

YOUTH (DIS) ENFRANCHISEMENT, POLITICAL MOBILISATION AND ELECTORAL
VIOLENCE IN KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF KAWANGWARE INFORMAL
SETTLEMENT (2007-2017)

By

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APPROVAL

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In Accordance with Daystar University Policies, this thesis is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Master of Arts degree.

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DECLARATION

YOUTH (DIS) ENFRANCHISEMENT, POLITICAL MOBILISATION AND ELECTORAL
VIOLENCE IN KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF KAWANGWARE INFORMAL
SETTLEMENT (2007-2017)

I declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been submitted to any other College or University for academic credit.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>APPROVAL</u>	ii
<u>DECLARATION</u>	iv
<u>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</u>	v
<u>TABLE OF CONTENTS</u>	vi
<u>LIST OF TABLES</u>	ix
<u>LIST OF FIGURES</u>	x
<u>LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS</u>	xi
<u>ABSTRACT</u>	xii
<u>DEDICATION</u>	xiii
<u>CHAPTER ONE</u>	1
<u>INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY</u>	1
<u>Introduction</u>	1
<u>Background to the Study</u>	1
<u>Statement of the Problem</u>	6
<u>Purpose of the Study</u>	7
<u>Objectives of the Study</u>	8
<u>Research Questions</u>	8
<u>Rationale of the Study</u>	9
<u>Significance of the Study</u>	9
<u>Assumptions of the Study</u>	10
<u>Scope of the Study</u>	10
<u>Limitations and Delimitations of the Study</u>	10
<u>Definition of Terms</u>	11
<u>Chapter Summary</u>	14
<u>CHAPTER TWO</u>	15
<u>LITERATURE REVIEW</u>	15
<u>Introduction</u>	15
<u>Theoretical Framework</u>	15
<u>General Literature Review</u>	17
<u>Empirical Literature Review</u>	31
<u>Conceptual Framework</u>	36

Discussion	36
Chapter Summary	37
CHAPTER THREE	39
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	39
Introduction	39
Research Design	39
Population	39
Target Population	40
Sample Size	40
Sampling Techniques	41
Data Collection Instruments	42
Data Collection Procedures	44
Pre-testing	45
Reliability and Validity	45
Data Analysis Plan	46
Ethical Considerations	46
Chapter Summary	47
CHAPTER FOUR	48
RESULTS, ANALYSIS, AND INTERPRETATION	48
Introduction	48
Analysis and Interpretation	48
The Extent of Youth Disenfranchisement in Kawangware	53
Nature of Political Mobilisation in Kawangware	65
The Strategies Employed to Respond to Electoral Violence in Kawangware	68
Summary of Key Findings	71
Chapter Summary	72
CHAPTER FIVE	73
DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	73
Introduction	73
Conclusions	82
Recommendations	83
Chapter Summary	86

<u>REFERENCES</u>	87
<u>APPENDICES</u>	94
<u>Appendix A: Researcher's Letter of Introduction to Respondents</u>	94
<u>Appendix B: Questionnaire for Respondents</u>	95
<u>Appendix C: Interview Guide</u>	103
<u>Appendix D: Focus Group Discussion Guide</u>	107
<u>Appendix E: Introduction Letter from Daystar University</u>	111
<u>Appendix F: Ethical Clearance</u>	112
<u>Appendix G: Research Permit</u>	113
<u>Appendix H: Approval to Conduct Research in Nairobi County</u>	114
<u>Appendix I: Approval to Conduct Research in Dagoretti Sub County</u>	115
<u>Appendix J: Plagiarism Report</u>	116

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LIST OF TABLES

<i>Table 3.1 Sample Distribution</i>	41
<i>Table 3.2 Data Analysis Plan</i>	46
<i>Table 4.1 Age of the Respondents</i>	50
<i>Table 3.2 Religious Affiliation of the Respondents</i>	51
<i>Table 4.3 Level of Education of the Respondents</i>	51
<i>Table 4.5 Marital Status of the Respondents</i>	52
<i>Table 4.6 Youth Involvement in Community Activities</i>	54
<i>Table 4.7 Causes of Violent Incidents in Kawangware</i>	57
<i>Table 4.8 Effectiveness of National and County Officials</i>	59
<i>Table 4.9 Effectiveness of Non-State Actors in Kawangware</i>	63
<i>Table 4.10 Reasons for Youth Engagement in Electoral Violence</i>	65
<i>Table 4.11 Overview of interventions</i>	69

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LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework..... 36
Figure 4.1: Gender of the Respondents.....54

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BBC:	British Broadcasting Corporation
CAQDAS:	Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis Software
DCI:	Directorate of Criminal Investigations
DU-ERB:	Daystar University Ethics Review Board
FGDs:	Focus Group Discussions
GOK:	The Government of Kenya
GST:	General Strain Theory
IEBC:	The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission
IBM:	International Business Machines Corporation
KANU:	The Kenya African National Union
KIFs:	Key Informants
KNBS:	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KNCHR:	Kenya National Commission of Human Rights
LIP:	Local Influential Person
NACOSTI:	National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation
NCIC:	National Cohesion Integration Commission, Kenya
NGO:	Non-governmental Organisation
NYS:	National Youth Service
QFY:	Questionnaire For Youth
SISK:	Structured Interview Schedule for Key Informants
SPSS:	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
UN:	United Nations

ABSTRACT

Elections hold a significant role within the realm of regime-studies literature. Existing research suggests that elections lacking fairness often result in issues like electoral violence. In Kenya, election-related violence involving the youth has been prominent since 1992, with some instances of their involvement documented, though not extensively. The present study examined youth disenfranchisement, political mobilisation, and electoral violence in Kenya, utilising the Kawangware informal settlement in Nairobi as a case study. By conducting the study in Kawangware, the researcher filled the gap in literature observed and was able to provide a better understanding of the pervasive issues in the ward. The main objective of this study was to examine the relationship between youth disenfranchisement and political mobilisation in Kenya, with the Kawangware informal settlement serving as a case study. To explore potential reasons for youth engagement in election violence, the study was driven by the core ideas and assumptions of Robert Agnew's General Strain Theory and Kimberle Crenshaw's Intersectionality Approach. In this study, a mixed methods research approach was adopted. The research's population included youth in Kawangware, key informants from the police, NGOs and youth groups, the local administration, village elders, and community leaders. To identify respondents, stratified and purposive sampling procedures were used. Questionnaires, interviews, and focus group discussions were used to collect data. CAQDAS was used to analyse qualitative data, whereas IBM SPSS - 25 was used to analyse quantitative data. According to the findings, youth in Kawangware are considerably disenfranchised in all aspects of social life except voting. Politicians were also identified as the primary perpetrators of political mobilisation that resulted in electoral violence. The study recommended that providing several options for youth advancement in life, as well as keeping politicians accountable, could therefore effectively minimise youth participation in election violence in Kawangware.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to God, my mother, my siblings and my special friend for encouraging me and praying with and for me.

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