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## Factors Leading to Increased Poverty Levels in Kajiado County, Kenya

– Ngashar Leyian<sup>1</sup> & Mary Koisa<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Department of Social Studies, Maasai Mara University

P.O Box 861-20500, Narok, Kenya

[leyiangashar@gmail.com](mailto:leyiangashar@gmail.com)<sup>1</sup> & [marykoisa123@gmail.com](mailto:marykoisa123@gmail.com)<sup>2</sup>

### Abstract

The purpose of the study was to examine the causes of increased poverty levels in Kajiado County in Kenya. The study was carried out upon the background that about 60% of the households in Kajiado County are living below the poverty line and this was according to the analysis of the households operating in Kajiado County. The findings of the study revealed that; the households of Kajiado County are in poverty because they are ignorant of change due to their cultural practices, unfavourable climatic conditions, lack of education among most these households which limit their employment capacity and also due to the presence of HIV/AIDS Epidemic which create a dependency syndrome among these households. The research design of the study was based on a sample survey and cross sectional study design where primary and secondary data were collected and analyzed to give the magnitude of the study. Data was collected using primary data collection methods where qualitative data was sought using interviews, observation and focus group discussions and quantitative data was sought through questionnaires. Secondary data was gathered through documentary reviews from different libraries. A sample size of eighty respondents was used whereby ten NGO representatives and ten government representatives from the ministry of special planning and disaster preparedness were involved and also ten household representatives per every sub county participated in the study. The community should be sensitized and empowered to abandon negative practices in their culture such as polygamous marriages, discrimination against women and cultural rigidity, which has dragged them back in issues related to development. The community should also be informed about the importance of trading their large herds of indigenous breed of cattle and replacing them with a manageable number of cattle given the conditions of the area. This community should also be helped to engage in various means of income generating activities that can withstand the dry conditions of the area such as drought resistant crops and any other economic activities apart from solely depending on livestock keeping.

