Town is facilitated/motivated by better healthcare facilities, better housing infrastructure, industrialization of urban areas, better employment opportunities as well as good learning institutions. However, some of the problems encountered by immigrants include but are not limited to traffic jams/road congestion, Weather/climate changes, the difference in living standards (either high or unmanageable), struggle to settle in, fluctuating financial status, and insecurity especially at night among others. This, therefore, indicates that there are both social and economic effects of immigration. Therefore, as noted in the findings, the main pull factors to immigration include better security, better schools, better hospitals, better transport infrastructure, better social status and availability of employment opportunities.

5.2 Recommendations

The researcher, based on the literature and subsequent responses from the study has a number of recommendations. The government of Kenya should work hard to implement strong and coherent economic reforms that will attract investment in diverse sections of the nation, with the goal of strengthening the economy and generating job opportunities. This would assist to mitigate the negative social and economic consequences of migration.

It is recommended that the county government of Kajiado should increase and improve training platforms and centers to improve the self-sustenance skills of the immigrants in order to minimize the causes of unemployment and lack of economic sustainability. This also applies to the health and education sectors to aid in improving the quality of healthcare delivery and education. This can be done by training more skilled workers to match the public demand for social services. Industrial rejuvenation is also advocated in several impoverished countries to aid with financial stability and to reduce unnecessary and forced immigration, which has negative consequences.

Similarly, effective policy measures and political changes are required as a catapult for a reviving economy. By doing so, the county government of Kajiado creates space for growth, job possibilities, and business awareness, giving immigrants a higher chance of settling in the targeted locations. Spouses, family members, and married people are advised to relocate together whenever feasible to protect their marriages, sexual reproductive health, and healthy behavioral maintenance. Where this is not possible, migrating spouses should make an effort to see the spouses they left behind more frequently to enjoy their company and re-union. Awareness programmes are also recommended to aid members of the family not only in terms of understanding and obtaining travel documents, but also to guarantee spouses stay in touch with each other regularly.

5.3 Areas for further research

The study focused on assessing the socio-economic implications for immigration in Kitengela Town, Kajiado County. The study provides insight into the matter and brings to perspective the socio-economic implications for immigration in Kajiado County. Further studies are given an open direction to extrapolate the findings and look into the socio-economic implications for immigration in other neighbouring Counties. Likewise, there is room for further studies to include a cause-effect study where further scholars can assess the socio-economic implications for immigration by use of quantitative methods for more generalizable findings.

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