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POVERTY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF KENYA

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ABSTRACT

The economy of Kenya has been continued to be the largest in the East African region and third largest in Sub-Saharan Africa after South Africa and Nigeria respectively. At present Kenya is one of the most highly literate countries in sub-Saharan Africa. But more than 60% people of Kenya live below the poverty line. Rapid increases in inflation could reduce economic growth and worsen the poverty levels of the citizens of Kenya. In Kenya economic development is dependent on agricultural improvement. Kenya is the largest food and agricultural products importer in east Africa. About 82% of the total land in Kenya is classified as arid and semi-arid. Agricultural products depend on proper rainfall. Staple food of Kenya is maize, which accounted about 65% of total staple food caloric intake and 36% of total food caloric intake. The cash income of the rural people of Kenya comes from the selling of agricultural products. At present the government of the country is trying to reduce poverty. An attempt has been taken here to discuss the food and economic situation and the development of these sectors of the country.

Keywords: Food security, Maize, Agriculture, Inflation, Health, Economic development, Climate change.

1. INTRODUCTION

Republic of Kenya is the fourth largest economy in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and Nairobi is its capital city. It lies between latitudes 5° N and 5° S and between longitudes 34° E and 42° E. It is bordered by the Indian Ocean to the southeast, Somalia to the east, Ethiopia to the north, Sudan to the northwest, Uganda to the west, and Tanzania to the south. It is the sixth most populated country in SSA with estimated 40 million inhabitants in 2013. It has 42 ethnic communities and population growth rate is 2.5% per year. The area is 580,400 km² and density of population is 69 persons/km². It became independence from Britain in 1963. English is the official language and Kiswahili is the national language. The adult literacy level in Kenya is 73.6%.

The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is $1,700 as of 2011 in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms [4]. GDP per capita only reflects average national income. The economy of the country relies largely on agriculture and tourism. It has a multiparty political system.

More than 60% people of Kenya live below the poverty line (less than $1.00 a day or unable to afford to buy food providing a daily intake of 2,100 kilocalories). These people are asset less or have few assets and cultivating small pieces of land inadequate to sustain a living.

Kenya faces the classic food price dilemma, how to keep farm prices high enough to provide production strengthening motivations for farmers while at the same time keeping them low enough to ensure poor consumers’ access to food. Food price instability is another major problem in Kenya, which is frequently identified as a major impediment to smallholder productivity growth and food security. Rapid increases in inflation could reduce economic growth and worsen the poverty levels of the citizens of a country.

2. AGRICULTURE IN KENYA

The area of Kenya is 580,400 km² but only 12% of the total area is considered high potential for farming and intensive livestock production. A further 5.5%, which is classified as medium potential, mainly supports livestock, especially sheep and goats. Only 60% land of Kenyan high and medium potential land is devoted to crops, such as maize, coffee, tea, horticultural crops, etc. and the rest is used for grazing and forests. About 82% of the total land in Kenya is classified as arid and semi-arid. It is
estimated that the arid and semi-arid areas support about 25% of the nation’s human population and slightly over 50% of its livestock [22].

In Kenya economic development is dependent on agricultural improvement. Government of Kenya (GOK) has taken various steps to industrialize the country but it still remains an agricultural dominated nation. About 90% of the populations of the rural areas depend directly or indirectly on agriculture for their household income. The performance of the agricultural sector for the last 35 years has been in very poor position. Growth in agricultural GDP declined about 4% in the 1980s compared to the previous decade. In 2013 agriculture production has not kept rapidity with population growth rate and the country has become a net importer of its two major staple foods, maize and wheat. Hence to keep the country self dependent in food it is urgent need for agriculture expansion and development. Reference [24] describes various ways in which agricultural expansion and development can be firmly accelerated. One of them is provision of agricultural education and training through schools, colleges and extension of education.

The per capita production of maize, the main source of food calories in Kenya, has declined from 129 kg in 1970 to 72 kg per capita in 2000. Production of the major cash crops, such as, sugar, coffee, etc., stagnated or declined over the same period [13].

National supply for staple foods in 2008 was as follows: maize 2.4 million tons against a national requirement of 3.1 million tons, wheat 360,000 tons against national requirement of 900,000 tons, rice 120,000 tons against national requirement of 280,000 tons [12].

Livestock products in Kenya are milk, beef, mutton, goat meat, pork, poultry and eggs. On average, 4 billion liters of milk is produced annually while local milk demand is 2.8 billion liters. The meat sub-sector is dominated by red meat (beef, mutton and goat meat). Red meat accounts for about 70% of the meat consumed locally while white meat (pork and poultry) makes up the remaining 30%. The production of red meat is 430,000 tons against national requirement of 330,000 tons while white meat is 40,000 tons against requirement of 39,600 tons [21].

The vision 2030 particularly recognizes that agriculture will continue to play a crucial role towards the achievement of a sustained GDP growth rate of 10% annually in Kenya.

2.1. Agricultural Marketing Facilities

The cash income of the rural people of Kenya comes from the selling of their product crops and other agricultural products, such as, coffee, tea, pyrethrum, cattle and milk. Agricultural marketing in Kenya has been dominated by the state through monopolistic marketing boards twinned with local marketing cooperatives. These cooperatives became unreliable and inefficient in the last three decades. For example, in the case of coffee, the mismanagement, politicization, and uneconomic fragmentation of cooperatives due to local factionalism, combined with huge levels of indebtedness, have made the transaction costs of marketing very high, which decline in coffee production [9].

Kenyan smallholders received less than one-half of the auction prices of coffee. As a result coffee output declined from about 128,700 tons in 1988 to 51,700 tons in 2002 [17]. This is because of negligence of the smallholders and their coffee farm and the poor management.

As like coffee, tea production has declined in the last three decades. Data from six major tea-producing districts show that the average green leaf tea declined 8,300 kg per hectare to around 5,500 kg per hectare because of low inputs use, poor husbandry practices, tea collection problems at buying centers, and payment problems [9].

3. STAPLE FOOD OF KENYA

Staple food of Kenya is maize, which accounted about 65% of total staple food caloric intake and 36% of total food caloric intake. Most Kenyans prefer white corn flour to produce ugali (corn meal) as part of their daily food intake. In average a person consumes 88 kg of maize products per year. Wheat is the second most important staple food in Kenya, which accounted for 17% of staple food consumption. Beans are the third most important staple food nationally; accounting for 9% of staple food calories and 5% of total food calories in the
national diet. Other foods taken by Kenyans are potatoes, plantains, and rice. Kenya has to import wheat and rice, as the country has short of food. According to Food and Agriculture Organization of the United States (FAO) statistics [14], in Kenya the average food intake is 2,155 Kcal/person/day.

In Kenya, maize is considered as an inferior food, as its share in staple food expenditures is highest among the poor. Maize accounts for about 20% of total food expenditures among the poorest [25]. Recently in urban areas of Kenya use of wheat and rice is increasing.

3.1. Food Security in Kenya

The World Health Organization (WHO) states the food security as:

“When all people, at all times have physical and economic access to adequate/sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”

Food security can be defined as the ability of countries, regions or individuals to meet their year round target calorie food requirements through domestic production, storage and international trade [10]. A family has food security if it can consistently satisfy 80% or more of its nutritional requirements. Reference [26] defines food security as the access to enough food by the people for active and healthy living.

The four components of food security in any country are: 1) food availability, 2) food accessibility, 3) food stability and 4) food utilization/nutrition. In Kenya the application of these four components for the welfare of the citizens are very poor. Government of Kenya (GOK) has endeavored to achieve national, household and individual food security throughout the country but national food security has not guaranteed household food availability and accessibility.

When households produce enough staple crops for their own consumption or when they have enough stock of food to sell in the market after their yearly consumption and they are capable of maintaining a balance diet in their everyday life. Maize is the staple food for the people of Kenya. So that efficient production of maize will provide them food security.

Food security is not just a supply issue but also a function of income and purchasing power; hence it is related to poverty. Transportation of the foodstuff produced in one area to the food deficit areas continue to create a major challenge due to poor infrastructure in some parts of the country. Food insecurity in Kenya is due to political violence, soaring costs of farm inputs, high energy costs, unfavorable weather conditions and diminishing global food supply.

Food availability in Kenya is not satisfactory and about one-third of the Kenyan’s the average daily caloric intake availability is below the recommended level of 2,100 Kcal/person/day. In Kenya, 30% of the food consumed by rural households is purchased, while 70% is derived from own production. On the other hand, 98% of food consumed in urban areas is purchased while 2% is own production.

3.2. Food Insecurity in Urban Areas

In 2008, Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) expressed that in urban areas over 90% of food comes from markets, 59% of food in the marginal agricultural areas of Kenya comes from market purchases, 37% from own farm produce, 1% from hunting and gathering, and 2% from gifts and food aid.

4. INFLATION IN KENYA

Prices of maize (staple food) in Kenya are among the highest in the Eastern and Southern Africa region. Only in Malawi has average maize prices exceeded those in Kenya [8]. High and volatile inflation is a threat to good economic performance and has negative effects on many of the poor. In 2011 inflation peaked at over 20% in Kenya.

Although there is no real cause of the rise inflation, it is estimated that large government expenditures, expansionary monetary policy and negative domestic food supply shocks influence in inflation ([12], [19]). On the other hand the global food price hike is another main reason of increase of domestic food prices in Kenya [1]. Poor harvests due to natural calamities, such as, drought and flood, price hikes of
electricity and fuels are also account of inflation. Oil prices increased about 20% in Kenya in 2011.

Kenya is not only hit by the commodity-price hike and the financial crisis, but also post-election violence in 2008. As a result, real GDP growth dropped from over 7% in 2007 to below 1.5% in 2008 and inflation increased to over 30%. Inflation declined from 2009 until late 2010 and inflation then rose again. Due to inflation rapid depreciation of the Kenyan shilling (KES, Ksh); its value dropped from about 80 shilling per US dollar in early 2011 to over 100 shilling per US dollar in October 2011.

To prevent the deprecation of KES and rise in inflation, the monetary authorities increased the central bank rate sharply, pushing up the interbank rate to about 17%, from less than 2% in January 2011 [11].

5. FOOD EXPORT AND IMPORT IN KENYA

Kenya is the largest food and agricultural products importer in east Africa. As the production of maize is not keeping pace with the growth in national demand, imported wheat and rice are increasingly filling the residual food gap. For this reason, the share of wheat and rice in staple food expenditures are rising, leading to more diversified basket of staples over time. Only 3.5% of national consumption of maize is imported [5].

Kenya’s main port of Mombasa and its main airport of Nairobi are strategically located to serve as the trade and transportation centers of the African region.

Kenya produced 3,027,000 tons of maize and imported 108,000 tons and exported 25,000 tons in 2007. Wheat is produced by large-scale producers (farms over 50 acres owners). In 2007, wheat import (60%) was more than product, it produced 360,000 tons of wheat and imported 612,000 tons and exported only 2,000 tons. Wheat import is increased to balance food deficit due to urbanization and population growth. Potatoes and plantains are being used as complement food of maize in Kenya. Production of potatoes and plantains were 855,000 and 602,000 tons respectively and there were no export or import of these two stuffs. Beans were produced 447,000 tons and imported 40,000 tons and exported only 3,000 tons.

Import of rice is growing rapidly in response to the rising gap between national staple food production and consumption requirements. Very little rice is produced in the country, but it is becoming a major staple in urban areas along the coast. In 2007, rice was produced 39,000 tons and imported 248,000 tons and exported only 1,000 tons [5].

In 2008 the price of fertilizer increased and fuel prices also increased and as well as post-election violence happened in Kenya. As a result the production of maize has decreased and the government imported 135,000 tons from South Africa. Private traders informally imported 120,000 tons from Tanzania and Uganda despite official trade bans.

6. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF KENYA

The economy of Kenya has been continued to be the largest in the East African region and third largest in Sub-Saharan Africa after South Africa and Nigeria respectively. It is well situated geographically and strategically than most of its neighbors. At present Kenya is one of the most highly literate countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

About 79% of populations of Kenya live in rural areas and rely on agriculture for most of their income. About half of the people are poor or unable to meet their daily nutritional requirements and most of them live in rural areas. Kenya’s poor rural people are smallholder farmers, herders, farm laborers, unskilled and semi-skilled workers, households headed by women, people with disabilities, AIDS orphans etc.

The Kikuyus emerged economically better off than any other ethnic groups in Kenya. They dominated the country’s wealth and politics since independence. About 10% of the country’s population controls 50% of wealth.

Jomo Kenyatta, considered the founding father of Kenya, led the country from 1963 until 1978. Under his rule, the Kenya Action National Union (KANU) was the only legal political party in Kenya. Since the
1980s, the economy has performed below its potential, with low economic and employment growth and a decline in productivity.

Before 1997 elections Kenya witnessed one of its worst elections related violence, which accompanied by economic down turn, unemployment and poverty and endemic corruption that nearly left the state much more bankrupt [3].

The Kenya Integrated Household and Budget Survey (KIHBS) finds that 46% of the total Kenyan population is absolutely poor, i.e. below the poverty line, whereas 49% of the rural population is absolutely poor [20]. Alleviating poverty is one of the key challenges of the development of economies in Kenya. The economy of an individual is depended on poor weather, loss of employment, or loss of a major income earner through death, injury, or long illness. In Kenya some individuals faced these shocks and became poor.

Kenya’s economy is dependent on rain-fed agriculture, livestock keeping, hydro-energy generation, transport, tourism, and other climate dependent sectors. About 60% of socio-economic activities are weather and climate dependent. Kenya’s high-value agricultural crops, such as corn, tea and coffee and large tourism sector also continue to help in the development of the country.

Kenya faces a GDP growth of close to 6% from 2004 to 2007, and GDP has slowed to 1.7% in 2008 and 2.6% in 2009. In 2009, economic performance was adversely affected by three factors as follows:

- the global economic turndown depressed export markets,
- rainfall was erratic and insignificant, which impacted the agriculture and energy sectors, and
- the post-2008 election violence.

Business at the Nairobi Stock Exchange was severely disturbed since the outbreak of the violence. During the post-election violence of 2008, physical assets were damaged, about 300,000 people were displaced, 1,000 had died, investor and tourist confidence was lost and social capital was eroded. At the same time seaport transport activities were negatively affected as workers too did avoid reporting to work due to the violence.

There are some barriers in the economic development, such as, trouble with inflation, corruption, crumbling infrastructure and high inequality continue to hinder the nation’s development. Some neighboring countries, for example, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Uganda have been faced civil wars but Kenya has not experienced a civil war except political violence. It hosts one of Africa’s largest refugee camps, Kakuma in the North.

Kenya’s economy being affected by various ways as follows:

- the multiple adverse domestic reasons, such as, post-election violence, drought and flood, and
- external reasons, such as, global financial and economic crisis and high international oil and commodity prices.

Despite the above shocks at the initial stages of implementation, significant progress has been achieved in implementing the Medium Term Plan (MTP) for 2008–2012. Between 1974 and 1979, the growth rate was 5.2% per annum in Kenya. This declines occurred in the 1980–89 and 1990–95 periods when the growth rates averaged 4.1 and 2.5% per annum respectively. Over the 5 years plan period 1997–2001, the economy was 1.5%. The economy registered a 2.8%, 4.3% and 5.8% growth rates in 2003, 2004 and 2005 respectively. Kenya experiences a satisfactory growth rate of 4.3% in 2011, which is higher than Kenya’s long-term growth rate of 3.7%.

7. FOOD AND CASH AID IN KENYA

During the early post-independence period, Kenya was well favored by the donor community. In 1990, Kenya received more than $1 billion as development aid. Donors, development agencies and governments are working to alleviate chronic or acute food insecurity have new response choices that allow them to replace or supplement in-kind food aid with cash or vouchers. Food aid increase food in the recipients and They have to sell additional food if there is any to buy other essentials, such as, clothes, medicine, vegetables, fish, meat etc. On the other hand cash receivers spend money to buy food and other necessary household commodities. Both types of
involvements can impact local prices, consumers and producers.

In January 2009, Kenya’s food crisis deepened over allegations of corruption over the issuing of import licenses. On 16 January 2009, President Mwai Kibaki declared a state of emergency and launched an international appeal for $463 million to feed roughly 6 million people who were estimated to be food insecure. In January 2009, the World Food Programme pledged to feed 3.2 million people following the government’s declaration of a food crisis in the country [5].

8. EDUCATION IN KENYA

Educational development of a country lead to accelerated economic growth, availability of skilled human power, more wealth and income distribution, greater equality of opportunity, a decline in population growth, long life, better health outcomes, low crime rates, national unity and political stability [27]. About education [29] expressed that;

“A country which is unable to develop skills and knowledge of its people and to utilize them effectively in the national economy will be unable to develop anything else.”

The foundation of modern education in Kenya was laid by missionaries who introduced reading to spread Christianity. Before joining primary school, children between the ages of three and six are required to attend pre-primary for one or two years. The main objective of pre-primary education is to cater to the total development of a child, including the physical, spiritual, social and mental growth, brought about through formal and informal interaction with the parents and the community taking a leading role.

The colonial government established the Department of Education in 1911 to help in the development of education provided by Christian missions. It also appointed East Africa Protectorate Education Commission in 1919 to review education provided in the colony for all races. Phelps-Stokes Commission of 1924 advocated for both quantitative and qualitative improvement of African education.

After the independent in 1963 education in Kenya was favorable, as the educated people have enough scope of employment. The GOK has continued to invest heavily in formal education. In the last two decades public spending in education in Kenya as a proportion of GDP has increased from 5.1% in 1980–81 to 15% in 2008–09. But in the last three decades growing numbers of educated and semi-educated youth have been left unemployed and frustrated, and parents became reluctant to invest in education. Fees for secondary schooling have risen relative to rural incomes. The state-sponsored boarding schools have largely collapsed, and the scholarship system is now regarded as subject to politicization and abuse.

The policy of Free Primary Education (FPE), implemented from 2003 by the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) government, which increased school enrolment from 87 to 104% was widely welcomed in all sample communities. This resulted in a significant increase in enrollment from 5.9 to 7.2 million students in primary school. Textbooks and learning materials provided through the FPE programme. Net primary education enrollment was only 80% in 2003, but has increased to about 90% in 2008. In 2004, only about 60% of primary students completed their education compared with about 80% in 2008. In Kenya secondary and higher education is not free and many parents cannot afford to continue the higher education of their children. In 1984, the 8:4:4 (8 years in primary, 4 years in secondary and 4 years in university) system of education adopted in Kenya. Universal Secondary Education (USE) was introduced in January 2008.

The employment of teachers has not been increased and the new large class rooms are not built proportionally. As a result classes have become unmanageably numerous and large relative to the number of teachers. Teachers are shifting their jobs due to inadequate salaries. Teacher absenteeism is also a great problem in Kenyan school due to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and other fatal diseases [9].

Poverty and distance from the school affect many students those go for all day without eating and they become sick due to starvation and malnutrition. Secondary schools are relatively few and far in rural areas. The gross enrollment rate in secondary schools is 30%, which is very poor for a developing country like Kenya. In rural areas secondary school gross enrolment is very poor (20%). Girls face a real risk of
sexual abuse both on the way to and in school. In some districts, such as, Nakuru and Isiolo girls to be taken out of school for early marriage. Parents are unhappy about teaching standards and lamented widespread indiscipline, alcohol abuse etc.

Teachers use caning, slapping and whipping to maintain classroom discipline and to punish children for poor academic performance. Sometimes the punishment turned into more severe injuries such as broken bones, knocked-out teeth, internal bleeding etc. At times, beating by teachers leave children permanently disfigured, disable, or even dead [18].

8.1. Higher Education in Kenya

Higher education institutions play a vital role in the social, political and economic development of a country. A country will find politicians, technocrats, scientists, technologists, doctors, engineers, teachers, scientists, artists, scholars, managers and administrators from the higher education institutions. In Kenya higher education is the ultimate aim of every parent who has a child in secondary school but all the students who complete secondary education cannot enter in the university. Because seats in the institutes of higher education are limited and the institutions fail to create the capacity to absorb all candidates for higher education who qualify.

In 1922 the Makerere College was established in East Africa by the British as a small technical college, and the only provider of university education in the region. The Royal Technical College of East Africa (now the University of Nairobi) was established much later in Kenya in 1956 to provide basic training on technical and commercial education [16].

The first public university in the country, the University of Nairobi, was set up in 1970 and up to 1980 this was the only university in Kenya. Moi University was established as a second university in 1984 following the Report of the Presidential Party on the Second University in 1983. The former Kenyatta University College, a constituent of the University of Nairobi became the third university in 1985, while the former Egerton College, which was also a constituent college of the University of Nairobi, became the fourth university in 1987. The Jomo Kenyatta College of Agriculture and Technology was granted university status in 1994. Lastly, Maseno University, a constituent college of Moi University became a full-fledged university in 1996. On the other hand, by 1988 there were 14 private university institutions that offered degrees of foreign universities [28].

The Commission for Higher Education (CHE) was established through an Act of Parliament (Universities Act, 1985) to make better provisions for the advancement of university education in Kenya. The CHE is the government body responsible for the advancement of higher education in Kenya. Its main role is overseeing the funding, curriculum development and management of institutions of higher learning. Under the CHE the University Grant and Admissions committees supervise admissions into all the universities. The main functions of the CHE are as follows [28]:

- to promote the objectives of university education,
- to accredit universities,
- to coordinate long-term planning, scholarship, staff and physical development of university education,
- to liaise with government and private bodies in matters pertaining to overall national manpower development and requirements,
- to plan and provide for financial needs of university education and research, including recurrent and non-recurrent needs of the universities, and
- to coordinate education and training courses offered in post secondary school institutions for the purposes of higher education and university admission.

In 2010, public universities had increased to 7 and 14 university colleges with a corresponding increase in student numbers. In 2010, the private universities became 20 in Kenya.

University education was heavily subsidized by the government until the early 1990s when the conditions and government policy changed. In order to support lifelong education, the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) was established to provide reference, teaching and learning materials to the public. KNLS currently runs public libraries in major towns in Kenya, as well as mobile libraries for remote areas.
About 10,000 students per year are admitted to public universities and about 2,000 to the private universities, this figure is 80% of the students who sit for Kenya Secondary School Examinations.

Expansion of higher education has occurred in a period of diminishing budgetary resources caused by difficult macro-economic conditions. The rapid university expansion has certainly led to increased public expenditure in higher education not only in national budget on education but also as a percentage of GDP. To bear expenditure of higher education parents take loan from various sources especially from bank. Rapid increase in student enrolment has had a number of adverse effects on higher education. These are as follows [6]:

- increased public expenditure,
- shortage of funds,
- shortage of academic staff,
- reduction in per student expenditure,
- falling academic standards, and
- misallocation of scarce resources.

Increased universities encountered overcrowded with inadequate teaching space, laboratory facilities, library resources, accommodation space and scientific equipment. For the higher education, universities face shortage of appropriately qualified Ph.D. holders for recruitment into teaching positions. To enroll students in M. Phil. and Ph. D. universities need funds for the scholarship.

In Kenya the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) was established in 1995. The Board is mandated to, inter alia; give loans, bursaries and scholarships to needy Kenyan students pursuing their education within and outside Kenya. In 2007, HELB extended the loan facilities to students attending private universities in the country. At present, the board receives approximately 30,000 applications annually from students in both public and private chartered universities. More than 75% of the applicants are usually successful and get varying amounts of loans and bursaries. The HELB awards a maximum loan of Kshs 42,000 and a bursary of Kshs 8,000 to very needy students (rate of interest is 2%). About 34% of a HELB loan is allocated for the student’s personal expenses, including books, whereas the tuition loan is directed to universities.

9. HEALTH IN KENYA

In Kenya about 70% of the population is at risk from malaria, which kills an estimated 34,000 children under five each year (about 93 each day). Children are also vulnerable to diarrhea and pneumonia. There was unreliable evidence of a rise in typhoid in several areas, due to increasingly difficult access to clean potable water, poor sanitation and overcrowded housing conditions. It is hard to find clean water, because good wells are miles from the home. Many parents have no concept of what a balanced diet is.

About 7% of adults, and 6% of rural residents, are infected with HIV. Rates of infection amongst women are almost twice as high as those of men (8.7% to 4.6%), which reflect the particular vulnerability of young women to HIV infection compared with young men. In Kenya one child in nine is orphaned. About 9% of children under 15 years of age have lost their fathers, 4% have lost their mothers, and 2% have lost both of their parents. Only 58% of children live with both parents [7]. In 2003, there were 650,000 Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) orphans in Kenya. In 2008, the government began providing free antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) to HIV-positive people who need them, and medical care is now free for children below five years of age.

In Kenya, 12% of the population is obese and most of them are found in urban areas. In Kenya obesity is considered a sign of wealth. In real life obesity is a major disease which creates Type2 diabetes and cardiac attack. Obesity has increased along with Type 2 diabetes in the urban areas of Kenya. If a person is slim others will consider him as a HIV/AIDS infected person. For this reason AIDS infected people took more food to show others that they are not infected by this fatal disease. Additionally in Kenya fast food availability has increased in the cities. Cities are developed without the scope of the facilities of exercise.

Total expenditure on healthcare increased from $219 million in 2005 to $277.5 million in 2007, and between 2004 and 2008 the number of health institutions increased by 19.8%.
9.1 Effect of Economy for HIV Infection

Orphaned children are disadvantaged in schooling compared with children of non-HIV-infected parents. Fostered children also tend to be more undernourished than children of non-HIV-infected parents. Children of HIV infected parents are more likely to be underweight and wasted, less likely to be attending school, and less likely to receive medical advice and treatment when suffering from acute respiratory infections or diarrhea than children of non-HIV-infected parents [23].

AIDS also has an impact on labor productivity. Under the relatively controlled conditions of a Kericho tea estate, AIDS sufferers show significant declines in the production [15].

HIV infected persons compel to sell their household belongings for buying food and treatment. Sometimes HIV infected parents withdraw their children from school to provide care and engage them in child labor to maintain household expenditures. Sometimes women and children become the victims of sexual exploitation. As they have no other means except multiple sexual partnerships for supporting their families, which speeded HIV among the non-infected persons. When a woman’s husband died the widow lose all of her property, and her sons possess all the properties. Those subject to physical or sexual violence are unable to escape abusive partnerships, because divorce would mean their losing all rights to property.

10. CLIMATE OF KENYA

Kenya has climate and ecological extremes, with altitude varying from sea level to over 5,000 m in the highlands. The mean annual rainfall ranges from less than 250 mm in the arid and semi-arid areas to 2,000 mm in high potential areas. The average annual temperature ranges from less than 10°C to 30°C. All the mountain ranges have high rainfall while dry tongues are found in the valleys and basins. Coldest areas are the tops of the mountains where night frost occurs above 10,000 feet and permanent snow or ice cover the area above 16,000 feet of sea level [22].


Kenya experiences a bimodal rainfall distribution on with long rains in March to May, and short rains in October to December. The major systems that influence the climate include the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone, Sub-Tropical High Pressure systems, El Niño/Southern Oscillation, Monsoon winds, tropical cyclones, the Indian Ocean, Lake Victoria circulation and the topography.

11. CORRUPTION IN KENYA

Transparency International (TI) publishes an international index of perceptions of corruption from 1996 to 2005, according to which Kenya’s performance has been consistently very poor. A Corruption Perceptions Index score of 2 or less (out of a maximum of 10) indicates severe, widespread or persistent corruption. The overall level of corruption recorded by the public declined in 2003, and again in 2004, though by significantly less than in the previous year (the Aggregate Indices were 25.6 for 2002, 18.2 for 2003 and 14.9 for 2004). The number of bribes paid per person declined, their average size increased to almost Khs 5,000 ($67) which is a factor of 3 than that of previous [30].

Both police and Administrative Police (their local authority counterparts) in rural areas are distrust by the citizens that they are considered part of the problem of crime, rather than its solution. Police assisted the criminals in various ways, such as they protected from the public, and provided arms to the criminals, hired out their uniforms, received stolen goods. Criminal investigation officers and police are found by the conscious public to receive stolen goods; when they complain against these officers, the offender were allegedly promoted and transferred to capital city. When criminals were arrested, they were released without any action being taken against them if they paid bribe to police.

The six organizations (out of 34) ranked by the public as the most corrupt in the Transparency International Kenya surveys, which were in order: Kenya Police, Teachers Service Commission, Local Authorities, Judiciary, Ministry of Lands, and Provincial Administration [9].
Various studies show that Kenya is in the highest rank among the most crime-infested countries in Africa. The growing rates of rural crime are also driving out better off rural dwellers, as well as small businesses.

12. CONCLUDING REMARKS

In this paper we have discussed aspects of food and economy of Kenya. We have shown that the economic development of it effects for political unrest, climate change, HIV/AIDS infection. The country is developed in education in Africa. Food insecurity is a major problem in Kenya. Every year a large amount of food is imported from the neighboring countries. About 90% of the populations of the rural areas depend directly or indirectly on agriculture for their household income. Most of the land of this country is arid and semi-arid. As a result the agricultural products could not increase due to various attempts taken by the government. The country should take various steps to industrialize the country for the economic development and poverty reduction.

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