The Context Behind Women Involvement In Insecurity Issues: A Case Of Women In Terrorism In Mombasa County, Kenya

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Abstract: This paper is a case study whose purpose was to establish how and why women engage themselves into terror activities. liberation movements and women enlightening programs are believed to emancipate women from culture and stereotypes that could hide them from behaving as their male counterpart. This has contributed to women joining the Kenya. Women are known to be the custodian of peace and moral in any given society However, this has not been the case as there has been huge increase in female offenders and many women have dominated some crimes which are thought to be masculine crimes like terrorism, serial killings, human and drug trafficking, mafia, gang wars with number of women implicated in terrorism-related crimes continue to rise with 100 of distinct suicide conducted by female in2017.The objective of this study therefore was to; (i) establish roles played by women liberation movements in joining terrorism (ii) find out the compelling factors that predispose women to join terrorism (iii) investigate the roles of women in extremist groups and challenges during de-radicalization process. Theoretical framework for this study was be anchored on the Social conflict theory by Karl Marx which maintains that society constitute of two classes (the rich and the poor) resources distribution is the core cause of conflict as it is interconnected through political, economic, technological and demographic dimensions which together constitute the social conflict in the world. The study will be carried out in Mombasa County, the target population will be sampled using probability which purposive sampling method and non-purposive sampling for the key informants. The data collection instruments will included questionnaires, interview schedules and focused group discussion. The data collected will be analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Arising from this study was the conclusion that women plays a crucial role in stabilizing terrorism as they are more royal compared to men especially if their social economic needs are meet. however, it is unfortunate that rehabilitation programs provided are ill-prepared in that they are 'one fit' for all. The significance of this study rests on the assumption that if rehabilitation programs and re-integration programs can be used effectively during de-radicalization process it can yield substantial benefits for individual women, prison warders, family government and society at large. The findings of this study will be useful to government, women, family community, society and future researcher who will be able to recognize, appreciate and uphold the benefits of understanding detriments for women involving themselves in terrorism and other crimes.

Keywords: Terrorism, women, terrorist, radicalization, de-radicalization. women involvement in terrorism, religion, social-economic, social conflict theory.

I. INTRODUCTION

There is a common perception that the criminal behavior of women and the delinquent behavior of girls are not serious problems. Women are more likely to commit minor offenses and have historically constituted a very small proportion of the offender population. But these facts mask a trend that is beginning to attract attention. The dramatic rise of women involvement in crime especially terrorism draws some attention less so is that the ranks of women inmates are increasing much faster than those of their male counterparts.

Women involvement into crime has been on rise since 1900s, Some believe these are important signals of women's advance toward liberation and equality. They see these events

as indicators that women are discarding their traditional roles and taking on the jobs of men.

1.1% of women engage themselves with masculinity crimes such as violent, serious crimes including terrorism murder, aggravated assault, weapons and robbery. This is contrary to ideal situation where women are known to be the custodian of good traditional moral and peace.

In America 66% of female changed their occupations in 1976. Before the figure for working women was 62%. Women, they were also underpaid compared to men. 1975 statistics show that white females with the same characteristics as majority males (in terms of occupational prestige, education and weeks worked) could be expected to earn only 57% of the amount that white males earned. (Beth E. etal 200) Barbara1979)

II. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

In recent decades, women's participation in the labor market has increased considerably in most countries and is converging toward the participation rate of men. Though on a lesser scale, a similar movement toward gender convergence seems to be occurring in the criminal world, though many more men than women still engage in criminal activity. Women liberation movements, Technological progress and change of social roles and norms have freed women from the home, increasing their participation in both the labor market and the crime market. With crime no longer just men's business, it is important to investigate female involvement into terrorism through the lenses of investigating how this liberation movement contribute their involvement to terrorism, compelling factor for the joining terrorism, their roles and challenged during de-radicalization to determine whether the policy prescriptions to reduce crime should differ for women.

Women's Liberation Movement is generally perceived as path to establish the legal right of all persons to equal opportunity in all aspects of life. Female crime is explained by deviating from concept of the proper female role, that of wife and mother. Females who deviated from their expected roles were viewed as morally corrupt, hysterical, diseased, manipulative and devious, with law-violating and conforming behavior both stemming from the one source -the nature of the female. But the liberation movements which steered for women rights, women are seem to defy their definition and roles and are now engaging into criminality, particularly violent female crimes such as a terrorism which tends to be more reactionary than that of the accepted male criminal.(C Feinman, 1986)

On the other hand, there is push and pull factors that compel women into joining terrorism, according to Raghavan and Balasubramaniyan (2014), women join terrorist groups either voluntary or through cohesion. Women that join voluntarily do so for political motivations, economic and personal reasons (Dearing 2009, Dudmam 2018, Deleed 2018)). Political motivation which include desire for regime change or fear of religious persecution while socio-economic factors range from financial to material benefits. Personal reasons for joining terrorist organisations are the desire to revenge and adventure

Women play a wide variety of auxiliary roles that can be integral to the operational success of extremist groups. Such as abetting armed insurgencies , this assist women to control more territory and are more likely to achieve victory over government forces, in part because women's participation signals greater community support, increases perceived legitimacy, and contributes to tactical effectiveness, Stabilizing membership- this is because women are more likely to remain as members than men weapons transportation to combatant recruitment, Normalizing of violence and Facilitating both radicalization and terrorist recruitment.

Similar, terrorist group usually want publicity and media attention and using women in their missions can help achieve this, female suicide attacks generate eight times more media attention as compared to similar attacks by men. Women can also be used to gather intelligence by dressing as maids and nurses to infiltrate the enemy camp or to seduce military personnel (Abatan 2018).

Women fuel extremists' continued influence by advancing their ideology online and by indoctrinating their families. New technology allows for more sophisticated outreach, directly targeting messages to radicalize and recruit women. It also provides a platform on which female extremists thrive by expanding their recruitment reach and taking on greater operational roles in the virtual sphere. The failure of counterterrorist efforts to understand the ways in which women radicalize, support, and perpetrate violence cedes the benefit of their involvement to extremist groups. (OSCE ODIHR 2011)

De- radicalizing women who are terrorist has been found a complex challenge as female extremists who are identified, prison and rehabilitation programs designed for men fail to address the underlying causes of women's radicalization. When female fighters return to communities where social norms remain unchanged, they some-times rejoin extremist groups, a trend observed with female members of Boko Haram in Nigeria and FARC women in Colombia. Programs often fail to provide training in livelihood skills that could help women support themselves and their children, instead offering training in stereotypically feminine, low-wage activities such as hairstyling and sewing. Finally, for children born in war zones, issues of citizenship present a serious challenge for social services, and states have not reached consensus about responsibility for and repatriation of this population this makes them life in dire condition in camps.

III. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Women involvement into crime has been on rise since 1900s particular terrorism, some believe these are important signals of women's advance toward liberation and equality. They see these events as indicators that women are discarding their traditional roles and taking on the jobs of men. 1.1% of women engage themselves with masculinity crimes such as violent, serious crimes including terrorism murder, aggravated assault, weapons and robbery. This is contrary to ideal situation where women are known to be the custodian of good traditional, moral and peace.

Women liberation movements, Technological progress and change of social roles and norms have freed women from the home, increasing their participation in both the labor market and the crime market. With crime no longer just men's business. Lumping this together it is important to investigate female involvement into terrorism through the lenses of investigating how this liberation movement contribute their involvement to terrorism, compelling factor for the joining terrorism, their roles and challenged during de-radicalization to determine whether the policy prescriptions to reduce crime should differ for women.

IV. STUDY OBJECTIVES

✓ To identify the occurrence of women liberation movements and their contribution to women involvement into terrorism activities in Mombasa county.
✓ To establish factors predisposing women into involvement into terrorism activities in Mombasa county
✓ To assess access roles for women in extremist groups in Mombasa county
✓ To identify challenges encountered during DE radicalization process of women in Mombasa county.

V. CONFLICT THEORY

Conflict Theory, developed by Karl Marx (1818-1883), the concepts Marxism theory are all connected by the common goal to contribute to what they perceive as the greater good of humankind and its environment. It informs on the basic and most common concept of communities and it environments hence purports that due to community's never-ending competition for finite resources, it will always be in a state of conflict.

The implication of this theory is that women join terrorism due push and pull factors such as social economic factors and as way to enjoy freedom as result of omen movement liberation. This conflict theory looks at origin of violence, revolutions, and forms of injustice and discrimination by explaining that there is a natural disparity in community that causes these problems. In terms enjoying social-economic rights such as both renewable and nonrenewable resources, some women earn their livelihood by engaging into terrorism.

VI. METHODOLOGY

The study will be based cross sectional survey research design and phenomenological design, it comprises of a mixed method design which uses both qualitative and quantitative methods in collecting data. The target population of the study is women within the reproductive age of 15-49 years according to the Demographic Health survey categorization in Mombasa County. The Research tools to be used include questionnaires for individual interviews Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs).

Document such as records at the police offices on terrorism and other acts of violence will be reviewed to build the type of terror activities women engage into that are often being reported and to help put together a population to sample from. The study sample size shall be based on multi-stage and stratified random sampling technique shall be used to generate the sample size for questionnaire respondents while purposive sampling shall be used to identify Key Informant interviews.

The study participants will be selected from shimo la Tewa women prison in two categories: Those who are serving sentences and those who are progressing with their cases awaiting sentencing, proportionately based on data provided by shimo la tewa women prison authority The quantitative data collected will be analyzed using statistical package for the Social Research while qualitative data analysis will be done descriptively through Content analysis which is used in organizing the collected data into thematic areas of this study which is social conflict theory

RESEARCH ETHICS

All researcher assistants and respondents will be required to sit research ethics related tests prior to data collection. Informed consent shall be sought with each respondent before the interview, filling of questionnaire and focused group discussion. The researchers shall respect the decision of the respondents including the decision to withdraw from the interview if they so wish. The entire research team will sign appropriate documents presented by the lead Investigator requiring observance of ethical behavior and avoidance of sexual harassment. The researcher will also seek permission from NACOSTI.

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